



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

**For reporting year  
1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024**

**Published December 2024**



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All IMB annual reports are published on [www.imb.org.uk](http://www.imb.org.uk)

## 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 Hatfield is a category D (open) men's prison and young offender institution near Doncaster in south Yorkshire. It is split into two sites: Hatfield Main and Hatfield Lakes.

For full details of HMP/YOI Hatfield, please refer to [Hatfield Prison - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hatfield-prison)

Throughout 2023-2024, construction of a new D wing at the main site was completed. This increased the prison's operational capacity (the maximum number of prisoners that can be held without serious risk to safety, security, good order and the proper running of the planned regime) from 298 to 358<sup>1</sup>. The new wing has ensuite facilities and in-cell phones.

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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**

- From the Board's observations, both the Hatfield Main and Hatfield Lakes sites continue to be generally safe environments for prisoners and staff, with no reported incidents of self-harm or staff assaults for the last four years.
- The health, safety and fire multidisciplinary meeting review any issues on a quarterly basis.
- Again, this year, there have been no self-inflicted deaths.
- Prior to arriving at Hatfield, the remit of an open prison is explained to prisoners, with all prisoners assessed at the Lakes on arrival by a prison officer and a nurse.
- There has been only one incident where the use of force has been required within the reporting year.
- Both sites continue to be vulnerable to illicit items being dropped over the perimeter fence. However, this is generally very well managed due to a strong security department and intelligence cycle. There have been no absconds in the reporting year and the prison maintains a low rate for positive mandatory drug testing (MDT).
- To improve security further, the prison will be installing a new 'anti dash' fence at the main site, which is designed to prevent the public from coming in.

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

- Improvements to facilities on both sites is noted and pleasing, with funding secured through a capital maintenance and investment programme to improve prisoner recesses and the completion of the new wing.
- The opening of the new dental surgery is welcomed.
- The holding area for men returning to closed conditions at the Lakes is rarely used, as behaviour continues to be well managed.
- As noted in last year's report, applications (written representations prisoners make to the IMB) are very low in number, as problems are usually sorted out by staff before the IMB need to be informed.
- A representative from each group with a protected characteristic (these include race, religion, age, disability, sex, gender reassignment and sexual orientation, which it is unlawful to discriminate against) is invited to attend bi-monthly equality and diversity meetings with the Deputy Governor.
- Prisoners continue to have access to the appropriate multi-faith representatives.
- The new multi-faith centre is delayed until 2025. This will greatly improve the built environment for faith services.
- The majority of prisoners continue to be on the enhanced level of the prison's incentive scheme, with the remainder being on standard. Progress is measured through successful release on temporary licence (ROTL) visits and work opportunities. (Note: the prison's behaviour incentives scheme has three levels, of which 'enhanced' is top and earns the prisoner extra privileges.)
- The number of complaints in the reporting period has continued to fall and has halved when compared with 2022-2023.

- Again, complaints about lost property are usually historical and relate to transfers from other prisons.

### **Health and wellbeing**

- As noted in last year's report, the Board's observations find that services for physical health, mental health and substance misuse needs on the two sites are very well managed and seem accessible to all men.
- The gym instructors continue to deliver a range of courses, including a National Navigation Award Scheme, which is designed to develop self-esteem, confidence and teamwork skills.
- Through a partnership approach, men have access to physical activity and educational, health and wellbeing programmes, which is good to see.
- The prison has continued its twinning project with Sheffield Wednesday Football Club, which is very popular and well run.

### **Progression and resettlement**

- The education, skills and work provision was rated as 'good' in an Ofsted inspection in 2019, and has continued to be very effective in meeting the needs of prisoners, in the Board's view. This is evidenced through the prison having approximately a third of the prison population working outside the establishment in full-time, paid external employment. This has been a real focus for the prison and has brought significant benefits.
- There continues to be access to a full library service on both sites, with additional support from the Shannon Trust, a charity that develops literacy skills.
- As a category D establishment, the prison is not resourced to provide any offending behaviour programmes. However, prisoners are able to access a number of offending behaviour courses in the community whilst on ROTL.
- The offender management unit (OMU) continues to deliver a high-quality risk and sentence management process.
- The prison places a strong emphasis on the establishment and rebuilding of family ties. During 2023-2024, there were a total of 5,386 releases. These included 2,944 day releases (RDRs) and 2,442 overnight releases (RORs).
- It continues to be exceedingly rare for HMP Hatfield to release a prisoner with no accommodation to go to. The majority return to family or friends and a small number will be required to stay temporarily in a probation approved hostel for risk-management purposes.
- Pleasingly, a very high number of prisoners secure and maintain employment six weeks and six months after release. This is a real area of focus for the Governor and the Prison.

## **3.2 Main areas for development**

### ***TO THE MINISTER***

Measures to relieve prison population pressures across the estate can and do have a negative impact on the ethos and performance of category D prisons.

- What will the Minister do to further support planned-for category D prisons so that they can effectively maintain and develop their resettlement programmes?

Maintenance at the Lakes is managed by the adjoining prison and is not connected to Hatfield, and their maintenance work is often prioritised over the Lakes.

- Will the Minister sanction that maintenance is to be facilitated by staff from the main site?

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

The completion of D wing has highlighted the discrepancies within this prison of available accommodation.

- Can the Prison Service ensure that ongoing refurbishment, particularly at the Lakes, is considered in future grant allocations?

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

The prison has consistently been one of the top performing resettlement prisons in the country, which is a credit to the Governor and the team at HMP Hatfield and the Lakes. The SMT continues to prioritise the wellbeing of staff and support staff initiatives.

- Can the Governor ensure that staff initiatives are able to continue, given the increase in prison population changes?

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

Issue raised	Response given	Progress
Continuation of bathroom facilities refurbishment.	Capital funding needs securing to continue to progress.	Ongoing.
Building of the 'anti-dash' fence.	Completion of new build.	Ongoing.

## **Evidence sections 4 – 7**

### **4. Safety**

The health, safety and fire meeting takes place quarterly. This group looks at any issues that have arisen on the two sites at HMP Hatfield. This is a multidisciplinary group and is chaired by the Deputy Governor.

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

4.1.1 As noted in the previous report, prior to arriving at Hatfield, the remit of an open prison is explained to prisoners. A number of men who arrive at Hatfield are serving life or IPP (imprisonment for public protection) sentences. Some are finishing short sentences started in other establishments. Both reception areas are small but clean. All prisoners are assessed at the Lakes on arrival and prisoners are seen by a nurse to discuss any ongoing physical, mental health and substance misuse issues. Prisoners are taken to their accommodation by prisoner information desk (PID) workers to help them settle in.

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

4.2.1 During the reporting year, there have been no self-inflicted deaths or reported incidents of self-harm. One assessment, care in custody and teamwork (ACCT) plan (used to support and manage prisoner at risk of suicide and self-harm) was opened, but it was closed after 24 hours due to appropriate interventions by staff. Staff continue to train in ACCT awareness and interventions.

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

4.3.1 In general, violence towards staff or other prisoners is very rare on both sites at Hatfield. From the Board's observations, potential problems are dealt with quickly by staff. The ethos of taking responsibility for personal behaviour is strong and men are aware of the consequences of bullying and aggressive or antisocial behaviour. The Governor also focuses on a positive culture of 'hope' and 'opportunity' to ensure engagement from the men.

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

4.4.1 There has been one incident where the use of force has been recorded this year across both sites. This involved the use of rigid-bar handcuffs, due to a prisoner's non-compliance. Should force need to be used, a member of the IMB, when available, is invited to observe the incident. A member of the IMB audits the use of force figures annually.

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

4.5.1 Both sites continue to be vulnerable to illicit items being dropped over the 'anti-dash' fence. A new fence around the main site is due to be completed shortly. In addition, again on the main site, a gate has been installed to prevent pedestrians and vehicles entering the grounds 'accidentally'. (A small number of members of the public have been noted to be entering the prison grounds at night and allegedly leaving packages in the grounds on the main site.) Hopefully, this situation will be resolved once the fence is completed.



Staff are aware that men returning from ROTL and outworks continue to be a weak spot in preventing illicit items being brought into the prison. Therefore, random mandatory drug testing (MDT) is still regularly carried out on their return. The few men who are found to be under the influence are sent for adjudication (a disciplinary hearing when a prisoner is alleged to have broken prison rules) and, if found guilty, are returned to closed conditions. This policy also applies to those found with illegal mobile phones and is effective in deterring men from taking such a risk. The Yorkshire area search team continues to work with the prison to intercept illicit items. The distilling of hooch (prison-made alcohol) does not appear to be a problem on either site. However, some men returning from ROTL occasionally try to secrete alcohol into the prison. Men are not routinely breathalysed for alcohol but, if it is suspected of being under the influence, this is an option. The intelligence cycle, however, is generally well managed and evidenced by a very low MDT rate.

There were no instances of absconding in the reporting period.

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

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

5.1.1 Following last year's report, the capital maintenance programme continues to improve the ablution facilities. The main work has been to the main site, with a programme of redecoration and upgrading of the facilities.

5.1.2 B wing is in the process of having the shower facilities remodeled and upgraded. This is a welcome improvement. However, the Lakes site ablutions are still in need of upgrading. Some of the ablution facilities at the Lakes are not fit for use. The IMB has been informed that funding has been secured to upgrade the Lakes site G wing facilities.

5.1.3 The new build – D wing – was completed in January 2024 and can house up to 60 prisoners. It has been built to a very high standard. The building includes two accessible bed spaces for prisoners with disabilities. All bed spaces have ensuite shower facilities and in-room phones. The hallways are carpeted, which helps reduce noise and moves away from the institutional aesthetic as part of preparing prisoners for release. It is noted that the men who are accommodated on D wing D take great pride in their facilities.

5.1.4 The new dental surgery on the main site is now open two days a week for the dentist and one day a week for the dental hygienist. Men from the Lakes come to the main site for treatment. This facility is a welcome addition to the prison and receives very positive feedback from the men.

### **5.2 Segregation**

5.2.1 There is no segregation unit on either site at Hatfield. However, each site has a holding area for men returning to closed conditions on both sites, although they are rarely used, as prisoner behaviour is well managed.

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

5.3.1 The Board has observed very positive relationships between staff and prisoners on both sites. Applications to the IMB are very low in number. New prison staff are allocated a mentor, who is one of the more experienced members of staff. This has helped the inexperienced staff gain confidence in their interactions with prisoners and keep a calm atmosphere.

### **5.4 Equality and diversity**

5.4.1 Equality and diversity (E&D) forum groups include representation from black, Asian and minority ethnic prisoners, older prisoners, the LGBTQ+ and the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, men serving life or IPP sentences and those with disabilities. There is a named lead prison officer for each protected characteristic, who organises each forum and feeds back to the main equality and diversity meeting, which is chaired by the Deputy Governor on a bi-monthly basis.

In addition to the protected characteristics forum feedback, the agenda also covers briefings on changes to the prison demographic for each of the protected characteristics. These data are then compared with data for the incentives scheme, adjudications, return-to-closed conditions, complaints and discrimination incident reporting forms (DIRFS). Any disparity in over or under representation in each of the

protected characteristics is then subject to increased scrutiny, to investigate the potential for any discrimination. This robust and proactive approach is encouraging to see in action.

The agenda also invites prisoner representatives to attend and give feedback from other prisoners and requests to the E&D chair. It has been observed that these requests and reports are taken seriously and acted on, wherever possible. The prisoners stay for the meeting in its entirety, showing a high level of openness and transparency between senior staff and prisoners. Also, in attendance and given the opportunity to contribute are representatives from healthcare, neurodiversity, residence, security and catering. The local plan for equality and diversity is also discussed and relevant actions are put in motion.

A recurring issue that the IMB see at Hatfield is the reluctance of prisoners to make applications to the IMB and a pervasive belief that prisoners who make complaints or submit DIRFs are sent back to closed conditions. Within the scope of the E&D meeting, a deep-dive analysis tested the validity of this belief. The data showed that there was no correlation between prisoners who have made complaints or submitted DIRFs and those sent back to closed conditions within a 3-4 month window.

A neurodiversity support manager (NSM) has been appointed to help staff and prisoners access support, make reasonable adjustments and access diagnostic healthcare services. Contractually, the NSM is only there to support prisoners. However, HMP Hatfield goes above what is expected and offers support to neurodiverse staff as well.

## **5.5 Faith and pastoral support**

5.5.1 During the reporting period, all faiths shared a small chapel in the education building at the Main site, with a small chapel at the Lakes. Prisoners have access to a Church of England Chaplain, who works 18 hours a week and visits all men as part of their induction. There are also two Imams, who work a total of 20 hours. The chaplain and Imam hold regular services and celebrations, as well as working with men individually where requested. In addition, there is a Sikh faith leader, a Buddhist monk, a Catholic priest and a pagan Priest, all of whom attend the prison regularly. They conduct services and speak to men who have requested a meeting. There is no leader of the Rastafarian faith, although steps have been taken to rectify this and services are being facilitated. Other faith leaders are contacted if a prisoner requests to see them.

5.5.2 The new multi-faith centre was due to be started in April 2024. However, commencement has slipped and is scheduled to start in 2025.

## **5.6 Incentives scheme**

5.6 All prisoners start on the standard level of the scheme when they arrive at the Lakes. They are assessed and given an opportunity to progress to the enhanced status. Progress is measured through successful ROTL visits and work opportunities.

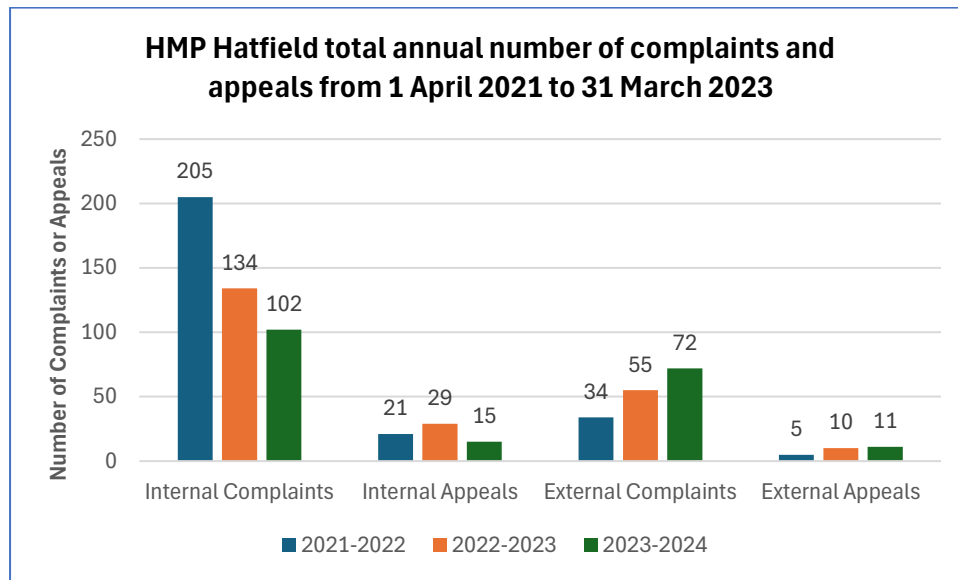
The prison continues to be committed to being a fully incentivized, substance-free living (ISFL) establishment. This offers many benefits to the men, including access to ROTL and funding for equipment. This year, ISF funding has been granted to purchase new washers and dryers for B wing, re-cloth the snooker tables, purchase dart boards for the main site, and a cooker for the prisoner kitchen in the education

building. Additionally, more microwaves, sandwich toasters and air fryers have been purchased, so that replacements are available as required for the equipment in the wing-based kitchenettes.

## 5.7 Complaints

5.7.1 As per graph 1, below, complaints have continued to fall.

**Graph 1: The number of complaints made to the prison in the reporting period, compared with 2021-2022 and 2022-2023.**



## 5.8 Property

5.8.1 Prisoners are transferred to the Lakes with their own property. As noted in our previous report, any complaints about lost property are usually historical and relate to transfers from other prisons. Reception staff will usually chase up lost property, which is appreciated by the men. The IMB continues to monitor the progress of retrieving this property. However, unfortunately, it is not always possible to resolve these issues, as several prisons are often involved and too much time has elapsed.

The IMB has recently introduced a template letter, advising prisoners of the next steps to take if property has failed to arrive at HMP Hatfield.

## 6. Health and wellbeing

### 6.1 Healthcare general

6.1.1 Since 2017, healthcare has been provided by the [Practice Plus Group](#). The service was registered with the Care Quality Commission in 2017. However, the last [Care Quality Commission \(CQC\) inspection](#) was undertaken in 2019, when Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust was the provider.

6.1.2 A dedicated team operates a seven-days-a-week service across the two sites. Healthcare delivery hours include:

- Monday to Friday: 7.30am to 5.00pm; Hatfield Main and the Lakes sites
- Saturday, Sunday and bank holidays: 7.30am to 9am; Main site
- Saturday, Sunday and bank holidays: 9.30am to 11am; the Lakes site

There is no in-patient provision at either the Main or the Lakes sites. Any health concerns that are raised out of hours are discussed with a nurse when next available, who will decide the appropriate action. In an emergency out of hours, 999 is called.

6.1.3 All new receptions to the Lakes site are given a full healthcare screening.

6.1.4 Table 2, below, shows staffing levels. Healthcare continues to be delivered by a multi-disciplinary team that includes a GP, registered general nurse, registered mental health nurse, pharmacy technician, substance misuse practitioner and specialist nurses. At the end of the reporting period, the service had two new vacancies: one for a registered general nurse and one for a health care assistant. A bank nurse is backfilling until the nurse vacancy is filled.

**Table 2: Hatfield Main and the Lakes healthcare staffing levels**

Health professional	Number
<b>GP</b>	2 x sessions per week
<b>Psychiatrist</b>	X 1 (as and when required)
<b>Registered general nurse</b>	X 1 (full-time) X 2 (30hrs per week) X 1 (25hrs per week)
<b>Registered mental health nurse</b>	X 1 (28hrs per week)
<b>Health care assistant</b>	X 1 (full-time)
<b>Learning disability nurse</b>	X 1 (as and when required)
<b>Substance misuse practitioner</b>	X 1 (full-time)
<b>Pharmacy technician</b>	X 2 (full-time)
<b>Optician</b>	2 x sessions per month
<b>Podiatry</b>	1.5 sessions per month
<b>Physiotherapy</b>	1 x session per month
<b>Dental (HMP Moorland)</b>	2.25 sessions per week
<b>Vacancies</b>	X 1 (registered general nurse) X1 (health care assistant)

6.1.5 From the Board's observations, healthcare provision continued to be good, with a low 'did not attend' (DNA) rate, while good throughcare arrangements to support prisoners on release were still in place. Healthcare attendance at forums is in place. Healthcare complaints are dealt with internally by the healthcare provider and are very low in number. The Board has not received any complaints regarding healthcare delivery in the reporting year.

## **6.2 Physical healthcare**

6.2.1 In common with our previous report, healthcare delivery provision outcomes are equivalent to those experienced in the community. Routine clinical reviews of long-term conditions (LTC) continue. There was some delay in appointments for hospital outpatient referrals and routine outpatient follow-ups, with a two-week wait for urgent/emergency appointments. The delays are from secondary care and all appointments are facilitated within the appropriate appointment time.

The spirometry service, which helps diagnose and monitor certain lung conditions, is up and running.

6.2.2 All healthcare appointments are face-to-face.

6.2.3 The new dental suite, which opened in January 2024 at the main site, is a welcome development

6.2.4 As referenced in our previous report, health promotion campaigns were delivered by the healthcare centre in line with national Department of Health and Social Care campaigns ([Campaigns|Campaign Resource Centre \(dhsc.gov.uk\)](https://www.dhsc.gov.uk/campaigns)). Additionally, on an ad-hoc basis, health promotion activity continued to be carried out on the wings.

6.2.5 The medication tracker system has been fully implemented for outworkers (those doing paid work in the community while still in prison).

## **6.3 Mental health**

6.3.1 Mental health support continued to be provided on both sites and could be accessed on entry to the prison. It was staffed by a registered mental health nurse. Access to a psychiatrist or a psychologist was provided, if required, by the mental health nurse, but need appeared to be pleasingly low.

6.3.2 Those with existing mental health problems are identified on reception into the prison and followed up by the mental health nurse. For prisoners who experience a mental health crisis, emergency appointments are offered. Men with mild depression and anxiety are classified as non-urgent and are offered interventions when an appointment becomes available.

6.3.3 As in previous Hatfield IMB annual reports, the mental health nurse noted that there had been no increase in those presenting with mental health problems. Again, there were no incidents of suicide or self-harm during 2023-2024, which is to be commended.

6.3.4 Mental health self-help information continued to be available on all the prison wings.

## 6.4 Social care

6.4.1 Although there appears to be minimal need, the prison has good and effective links with the Doncaster Council Adult Social Services team.

## 6.5 Time out of cell, regime

6.5.1 The gym staff continued to deliver a range of courses, including a National Navigation Award Scheme, which is designed to develop self-esteem, confidence and teamwork skills. The prison still runs the twinning project with Sheffield Wednesday Football Club. The British Weight Lifting course has been added to the gym programme offer.

Access to the gym was available across both sites and there was equity of access across all ages, with evening sessions aimed at outworkers and kitchen workers, those referred by the GP, and programmes designed for prisoners over 50, as highlighted in table 3. Trained mentors were able to offer support to those who needed encouragement to access the gym.

**Table 3: Number and type of gym session offered in 2023-2024 (the same as in 2022-2023)**

Session	Type of activity	Number of sessions available (per week)
<b>Booked session</b>	Weights and cardiovascular	16
<b>GP referrals and over-50s plan</b>	Gym programme specific to the individual	4
<b>Outworkers</b>	Weights and cardiovascular	4
<b>Kitchen workers</b>	Weights and cardiovascular	5

Through a range of partnership approaches, men had access to physical activity and educational, health and wellbeing programmes, as highlighted in table 4.

**Table 4: Type of gym programmes offered in 2023-2024 (the same as in 2022-2023)**

Programme	Programme outlines	Numbers accessing	Frequency	Outcome(s)
<b>Sheffield Wednesday Football Club: twinning project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10-week programme</li><li>• all aspects of football and physical fitness</li><li>• covers both theory and practice of football</li><li>• emphasis on enjoyment to attract participants</li></ul>	12 x men	2 x annually	Men gained a football coaching qualification across all community levels.

<b>First aid</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>managing acute physical minor emergencies in the workplace</li> </ul>	6-8 x men	6-10 x annually	Men gained a Level 3 first aid at work qualification.
<b>Steroid awareness, in partnership with substance misuse service</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>in partnership with substance misuse worker</li> </ul>	8-10 x men	6-10 x annually	Raised awareness on the impact of steroid use on a person's physical health and psychological wellbeing.
<b>Mountain bike maintenance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>educating on all aspects of mountain bike maintenance</li> </ul>	6-8 x men	4 x annually	Men were awarded a qualification.
<b>Registered IQ (awarding body)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>educating on all aspects of physical and healthy living</li> </ul>	6-8 x men	Approval gained to start the programme in July 2022	Access to three levels of qualification ranging from: Level 1: Active, healthy living and assisting sport and physical activity sessions. Level 2: Gym instruction award, mental health and alcohol awareness Level 3: Instructing outdoor fitness
<b>National Navigation Award Scheme (NNAS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a personal performance, non-competitive, incentive scheme for all ages to learn navigation skills</li> </ul>	8 to 10 men	4 to 6 annually	Gain confidence to get out and enjoy the countryside.
<b>British Weight Lifting course</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>one-day course</li> <li>offers the basic rules of weightlifting, safety in the sport, roles and responsibilities of a coach and planning a session</li> </ul>	8 men	4 annually	Discover critical coaching skills, which can optimise coaching performance; the main physical qualities that athletes need to develop in weight-lifting; identify the key positions for the Snatch, Clean and Jerk; learn assistance lifts for weightlifting.



## **6.6 Drug and alcohol rehabilitation**

6.6.1 The substance misuse service continues to offer comprehensive support, educating prisoners about the effects of drugs and focusing on recovery paths. It is delivered by one full-time substance misuse practitioner, who offers both one-to-one sessions and group work. The overarching recovery-led ethos enables connectedness, hope and optimism, identity, meaning and empowerment. Prisoners are encouraged to enter voluntary drug-free living 'compacts', which are a type of contract. The service works alongside the prison's drug strategy and security team to counteract any increase or change in the type of substances being used

6.6.2 The team aims to see all new receptions on arrival. A recovery mentor has been employed to meet, face to face, with prisoners who are undergoing inductions and offer support and information on how to access the services.

6.6.3 Emergency appointments and wellbeing checks continued to be offered when required. A peer mentor programme is fully operational. A variety of treatment options are available in relation to those seeking support. Prescribing options include methadone, buprenorphine and long-acting buprenorphine (Buvidal). Support is offered around methadone reductions, as well as naltrexone and acamprosate. Naloxone, a medicine that rapidly reverses an opioid overdose, is also offered to those being released and on home leave.

6.6.4 Mutual aid is offered across both sites in the prison and, in preparation for release, externally as well. The mutual aid groups include:

- Narcotics Anonymous (NA)
- Cocaine Anonymous (CA)
- Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

6.6.5 As highlighted in our previous report, posters continue to be displayed on all units regarding information on the signs and symptoms of a drug overdose and the various types of illicit drugs. The Board, again, recognises the excellent work being carried out and the close working relationship with other areas of healthcare, resettlement and the gym. Also, when it is recognised that a prisoner has a dual diagnosis (mental health and substance misuse problems), there is a strong joint working relationship between the mental health nurse and the substance misuse practitioner.

## **6.7 Soft skills**

6.7.1 Prisoners have access to Listeners, who are prisoners trained by the Samaritans to offer confidential emotional support to their peers. In addition, there is a 24/7 Samaritans helpline. Also, all wings have information on suicide-prevention awareness. However, the need for these services is very low.

## **7. Progression and resettlement**

### **7.1 Education, library**

7.1.1 From the Board's observations, the education, skills and work provision continues to be of a very good standard and is effective in meeting the needs of most of the prisoners.

7.1.2 Novus is still the prison education framework (PEF) provider. It offers help and support with all aspects of employment, including job searches, training and education, advice, writing a CV and interview preparation. A total of 32 functional skills places are available to the men. Warehousing and CSCS cards (the leading skills certification scheme in the UK construction industry) meet the needs of employers engaging with HMP Hatfield and directly supporting paid employment opportunities offered by the Full Sutton 2 Construction Project and various employers in logistics and warehousing, amongst others.

7.1.3 When prisoners arrive at HMP/YOI Hatfield, they are assessed for levels of numeracy and literacy and learning needs. The holistic needs of individual prisoners are considered, together with any previous qualifications and skills gained at previous establishments. Prisoners with learning difficulties and disabilities have equal access: a screening takes place during induction to provide tailored support plans for these men.

7.1.4 Functional skills continue to achieve well against the relevant targets. Further progress has been made in English and maths achievements, due to the aspirational approach that Hatfield applies.

7.1.5 Open University and other distance learning course are offered and undertaken in the prisoner's own self-study time. This form of education is extremely popular for prisoners with undergraduate/professional qualifications. Learners on Open University and other distance learning courses have access to IT and support through four sessions of the regime. Open days are held regularly to advertise the 'offer' and to support applications.

7.1.6 The former Prison Officers' Association (POA) centre had been redeveloped and is due to open in the winter of 2024 at Hatfield's Main site. The 'Hatfield Campus' will provide less restricted access to IT and support the development of functional digital skills in a college campus environment.

7.1.7 The library service is delivered by Doncaster Council, which provides a timetabled service each week. It offers a wide range of services, including guitar loan, origami packs and 'wellbeing' jigsaws, as well as a wide range of reading material.

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

7.2.1 The Shannon Trust continues to offer a rolling programme across both sites to assist those who struggle with reading and writing, offering reading plans, access to mentors/learners and literacy programmes. The charity also offers support for functional skills development in the prison.

7.2.2 A development in the library in June 2022 to introduce an education PC network to support the men in independent development of skills and employment is ongoing and is maintained in partnership with Novus.

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

7.3.1 Prisoners are allocated a prison offender manager (POM) - either prison or probation - on arrival at the Lakes and a new one on transfer to the main Hatfield site (in the case of a prison POM). These remain the same for the duration of their stay, where possible. The POM is easily accessible to prisoners should the need arise, and they generally provide consistent and accurate information in supporting the men, identifying issues at the earliest opportunity to minimise disruption.

7.3.2 The prison offers access to some offending behaviour programmes, such as Building Better Relationships (BBR) and the Thinking Skills Programme (TSP). These form part of agreed ROTL arrangements, where appropriate, and will feature in the individual's sentence plan. The prison, alongside the community probation team, has begun to re-establish these programmes in the community so that they can be accessed while on ROTL. The programmes are valuable to prisoners in addressing some of the issues that may have played a part in their offending and support their reintegration into society. Prisoners attending appear to do so willingly and report that they feel a benefit from participating.

7.3.3 Offender management arrangements in Hatfield support multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA). Prison offender managers (POMs) are required to submit a report to support MAPPA meetings about members of the prison population and attend the meetings where necessary. POMs are notified by a community offender manager (probation) if a prisoner is to be managed under MAPPA on release six months in advance to support management and release arrangements.

7.3.4 In 2023-2024, 257 prisoners were released from the establishment, which is a significant increase on the previous year (181) and appears to reflect an influx of men arriving in the prison with less time remaining to serve. National initiatives such as the end of custody supervised licence (ECSL) scheme have recently been implemented, which has added to an increased 'churn' of prisoners being released from custody and new prisoners arriving.

7.3.5 The prison continues to support the substance misuse team by arranging weekly ROTLs in the community for men to attend Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Cocaine Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous and a hepatitis C support group, where these needs have been identified.

7.3.6 The OMU continues to deliver high-quality risk and sentence management processes to ensure all prisoners are robustly assessed throughout their stay. Inter-department risk management team (IDRMT) meetings have been streamlined while maintaining effectiveness and attendance by relevant stakeholders and partners, including the police intelligence officer (PIO), the psychology team and POMS.

### **7.4 Family contact**

7.4.1 The prison places a strong emphasis on the establishment and rebuilding of family ties. It has reintroduced the Family Strategy and holds regular Family and Significant Other meetings. These involve key stakeholders, including education, PACT (Prison, Advice and Care Trust charity), the OMU and security teams, all of which has contributed to enhanced provision for men, securing a top mark in the latest self-assessment review.

7.4.2 During 2023-2024, there were 5,386 releases for the purposes of maintaining family ties. These included 2,944-day releases and 2,442 overnight releases (ROR).

7.4.3 Four family days (which bring together prisoners and their families outside of their statutory entitlement to social visits, usually in more informal settings) are held each year at the Lakes and are well attended. Links are also made to celebration events, acknowledging the achievements of men, and family members are encouraged to celebrate alongside.

## **7.5 Resettlement planning**

7.5.1 As a resettlement prison, Hatfield provides a wealth of information, advice and support to prisoners approaching release. This process is contributed to by case administrators, POMs and other managers. They are supported by prisoners who have a prisoner information desk (PID) role and offer other prisoners a first port of call for information on induction, applications, ROTL and general support. Partner organisations also support the release process. The discharge board (DB) actively involves the prisoner, who is invited to attend the DB to ensure their views regarding their release plan are met. The DB meets face-to-face and brings together through the gate services, the OMU, healthcare and mental health, education, activities and programmes and partner organisations to identify individuals' needs on release and tries to ensure there is appropriate advice and assistance to support them.

7.5.2 It has always been the case that HMP Hatfield rarely releases a prisoner with no accommodation to go to; and this reporting year, no one was released without accommodation. The majority of prisoners return to settled housing with family or friends, while a small number will be required to stay temporarily in a probation-approved hostel for risk-management purposes.

7.5.3 As was the case last year, a higher-than-average number of prisoners are in maintained employment six weeks after release, which is really pleasing to see. This continues to be an area of real focus for the Governor and the SMT and the establishment was, again, the highest performing prison in the country in terms of the number of prisoners securing employment both six weeks and six months after release. The establishment maintains its very clear focus on placing men in full-time employment whilst on ROTL, with the clear aim of the prisoners then securing that job permanently on release, which the vast majority do. This strategy has been extremely successful, with over 100 men working out of the establishment each week in full-time paid employment. The establishment works with 22 employers in a wide range of sectors, including logistics, construction and HGV driving.

7.5.4 Many long-serving prisoners will not have bank accounts when they arrive at Hatfield. However, throughout their stay at the prison, support is available to open an account and it is encouraged prior to release. The same can be said to secure all right-to-work documents, a driving licence, etc, to help them successfully resettlement into their communities on release, and around 90% of prisoner on average leave the prison with everything in place.

## 8. The work of the IMB

### Board statistics

Recommended complement of Board members	9
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	3
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	4
Total number of visits to the establishment	173

### Applications to the IMB

Code	Subject	Previous reporting year	Current reporting year
A	Accommodation, including laundry, clothing, ablutions	0	0
B	Discipline, including adjudications, incentives scheme, sanctions	1	0
C	Equality	0	
D	Purposeful activity, including education, work, training, time out of cell	0	1
E1	Letters, visits, telephones, public protection, restrictions	0	0
E2	Finance, including pay, private monies, spends	1	2
F	Food and kitchens	0	0
G	Health, including physical, mental, social care	0	0
H1	Property within the establishment	0	0
H2	Property during transfer or in another facility	1	0
H3	Canteen, facility list, catalogues	0	0
I	Sentence management, including HDC (home detention curfew), ROTL (release on temporary licence), parole, release dates, recategorisation	0	0
J	Staff/prisoner concerns, including bullying	0	0
K	Transfers	1	0
L	Miscellaneous	0	0
	<b>Total number of applications</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>



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