



Chair, Independent Monitoring Board  
HMP/YOI Parc  
Heol Hopcyn John  
Bridgend  
CF35 6AP

MoJ ref: 120339

3 January 2025

Dear Chair,

**HMP/YOI PARC YOUNG PERSON'S UNIT: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD REPORT  
FOR 1 MARCH 2021 – 31 MARCH 2023**

Thank you for providing your report about the Young Person's Unit at HMP/YOI Parc. I am very grateful to you and your colleagues for continuing to carry out your statutory role and capturing your helpful observations about the Unit, especially with the shortage of members that you have experienced during this two year period. Thank you also to the prison for allowing me the opportunity to visit the Young Person's Unit earlier this month which was insightful and of great value to understand the work taking place with the young people in our care.

The Lord Chancellor and I would also like to thank the Board for supporting her visit to HMP Stocken earlier this month and for my visit in October when I opened a new house block. We greatly value the insight gained and hope you found our visits beneficial.

Whilst you have not raised any particular issues of concern for my attention, it was really informative to be able to read in detail about the effective work the Young Person's Unit undertakes to positively impact some of the most violent and challenging young children in England and Wales. It was reassuring that incidents of violence remained low and had reduced from the previous period with reductions in the number of assaults, the need for staff to use force, and the number of adjudications.

I welcome the Board's assessment that leaders and staff provide a caring and supportive culture which continues to innovate and that they have excellent relationships with the children in their care. It was most pleasing that staff were prepared to go out of their way to help and that children themselves noted they enjoyed the weekly meeting from their dedicated Custody Support Officer and appeared to feel staff cared and took an active interest in them.

I am also aware that the reporting period remained a challenging time for prisons and young offenders institutions as a whole and in the recovery post the Covid-19 restrictions. It is therefore appreciated that the Board recognised the Young Person's Unit had worked hard to ensure children were out of their rooms consistently as much as possible and had significantly improved the amount of time. It was also encouraging that a new enrichment programme had been introduced providing an opportunity for children to learn a new skill or engage in a variety of activities.

The Secretary of State and I are hugely thankful for the dedication and experience members of Independent Monitoring Boards bring to the important role you play throughout the estate and we

extremely value you and your team for your continued hard work on behalf of the Young Persons Unit at HMP/YOI Parc.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Yvonne James". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'Y'.

**Lord Timpson**  
**Minister for Prisons, Probation, and Reducing Reoffending**