



# **Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board at HMP Stocken**

**For reporting year  
1 May 2022 to 30 April 2023**

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## Introductory sections 1 – 3

### 1. Statutory role of the IMB

The Prison Act 1952 requires every prison to be monitored by an independent board appointed by the Secretary of State from members of the community in which the prison is situated.

Under the National Monitoring Framework agreed with ministers, the Board is required to:

- satisfy itself as to the humane and just treatment of those held in custody within its prison and the range and adequacy of the programmes preparing them for release
- inform promptly the Secretary of State, or any official to whom authority has been delegated as it judges appropriate, any concern it has
- report annually to the Secretary of State on how well the prison has met the standards and requirements placed on it and what impact these have on those in its custody.

To enable the Board to carry out these duties effectively, its members have right of access to every prisoner and every part of the prison and also to the prison's records.

The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) is an international human rights treaty designed to strengthen protection for people deprived of their liberty. The protocol recognises that such people are particularly vulnerable and aims to prevent their ill-treatment through establishing a system of visits or inspections to all places of detention. OPCAT requires that states designate a National Preventive Mechanism to carry out visits to places of detention, to monitor the treatment of and conditions for detainees and to make recommendations for the prevention of ill-treatment. The IMB is part of the United Kingdom's National Preventive Mechanism.

### 2. Description of the establishment

HMP Stocken is a category C male training prison with an operational capacity of 1071<sup>1</sup>. It is situated in a rural location close to the A1 in Rutland. Access by public transport is very limited; the nearest trains and buses are in Oakham (nine miles away).

Most prisoners serve medium to long term sentences (that is, of four years or longer) but the prison also holds a number of life-sentenced prisoners and those serving an Indeterminate Sentence for Public Protection (IPP).

There are seven wings, with four holding about 95–120 prisoners, and three holding nearly 200 each. There are 14 workshops and a substantial education section. There is a large and well-equipped gym, library, chapel and multifaith room, which are generally very well attended with increasing attendance since the end of the pandemic period. A further wing is under construction.

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<sup>1</sup> Figures included in this report are local management information. They reflect the prison's position at the time of reporting, but may be subject to change following further validation and therefore may not always tally with Official Statistics later published by the Ministry of Justice.

### **3. Key points**

#### **3.1 Main findings**

##### **Safety**

We feel that HMP Stocken is generally a safe place for prisoners and staff.

##### **Fair and humane treatment**

In general, prisoners are treated fairly and humanely. Reports of discrimination or unprofessional conduct by staff are investigated thoroughly, although the Board feels that replacing all paper-based processes (such as the discrimination incident reporting process) with wing-based electronic kiosks would be a significant advantage to prisoners in making complaints to the prison.

The Board is confident that the prison has taken all necessary steps to preserve the humane treatment as far as possible during the pandemic and the subsequent period of staff shortages. Indeed the amount of time prisoners are out of their cells is to be commended.

##### **Health and wellbeing**

Physical health is well catered for.

We have a concern over the number of prisoners at Stocken with mental health problems but this is a national issue. We also feel that the time taken to transfer suitable prisoners to secure mental health facilities is too long.

##### **Progression and resettlement**

During the year the number of prisoners being transferred to the Cat D estate has increased which eases the Board's concerns reported in its 22/23 annual report.

However, the number of prisoners being released directly from Stocken has also increased which, given Stocken is not a resettlement prison, is a concern for the Board. We are pleased to see that the prison is taking steps, through the initiative and effort of the Governor and his team, to help resettle prisoners. However, the prison is not funded as a resettlement prison and it is not satisfactory for establishments like Stocken to have to bid for funding and resources in order to ensure prisoners are resettled properly on release.

The employment hub that has been set up to help prisoners find employment on release is commendable and working well.

### **3.2 Main areas for development**

#### ***TO THE PRISON SERVICE***

The number of inappropriate transfers has risen over the last year. This includes prisoners who are transferred on open assessment, care in custody and teamwork (ACCT) documents and prisoners who have only been in prison for a few days or weeks. Hence, prisoner flow is still not working as it should.

Whilst the situation regarding the transfer prisoners to Cat D establishments has improved the transfer of prisoners to Cat B establishments takes too long.

Our view is that the Population Management Unit (PMU) is ineffective and a significant contributing factor to the issue of transferring prisoners mentioned above.

The waiting times for programmes is too long when prisoners are required to complete programmes as part of their sentence plan. We understand that this is a national issue but it causes prisoners aggravation when they have been transferred to Stocken to complete a programme.

Wing-based electronic kiosks should be provided on the wings.

With the rise in the cost of living, particularly food, the food allowance allocated to feed each prisoner needs to be increased.

The education provider is still not providing a good service (as also reported in last year's annual report) and the education contract needs to be reviewed.

#### ***TO THE GOVERNOR***

We are pleased to see that the staff attrition rate has reduced but continued effort is needed to address the staffing and recruitment levels.

### **3.3 Response to last report**

Issue raised	Response given	Progress
There are a number of men held at Stocken with various psychiatric disorders. The Board feels that urgent consideration should be given to increasing the provision of secure mental health facilities for those who should be in a	I understand the Board's concerns about prisoners with severe mental ill health who require transfer to a secure hospital. The Government published the draft Mental Health Bill in June 2022 which includes the provision to introduce a statutory time limit of 28 days for transfers to hospital as proposed in the Reforming the Mental Health Act (MHA) White Paper published in January 2021. The Bill also commits to ending the use of prison as a place of safety for defendants and convicted people requiring assessment and treatment under the MHA. These, together with operational improvements, will help	During this year there have been two very difficult cases which have taken considerable periods of time to resolve despite the hard work of all members of staff both directly and indirectly employed. It has not been apparent that this mental health bill is near being on the statute book and it

<p>such a facility and not in a prison</p>	<p>reduce unnecessary delays and ensure individuals in the criminal justice system receive swift access to treatment. It is worth noting that throughout the Covid-19 pandemic there have been closures within the secure hospital estate due to Covid-19 cases resulting in many patients experiencing admission delays. The pathway into these secure beds is also complex but the focus is on improving efficiency and, to proactively manage cases to reduce waiting times. NHS England Health and Justice (Midlands) Governance team and Commissioners have developed fortnightly Clinical Case review meetings, which uses dynamic risk assessments to prioritise access to the most vulnerable and high-risk patients and these have made positive improvements. The Mental Health team at HMP Stocken have continued to offer good support to prisoners and to prison staff to help them deal with vulnerable prisoners despite there being vacancies during the Board's reporting period. However, these vacancies have now been filled with permanent members of staff joining the mental health team. In addition, regional mental health support is provided by the current health provider. The prison will continue to work alongside the mental health team to offer the best support it can within the resources available.</p>	<p>remains unclear when the 28 day period would start. Often there can be a considerable delay in getting the prisoner assessed as well as the time it then takes to get them transferred.</p>
<p>Like other establishments, Stocken is frequently understaffed and the recruitment of new staff is held up by delays in the vetting process. The vetting process should be speeded up so</p>	<p>I recognise the Board's concerns about retention of staff and vetting during the recruitment process. It is acknowledged that there are a number of prison officer vacancies at HMP Stocken with the resignation rate higher than the national average across the estate. Despite this the staffing group at the prison work hard to ensure the daily regime runs with few curtailments. To provide the prison support, national detached duty has been requested along with the ability to</p>	<p>Attrition rate has been halved.</p>

<p>that people appointed subject to vetting do not find another job while waiting to be vetted.</p>	<p>offer excess fares for level transfers, as well as Public Interest Transfers. To try to increase recruitment locally the prison has attended several job fairs, recently held its own recruitment drive at the prison and has contacted several local newspapers and radio stations to promote the prison officer role which has involved stories from current members of staff. The main drivers of attrition at HMP Stocken from exit interviews are career progression; pay and reward; health and wellbeing; and ways of working. To work to address these nationally a Career Pathways Framework has been developed to allow staff to see the career options available to them across prisons, the Probation Service and HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) Headquarters. The Framework assists staff to understanding how they can progress, as well as providing information about the learning and development programmes and self-development tools to help them reach their career goals. The latest pay award has delivered an increase in base pay of at least 4% for all HMPPS staff between Bands 2 to 11, alongside further targeted pay rises for the lowest paid staff of up to £3,000. A wellbeing app was launched earlier this year giving staff access to a wealth of information and support resources. Finally, a new rostering tool is being piloted in four prisons to provide improved opportunity to promote flexible working and different shift patterns to improve work life balance.</p> <p>The unique nature of HMPPS and the settings in which individuals may work, means that security is a fundamental function. Consequently, vetting is undertaken during the pre-appointment stage of an application. HMPPS is not currently aware of any national issues causing vetting delays and at present directly employed personnel vetting is</p>	
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	<p>taking 25 working days to clear and non-directly employed workers' vetting is taking 8-10 working days to complete. The prison keeps candidates informed, but understandably on occasions, the wait is too long and they gain other employment. The main reason where vetting delays usually occur is due to the applicant not completing the vetting questionnaire correctly or not providing the correct documentation.</p>	<p>Vetting is taking too long and longer than the target quoted in the response.</p>
<p>In last year's annual report, we reported that there was a pressing need for increased capacity in category D (open) prisons. This situation still remains. At the time of writing, there were 70-75 category D prisoners in Stocken, which, although a reduction on last year, is still too high. More places should be made available for speedier transfer of category D prisoners out of category C establishments.</p>	<p>I recognise the Board's continued concern about the capacity within the open estate to allow Category D prisoners to progress. The Offender Management Unit at HMP Stocken continues to work with HMPPS Population Management Unit to facilitate transfers for prisoners to the open estate which has enabled over 231 prisoners moving to open conditions in the previous twelve months. This is despite the availability of Category D spaces being impacted by the requirement to close a number of accommodation blocks in the open estate over the course of 2021 which no longer met statutory fire safety standards.</p> <p>This is being managed across the open estate by replacing some of these places with existing temporary accommodation which was already present at some sites as part of HMPPS Covid-19 contingencies, as well as with new temporary accommodation at other sites. The Board will be aware that the Government is also investing £3.8 billion to deliver 20,000 prison places across England and Wales by the mid-2020s. As part of this project HMPPS will deliver 1320 places in the Category D estate. This comprises of 685 additional places through expansion, and 635 places to replace the decommissioned modular units which no longer met statutory fire safety standards. It is currently anticipated</p>	<p>Transfers to Cat D have much improved this year.</p>



	that the places will start to be occupied in 2023 with programme completion in 2025.	
Prisoners are being transferred to Stocken without a completed offender assessment system (OASys) assessment, which means that the assessment has to be completed at Stocken, adding pressure on the offender management unit (OMU), which is not staffed for this role. Does the Prison Service feel that it is acceptable that some establishments are allowing the transfer of prisoners without a completed OASys assessment and, if not, how does it propose to ask establishments to rectify this?	The Offender Management in Custody (OMiC) model moved the responsibility of the completion of Start of Custody Offender Assessment System (OASys) reports for long term custodial cases into the prison estate. Prisons received refreshed staffing profiles for Prison Offender Managers (POM) to reflect the change in responsibility and completion of the task. Prisons with training and resettlement functions such as HMP Stocken are resourced to undertake OASys activity, therefore the establishment receives prisoners without an OASys report when they are allocated directly from reception prisons post- sentencing and ideally this should happen within ten working days. There are also instances where prisoners transfer from one Training/Resettlement prison to another without an OASys report, and this is largely due to resourcing pressures. This has created a national backlog of Start of Custody OASys assessments. The OASys Task Force is working with HMP Stocken to reduce the current backlog and establish processes to ensure new cases do not enter backlog. The prison is undertaking a review of capability which includes how case administration resources can be used more effectively to support completion and gain a more proportionate balance between quality and quantity of assessments to optimise delivery.	Some improvement but with a national shortage of POMs not as much as we would have liked to see happen.
Volumetric control of prisoners' property when transferred is not being enforced and all too often men arrive at Stocken with	Since the Board's reporting period, the new Prisoners' Property Policy Framework was implemented on 5 September. The Framework is the result of extensive consultation, including with the IMB. It has been designed with procedural justice at its core and aims to ensure consistency and fairness and enhance prisoners'	Prisoners still arrive with excess property (outside the volumetric control) at HMP Stocken. This exacerbates the storage problems at Stocken.

<p>excess property or their property is sent on (or not) after their transfer, leading to a backlog of property waiting to be security checked or not being received. Does the Prison Service feel that it is acceptable that some establishments are not following the rules on volumetric control and if not how does it propose to ask establishments to rectify this?</p>	<p>satisfaction with processes and outcomes. Given the nature of property, and the movement of prisoners between establishments, the Framework looks to provide greater direction and standardisation on a national basis. It strengthens processes in relation to the main problem areas identified by IMBs and staff including the handling of valuable property, managing cell clearances, compliance with volumetric control and forwarding on excess property following a prisoner's transfer.</p> <p>Property is a concern for HMP Stocken with a number of prisoners arriving with excessive property. The prison has a system in place to only accept three bags of property, one small bag and one oversized item for each new reception in line with the new Prisoners' Property Policy Framework. Any excess property has to be forwarded by the sending prison at a later date and HMP Stocken is receiving a large amount of property that follows on where volumetric controls have not been followed. It is recognised that this has caused issues with prisoners submitting complaints locally at HMP Stocken as there can be delays in their excessive property being reunited with them due to the amount being a challenge for the prison to process. HMP Stocken continues to monitor volumetric controls and will continue to liaise with other prisons to ensure volumetric guidelines are followed.</p>	<p>Sometimes the excess property is left at the sending prison to follow on and this is often where the issues of missing property occur.</p>
<p>Staffing numbers need to increase to reduce the impact of a shortage of both officers and administrative staff.</p>	<p>See the response above.</p>	

Purposeful activity opportunities, such as structured on wing activity (SOWA), need to increase for men when out of their cells.		This has largely stopped due to the staffing issues.
The Board has concerns about the performance of PeoplePlus, which is clearly not functioning well with low staff morale and some targets not being met.		See this year's report and the HMIP report produced earlier this calendar year. PeoplePlus is not performing well and the contract is negotiated at a national level so outside the control of the Governor.
The backlog of property in in the stores needs to be addressed		Good work has been done by the prison to address this problem despite the staffing challenges.

## **Evidence sections 4 – 7**

### **4. Safety**

#### **4.1 Reception and induction**

Reception is a department which in general continues to work well. The prisoners arriving are treated well although the facilities do not always support this. Sometimes there are delays in prisoners beginning the induction programme and, depending on when the prisoner arrives, it may be several days before they start.

Interviews and testing are thorough and carried out respectfully and decently with peer supporters being present in reception. The testing has been improved with the introduction of the whole-body x-ray scanner.

Arriving prisoners have two private interviews, one in reception and one following transfer to the induction wing. New arrivals are asked whether they feel they belong to any protected characteristic group in line with the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 and also have an interview with health care staff to assess any immediate needs.

Listeners are also present during prisoner reception.

Property on transfer continues to be an issue and if the volumetric controls are not applied at the despatching prison this can lead to prisoners arriving at Stocken with too much property with a lot having to be stored in the prison or delayed in arriving. This increases the chance of property being lost. Similarly if men arrive with more than two bags or an oversized box, it often means that there is insufficient staff in the Reception Unit to search all the incoming property in a timely manner. This property cannot then be taken to the wing with the prisoner, increasing the amount of excess property stored in the Reception Unit.

#### **4.2 Suicide and self-harm, deaths in custody**

Sadly there were two reported deaths in custody during this reporting period:

March 2023: death occurred in Leicester Royal Infirmary

April 2023: death occurred at HMP Stocken

During this year an inquest was held on a death in 2018; the cause was recorded as 'Other – non-natural'.

There were 407 incidents of self-harm, an increase on last year, involving 171 prisoners, with some frequent self-harmers accounting for more than one incident. In March 2023 there were 10 individuals who accounted for 41 of the incidents of self-harm in that month, with one man accounting for 11 incidents.

The main triggers for self-harm have been identified as mental health issues, debt, threat, transfer concerns (including distance from home or out of area), family difficulties, medication concerns and frustrations with regime and staff.

There is concern about the high number of men entering the prison on open ACCTs without appropriate handover. This is particularly problematic when prisoners have complex needs and/or arrive in the evening.

The quality of ACCT documents continues to improve.

The prison has been running a STARS (sense, take, awareness, reflect, see) wellbeing programme for the last 12 months which has provided excellent outcomes for vulnerable prisoners. The fifth course started in April.

There are 15 Listeners, currently located on I, L, M and N Wings. They are now unlocked all day and at weekends and available at other times when needed. Listeners were reported to have been very vigilant after the recent deaths in custody, following immediate briefing by a Samaritan.

All Listeners are now fully 'Postvention' (intervention or response following a suicide or attempted suicide) ready after training.

Men can also contact the Samaritans via their in-cell phones, which are installed in all cells aside from in the Segregation Unit.

#### **4.3 Violence and violence reduction, self-isolation**

There is evidence that the number of CSIP (Challenge, Support and Intervention Plan) referrals increased towards the end of the reporting year (early 2023).

The high level of CSIP referrals on one particular wing (one of the larger wings) has been attributed to the more robust approach taken to any incidence of violence or inappropriate behaviour.

During the end of the reporting year (January to March 2023) investigations identified a steady increase in debt and subsequent bullying as triggers for CSIP referrals. Prisoners in the 30-39 age group account for the majority of referrals, followed by 25-29 then 21-24.

However, following its recent inspection of the prison, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) reported that the level of violence 'was below the average of the prison's equivalent jails' (page 4).

Increasing numbers of self-isolation were also seen in the first three months of 2023. At the end of March the figure stood at 10 men although it had reached 14 at one point.

Self-isolators are identified through the CSIP process and encouraged to engage with regime; they are reviewed at weekly Safety Intervention Meetings (SIMs) and they are visited weekly by a member of the Safer Custody team. A recent quality assurance review found some entries on National Offender Management Information System (NOMIS) to be inadequate which has now been highlighted as a need for improvement.

#### **4.4 Use of force**

The regular Use of Force meetings are well attended, chaired by the Deputy Governor and attended by the Use of Force co-ordinator along with functional heads. All use of force incidents for the previous week are discussed and CCTV and/or body worn

camera footage is viewed along with the paperwork, the number of Use of Force reports and any still outstanding. There are usually some outstanding and the number appears to be consistent each week. As stated in previous annual reports the introduction of PAVA has not resulted in an increase in use of force.

#### **4.5 Preventing illicit items**

Substance misuse reduced dramatically during the pandemic period but has since increased. Preventing illicit items in the prison remains a challenge but the introduction of x-ray equipment including a body scanner has helped.

The prison does regular sweeps of the wings with IBAD (illicit brewed alcohol detection) dogs to find prisoner-brewed Hooch and staff are, of course, also encouraged to be vigilant in finding illicit substances.

The restarting of social visits has increased the possibility of drugs being brought into the establishment by visitors as passive drugs dogs are not always available.

## **5. Fair and humane treatment**

### **5.1 Accommodation, clothing, food**

#### **Accommodation**

There are currently seven wings with an eighth under construction. F wing holds 90-100 prisoners, K wing holds 120–130 and H wing 100-120. The three larger wings (L, M and N) hold nearly 200 prisoners each, on two spurs. N wing is populated largely by enhanced prisoners. A new wing, of a similar design to N wing, is currently under construction and will hold a further 250 prisoners. There are concerns that provision of other facilities will not be increased despite the increased number of prisoners.

I wing is reserved for those on drug or alcohol recovery pathways and part of H wing houses the ISFL (incentivised substance free living) unit known as the ‘Hive’; a new initiative started during this reporting year to prevent relapse and help recovery from substance misuse.

Although we appreciate the pressures of the prison population, we are concerned that some single cells have had to be converted to double occupancy and, hence, ‘doubling up’ is increasing.

As mentioned in last year’s report the introduction of in-cell telephony has been a step forward although it has taken some time for recent system errors to be repaired so that it functions correctly. As mentioned earlier, the Board would welcome the installation of more technology (wing kiosks). This has many advantages, particularly given that some transferees to Stocken who arrive from establishments that have wing kiosks see coming to Stocken as a backward step.

#### **Food**

As with other areas of the prison the recruitment and retention of prison catering staff is an ongoing challenge.

Prisoners are provided with three meals a day. For the allocated £2.70 each prisoner gets a breakfast pack (including the ability to make two hot drinks), a cold lunch and a hot supper.

Accounting for inflation, the kitchens are currently overspending on their budget by £2,000 per week.

Despite issues with the supply of certain foods and the need to supply food substitutes, the kitchen gets very few complaints.

A limited amount of additional equipment (such as toasters and microwaves) is available on each wing so that the prisoners can prepare some food themselves, although prisoners frequently report that some equipment is not working and procuring replacements seems to be a difficult and lengthy process due to prison service contracting arrangements.

## **Clothing**

Prison issue clothing is washed in an on-site laundry which also holds a stock of replacement clothing items. Each wing also has washing machines and tumble dryers for prisoners to launder their own clothes. There are some issues with equipment breaking down and, as above, fixing broken equipment and procuring replacements seems to be a difficult and lengthy process.

### **5.2 Segregation**

Men are placed in the Segregation Unit (SU) at Stocken primarily for own protection (OP) – so those, for example, who are in debt to other prisoners or acquaintances and/or some other form of threat) – or for the purposes of maintaining Good Order and Discipline (GOOD) – so those who have allegedly been carrying out bullying, threats and violence.

There are a few instances where men are in the unit for substantial periods of weeks and after the maximum time allowed in segregation without further authorisation (42 days). The Board attends all segregation reviews and reviews all necessary paperwork. The quality of paperwork and the maintenance of the individual prisoner log sheets has shown improvement with both the filing and entries being much more comprehensive but it is felt that there is still room for improvement.

In the case of prisoners who are still in the SU at 42 days, the Board monitors that their continued segregation has been reviewed and authorised by the Deputy Director of Custody (DDC). Fortunately this number has shown a reduction from 23 in 2022 to 15 in 2023. However the Board is concerned about prisoners being held in segregation for extended periods of time before being transferred to secure mental health facilities. The segregation staff can be commended for the support they have given to these troubled men.

The gym staff provide a gym session in the segregation unit every Wednesday.

The number of adjudications continues to remain high. Outstanding cases have increased from 18 in May 2022 to 31 as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. Dismissals have risen from 213 to 262 whilst Not Proceeded With have fallen from 208 to 179.

### **5.3 Staff and prisoner relationships, key workers**

Key working has not returned to the level achieved before the pandemic and is being impacted by staffing shortages. At the end of the reporting period only limited key working was being carried out due to staff shortages.

### **5.4 Equality and diversity**

The prison has an Equality Advisor who reports to the Head of Health and Wellbeing. There are also five prisoner equality representatives who feel valued and supported by the equality staff.

During the last 12 months a number of the bi-monthly Diversity and Equality Team (DEAT) meetings have been cancelled due to staff shortages. On the months when the meetings have not taken place, data packs have still been produced and issued to all



members of the leadership team for action and updates. These are then published and provided to prisoner reps for distribution to the wider prison population. The data is very in-depth and covers a vast amount of detail to ensure no disproportionality.

A new DIRF process was initiated on 1 March with DIRFs now being investigated by non-operational managers with assurance overseen by both the Equality team and Governor. New assurance checks are being developed to support wing staff in keeping their Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP) paperwork up to date.

There is much good work done with many groups including with the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller group - a history month is being celebrated in June - and the involvement with veterans such as a veterans' bi-monthly breakfast club which involves veterans from both prisoners and staff and representatives from local armed forces.

Special menus and meals are provided for religious and cultural celebrations.

## **5.5 Faith and pastoral support**

For the first time in many years the chaplaincy is now fully staffed with some full time and others sessional. They are now supported by one part time administrative staff member. Whilst this staffing situation is positive the induction of new members of staff increases the short term workload of the head of Chaplaincy. The team is led by an Anglican priest.

The department has a wide and varied role. Prisoners in the segregation unit are visited daily, new arrivals are seen, and prisoners are also seen the day prior to release. The team tries very hard to see everyone on an ACCT and to reply within 24 hours to written applications.

The department holds services in the chapel and in the multi-faith room. The number of Muslim prisoners has increased and the multi-faith room is now being increased in size but there is still a concern that it will not be large enough.

An important role of the chaplaincy team is to provide pastoral support to those who have suffered bereavement or loss.

The area of faith is one that gives rise to very few applications to the Board.

## **5.6 Incentives schemes**

The prison has an incentives scheme. There are three levels: Basic, Standard and Enhanced. A typical breakdown is 2.2% on basic, 36.2% on standard and the remainder (61.6%) are enhanced.

The incentives scheme is regularly reviewed and is aimed at rewarding good behaviour although staff are encouraged to give warnings for bad behaviour rather than placing a prisoner on report or using the adjudication process (or both).

Recalled prisoners are granted standard level on return to Stocken. A prisoner transferred from another prison keeps his incentives scheme status that he has already earned so long as evidence of his level can be provided – or, in some cases, traced,

given some sending prisons do not send evidence with the prisoner or, it seems, keep updated information on p-NOMIS.

## **5.7 Complaints**

Complaints are generally dealt with efficiently and the Board Chair periodically audits a percentage of the complaints to assess the quality of the responses. However, there is still the problem of other establishments ignoring complaints forwarded to them by the complaints clerk at Stocken. This then produces additional work for the complaints clerk who has to chase these establishments. As this matter is not unique to Stocken this needs, as we have commented in recent reports, attention from HMPPS and/or the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman.

## **5.8 Property**

As will be seen from the IMB application data later in this report, lost property is still an issue particularly when prisoners are transferred from another establishment. We commented above about the lack of cooperation from establishments when complaints forms are sent to them from Stocken. As reported above, there appears to be little concern about volumetric controls from some establishments.

We have reported this in several annual reports including last year's and the issue has not been addressed.

## **6. Health and wellbeing**

### **6.1 Healthcare general**

It is the Board's view that healthcare provision is at least as good as in the community.

### **6.2 Physical healthcare**

The healthcare team have put great effort into the various vaccination programmes during the year. They have met all of their targets with respect to vaccinations except Hep A which they have missed by a small margin but this not unusual as all the local hospitals are trying to get on top of their backlog.

A lot of work is carried out by the administration team in the healthcare unit to arrange/re-arrange hospital appointments. The number of escorts provided by the prison has increased over the period and is now back to six per day (three in the morning and three in the afternoon). This is resource intensive for the prison, particularly when staff absence is high.

For most of the year the healthcare unit was short of a pharmacist, one has been recruited and they are shared with another prison. When the healthcare contract is changed during the next reporting year it is not clear what will happen with this post.

They have also been having difficulty in recruiting a substance misuse nurse and this is having to be covered by other staff.

Despite the increase in the size of Stocken, with N wing already being open and a new wing under construction, Stocken still does not have a dispensing pharmacy and the Board would like the opening of one in the prison to be considered.

### **6.3 Mental health**

The staffing in the mental health team has improved throughout the year but with the high number of prisoners requiring support the team has a heavy workload. There are three particular issues that contribute to this:

- Prisoners being transferred in on open ACCTs.
- Prisoners arriving without the necessary medication, which is not always available at Stocken.
- The length of time it takes to transfer a prisoner to secure mental health facilities.

### **6.4 Social care**

Social care is performed in conjunction with Rutland County Council. At the end of the period there were no prisoners receiving personal care. Some men have been provided with equipment to help meet their needs.

### **6.5 Time out of cell/regime**

Although there have been fluctuating staffing levels during the reporting year, staff have done their best to maintain a high level of out-of-cell time for the prisoners. This has meant that at the start of the year the 50/50 regime (where only 50% of the prisoners went to work/education at any one time) predominated. However, as the year

progressed more prisoners were going to full time work and also spending more time out of cell on domestics and association. By early this year prisoners were spending increasingly more time out of their cells. The recent HMIP report gives the following statistics:

*During our roll checks, only 7% of prisoners were locked up, which was much lower than we have seen in similar prisons recently. About half of prisoners had left the wing to attend activities. Regular attendance at most workshops and classes was over 90%, which was very good. Prisoners were also unlocked on the wing to complete domestic tasks, exercise outdoors and have a period of association. This meant prisoners could receive between 2.5 and nine hours out of their cell every day, depending on their incentive scheme status and whether they were employed. Full-time workers and some enhanced level prisoners received evening association up to four times a week. In our survey, fewer prisoners than in similar prisons (36% compared with 60%) spent more than two hours locked up on weekends.*

## **6.6 Drug and alcohol rehabilitation**

The Inclusion Team is the substance misuse service in Stocken and run programmes for drugs and alcohol.

Two major initiatives have been implemented in Stocken this year.

The Drug Recovery Wing has been rebranded as 'The Hive'. This is a national initiative and has attracted additional funding, which is being used to provide additional equipment. The focus is on supporting prisoners to develop life skills that will aid them on their drug recovery.

Incentivised Substance Free Living (ISFL), came out of the '10 Prison Project' and is now being implemented in Stocken. Half of one of the wings is dedicated to ISFL. It is intended as an environment for those who want to live without violence, drugs and the illicit prison economy. It is a place where it is easier to get support than drugs. They are incentivised by a positive environment and improved facilities (use of domestic kitchen, enhanced association area and additional access to hobbies, activities and new equipment).

One concern is that prisoners on methadone were not being reviewed regularly enough to promote reduction. Therefore additional GP resource will be available in the future to review the prescriptions for each prisoner.

## **7. Progression and resettlement**

### **7.1 Education, library**

The education department is operated by PeoplePlus (PP), who are also responsible for most of the many prison workshops. Staffing was improved in the latter part of the year, but we are concerned about the high turnover of education managers - four in less than two and a half years. The current manager is due to leave early in the next reporting year so there is no consistent management.

The college is no longer officially offering art or IT courses because neither could be funded on the Annual Delivery Plan.

The college offers English and Maths at foundation and higher levels, so men assessed as needing English and maths at a foundation level have to do this before they can apply for some jobs in the prison. Those who want better jobs need to do the higher-level maths and English. Also on offer are courses in personal and social development, business studies and English as a second language.

A recent Ofsted inspection rated Education at HMP Stocken as Inadequate. Until there is an Education Manager who actually stays in post long enough to implement key action points things are unlikely to improve in the short term. However, one of the key action points was to improve staffing so that a full complement of courses could be offered and this has, at least, almost been achieved.

The library is well-resourced and well integrated into the education department's courses. As well as the normal library services which are provided by Rutland County Council the library runs such things as Storybook Dads and the Shannon Trust scheme to help with reading.

A large volume of newspapers and magazines are processed every morning and distributed to the wings.

### **7.2 Vocational training, work**

Vocational Training (VT), delivered by PP, is well catered for with qualifications delivered in barbering, brickworks, plumbing and tiling, motor mechanics, catering and cycle repairs and waste and environmental management (WAMITAB). Most are fully staffed enabling prisoners to work towards qualifications at levels 1 and 2 and several of the workshops (for example bricklaying, painting and motor vehicle repair) can also offer level 3 qualifications. These level 3 qualifications require a lot of study from the prisoners.

A small number of prisoners from the catering workshop also work in the 'Stockpot', the prison mess. This gives them an opportunity to interact with all grades of staff on a professional basis.

There are also workshops where they produce breakfast packs and two DHL workshops where they fulfil the canteen orders for a number of prisons.

### **7.3 Offender management, progression**

Staffing in the offender management unit (OMU) is still challenging, resulting in a heavy case load for each member of staff. This can mean that a prisoner may complain that he hasn't seen his OMU worker for some time but we view that staff are correctly prioritising tasks.

Home Detention Curfew and Release on Temporary Licence have been amended in an attempt to free up cell space.

Backlogs in processing prisoners through the Offender Assessment System (OASys) have reduced but there is still a significant amount of work due to many prisoners arriving at Stocken without a completed OASys assessment and, as reported above, problems with prisoner flow.

Transferring of prisoners to Cat D has improved this year and we are getting fewer complaints from prisoners about a delay in being transferred. However, prisoners that have been re-categorised to cat B being transferred to a suitable establishment takes far too long.

Two Offending Behaviour Programmes are offered by the Programmes Team: the Thinking Skill Programme (TSP) and Kaizen - a higher intensity programme. The waiting list for Kaizen is long and unacceptable but this is a national problem – not that that makes the situation any more acceptable.

### **7.4 Family contact**

Social visits have taken place throughout the year. Visits are on Tuesday, Thursday and over the weekend. Lincolnshire Action Trust provide activities for the younger children in the visits hall. Social video calls are also still being offered post-Covid.

All cells on the wings have in-cell telephones which allow the prisoners to call family and friends at more convenient times. There have been some technical/reliability problems with this system during this reporting year.

### **7.5 Resettlement planning**

Stocken is not a resettlement prison but still has to carry out resettlement for some prisoners as they can be released direct from Stocken. 202 prisoners were released direct from Stocken during the reporting year. However the prison is not resourced for this work and so has to find funding/resource from other areas.

The OMU, external probation staff and the Lincolnshire Action Trust work together so a prisoner on release has accommodation (at least for the first night), a bank account and a form of identification. In addition the prison now has an employment hub to help prisoners pre-release with such things as writing a CV. The hub has also arranged some very successful 'work fairs' where prisoners approaching release can meet prospective employers.

## 8. The work of the IMB

### Board statistics

Recommended complement of Board members	16
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	11
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	12
Total number of visits to the establishment	415

### Applications to the IMB

Code	Subject	Previous reporting year	Current reporting year
A	Accommodation, including laundry, clothing, ablutions	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>
B	Discipline, including adjudications, incentives scheme, sanctions	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>
C	Equality	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>
D	Purposeful activity, including education, work, training, time out of cell	<b>34</b>	<b>18</b>
E1	Letters, visits, telephones, public protection, restrictions	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>
E2	Finance, including pay, private monies, spends	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>
F	Food and kitchens	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>
G	Health, including physical, mental, social care	<b>15</b>	<b>33</b>
H1	Property within the establishment	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>
H2	Property during transfer or in another facility	<b>33</b>	<b>52</b>
H3	Canteen, facility list, catalogues	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>
I	Sentence management, including HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-categorisation	<b>31</b>	<b>47</b>
J	Staff/prisoner concerns, including bullying	<b>49</b>	<b>40</b>
K	Transfers	<b>23</b>	<b>25</b>
L	Miscellaneous	<b>46</b>	<b>3</b>
	Total number of applications	<b>309</b>	<b>311</b>

## **Annex A: List of Service Providers**

Education is provided by PeoplePlus.

Healthcare and mental health services are provided by the Practice Plus Group.

Inclusion (drug rehabilitation) is part of Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust.

Dental health is provided by Time for Teeth Limited.

Library services are provided by Rutland County Council.

Voluntary services include the Samaritans, Lincolnshire Action

Trust, the Prison Fellowship, the Shannon Trust and the Sycamore Trust.





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