



Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board at HMP Kirklevington Grange

**For reporting year
1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024**

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Contents

Introductory sections 1 – 3	Page
1. Statutory role of the IMB	3
2. Description of the establishment	4
3. Key points	6
 Evidence sections 4 – 7	
4. Safety	8
5. Fair and humane treatment	11
6. Health and wellbeing	16
7. Progression and resettlement	20
 The work of the IMB	27
Board statistics	27
Applications to the IMB	28

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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/YOI Kirklevington Grange is a category D open prison, located close to the village of Kirklevington, in north Yorkshire, catering for adult men and young adult men. The operational capacity of the prison (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), was 207¹ throughout the year. The reception unit (F) is still being utilised as a double-cell block, while the remainder are single occupancy. Prisoners were moved to single cells in a reasonable timescale, in the Board's view.

Prisoners are accommodated within the main building and two units within the grounds. One of these (L unit: 60 prisoners) was purpose built, while the other (M unit: 24 prisoners) consists of modular accommodation units. These were initially brought on site during the Covid pandemic and became part of the prison's operational capacity in 2021, with an operational lifespan of five years. Substantial work was committed to this unit to ensure its suitability for long-term use.

Kirklevington Grange is an ageing establishment and investment has been made to ensure safety and maintain living standards for both staff and prisoners.

The grounds are open, which provides prisoners with a pleasant environment for their leisure and work. The whole of the estate is surrounded by a high fence, which is reassuring for the prison staff and the local community. Contrary to HMIP's recent report on the matter of the fence being appropriate, it was felt locally that it was not an issue. The grounds are used extensively by the prisoners for various fitness activities organised by the gym personnel.

There is a sports hall and gym, facilities that are much appreciated by the prisoners, together with a fitness centre located in the main building.

There is a building set aside for education, job seeking, chaplaincy, etc, which is known as the new direction centre, with the healthcare centre sitting alongside.

The visitors' room is attractive and the facilities offer a calming, friendly atmosphere, which is much appreciated by prisoners and their families. It has its own cafeteria and shop, which is run by NEPACS (North East Prisons After Care Society). Visitors often comment on the peaceful atmosphere of the facility and how well children are catered for.

There is a recycling workshop and laundry in the grounds. During the reporting year, there has been a significant drive to reduce the impact the prison has on the environment by, amongst other things, cutting waste and bringing down water usage. The grounds are used for extensive gardening, and much of the produce is sold in the outside shop or used in the kitchens.

The outside shop is run alongside a successful cafeteria and car wash/valeting service, which appear to be well supported and appreciated by the public. They are

¹ 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.

educational, helping towards resettlement and reintegration-focused opportunities for the prisoners involved.

During 2-12 September 2024, HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) made an unannounced inspection of HMP Kirklevington Grange, covering every aspect of the establishment and resulting in a report. This quote from the report summarises HMIP's findings: *'Under an experienced governor, Kirklevington Grange was a thriving and innovative prison and held a little over 200 at the time of the inspection. The focus was on getting prisoners, some of whom were coming to the end of long sentences, into good working habits and preparing them for their eventual release back into the community... Despite our rating of "good" across each of our four healthy prison tests, leaders were keen to learn from the inspection and had taken action against almost all our concerns we had raised at our last visit.'*

Overall, the Board is in agreement with the HMIP report, but where there are variances - and these are few - we will include them in our monitoring programme for the coming year.

3. Key points

3.1 Main findings

Safety

- The Board continues to consider the prison to be a safe environment for both staff and officers, with one death in custody and no incidents of self-harm.
- HMIP found that the prison had a good record in respect of prisoner safety and also that the outcomes for prisoners in the safety category were 'good' (the highest level), although some concerns were identified in their report.

Fair and human treatment

- From its observations, the Board continues to find that relationships between the staff and prisoners are good.
- Accommodation, though adequate, still suffers from an ageing infrastructure.
- There have been few official complaints to the IMB, but property being mislaid or going missing remains an issue.

Health and wellbeing

- From the Board's observations, the healthcare provision at Kirklevington continues to be of a good quality and raises very few complaints from prisoners. This was also highlighted in the latest HMIP report.

Progression and resettlement

- The Board believes that the population of the prison is a positive factor in fostering the good relationships that exist between staff and prisoners.
- The outcome of the Ofsted inspection showed generally good progress being made across the provision. However, the report highlighted the need for prisoners to develop a better understanding of life in Britain, especially in regard to the risks of radicalisation.
- The reducing offending department is fully focused on the resettlement of prisoners and, in particular, providing excellent support to enhance employment prospects for prisoners both whilst in prison and on release.

3.2 Main areas for development

We will continue to closely monitor the use of 'transition rooms', which hold prisoners who need to be separated from the rest of the prison population. HMIP identified changes that needed to be made regarding the reporting method for prisoners held in the transition room, and these have been implemented.

TO THE MINISTER

- There is still no visible progress on the development of replacement accommodation units at Kirklevington under the rapid development cell programme (RDCS). Without these new developments, the capacity continues to be below the optimum level, which affects the ability of the establishment to introduce more prisoners to outside paid employment. When will the Minister address this issue?

TO THE PRISON SERVICE

- There continue to be issues with property on transfer between establishments, with prisoners' items being lost or mislaid. This appears to be a national problem and is something we have referred to in past reports. What steps is the Prison Service taking to address this problems?
- Funding and budgets will continue to be an issue, but it would be helpful if the establishment could have more autonomy to purchase locally, which could result in financial savings. Will the Prison Service consider a local purchasing policy; but, if not, why not?

TO THE GOVERNOR

- The Board has noted that relationships are generally good throughout the prison, with staff working together for the benefit of the prisoners. Kirklevington Grange should be proud, overall, of their achievements this year.

3.3 Response to the last report

- The RDCP (rapid development cell programme) has still not been actioned to replace units demolished some years ago.
- The TPRS (temporary presumptive recategorisation system) still causes issues, but is adequately handled by the prison staff.
- Prisoners' lost property, particularly with movement between establishments, is still an issue and needs to be seriously addressed by the Prison Service.

Evidence sections 4 – 7

4. Safety

The inspection by HMIP in September 2024 found that the outcomes for prisoners in the safety category were 'good' (the highest level), although some concerns were identified in their report. During our regular monitoring and observing various meetings, we would agree with their comments.

4.1 Intelligence gathering

Security and intelligence information is submitted in the form of intelligence reports (IRs), which are categorised by subject. The analysis of IRs in 2024 is shown below.

Threat area	2024	2023	Change from previous year
UAL (unlawfully at large)	3	2	1
Breach of ROTL (release on temporary licence)	106	93	13
Drugs	483	745	-262
Mobile phones	91	165	-74
Other illicit articles	33	65	-32
Serious and organised crime	20	41	-21
Violence	56	114	-58
Safer custody	36	58	-22
Order and stability	936	1108	-172
Public protection	23	50	-27
Sexual abuse	9	10	-1
Race relations/extremism	9	10	-1
Extremism	0	0	0
Corruptors	0	0	0
Corruption Prevention	0	0	0
TOTAL	1805	2461	-656

There was a decrease in the number of intelligence reports, although there doesn't seem to be a single clear cause for this. The authors of these reports said there is no rhyme or reason behind the downward trend. It is very much dependent on consistency of employed staff at the prison and of completing reports. In past years, these figures have not been consistent.

4.2 Reception and induction

During the reporting year, there were 301 receptions into the prison from various other establishments, compared with 240 in 2023. There were no complaints regarding transportation. On arrival, each prisoner was given an initial induction by

officers based in reception. This was followed up the next day with a more detailed explanation by an officer and a fellow prisoner, as well as a 'tour' of the establishment to explain the location of various departments. F unit served as a reception unit, with each prisoner being allocated a double-occupancy cell on arrival, due to national population issues. These cells in F unit were originally built for double occupancy and needed little additional work to convert them. Each prisoner was delegated a personnel officer after a few days.

Exit interviews conducted by the prison showed:

- 86% said they were treated well by reception;
- 85% said they felt safe from harm from other prisoners; and
- 77% said the induction programme met their needs.

4.3 Suicide and self-harm, deaths in custody

There was one death in custody during the year, which was, apparently, self-inflicted. The date of the inquest has not yet been set and the death is still being investigated by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO). The prisoner died in one of the 'transition rooms' and changes to procedures were made following the death to further reduce the risk of harm to prisoners in this location. At the time of his death, the prisoner was not on an assessment, care in custody and teamwork (ACCT) plan (used to support prisoners who are at risk of self-harm and suicide).

There were no other incidents of self-harm reported during the year. Fifteen ACCT documents were opened concerning prisoners at risk of self-harm. A total of 43 challenge, support and intervention plans (CSIPs), used to manage prisoners who pose an increased risk of violence, were opened and investigated. Most CSIPs were for mandatory drug testing (MDT) failures.

4.4 Violence and violence reduction, self-isolation

During 2024, there were no prisoner-on-prisoner assaults and no prisoner-on-staff assaults. This was an improvement on last year, when two prisoner-on-prisoner assaults were recorded, together with three alleged, unwitnessed assaults, plus one prisoner-on-staff assault.

4.5 Use of force

Although HMP Kirklevington Grange doesn't have a segregation unit, it does have two 'transition rooms', where prisoners can be held and personally supervised. These are generally used when prisoners are being relocated to another establishment.

There were seven use of force (UoF) incidents, the same number as last year.

- There were two separate incidents where staff considered there was a risk of prison staff being assaulted.
- There were two separate incidents of guiding holds, when a prisoner was believed to be under the influence (UTI).
- There were two separate incidents, when a prisoner was non-compliant, involving one where handcuffs were used as a restraint.
- There was one non-compliant whilst in the transition room.

The recent HMIP report highlighted deficiencies in the treatment of prisoners who were subject to UoF and their care in the transition room. This was recognised by management and new regulations were instigated to comply with these findings. For instance, body worn video cameras (BWVCs) were to be obligatory at all incidents and footage from the cameras shown at the review meeting, which the IMB observes.

4.6 Preventing illicit items

The frequency of substance abuse is measured via three types of testing: random, risk assessment and suspicion.

	Random tests	Risk assessment tests	Suspicion tests	Total
Number conducted	241	149	62	452
Positive results	11	17	20	48
% positive results 2024	4.6%	11.4%	32.3%	10.6%
% positive results 2023	3.9%	12.5%	42.1%	16.6%

Fewer tests were carried out in 2024 than in 2023 and this was especially marked for the 'suspicion tests' (62 in 2024 compared with 135 in 2023). The proportion of positive tests in the 'suspicion' category has also fallen. It is unclear if this relates to a reduction in drug use in the prison or other factors.

5. Fair and humane treatment

5.1 Accommodation, clothing, food

The accommodation at Kirklevington is basic and tired in places, with some men expressing disappointment in the facilities on arrival at a category D open establishment. Bathroom and shower facilities are rudimentary, and the shower enclosures are small. Cleaning appears to be carried out thoroughly, but the ageing flooring and fittings can make cleaning difficult. During 2024, the prison itself painted the induction unit to make it more welcoming. They also hung a woodland mural and added waterfall stickers to the unit staircase. On other units, pictures of nature were hung to brighten the appearance.

Work began to construct a garden area behind the unit that houses prisoners over 50s, so that those who are at retirement age could grow fruit and vegetables. However, this had to be suspended due to bad weather. There are plans to undertake improvement works to other areas of the prison and to construct a wildlife pond.

In an exit survey in the reporting period, completed by all prisoners on release, 81% said the living accommodation was good.

Due to national prison population challenges, doubling up in the 20 cells in the induction block had been necessary and this was perceived as a regressive step by prisoners transferring to an open prison.

The issue with bed-bug infestations continued, despite the best efforts of managers, who followed established protocols. This was contained to a few units, with regular visits by a pest control team. However, it was not fully resolved.

Prisoners rated the food highly. It was cited as one of the three things 'liked' about Kirklevington in exit surveys, and there were many positive comments made by prisoners in the food comments book and in conversations with the IMB. The catering manager and his team were responsive to requests of prisoners and flexible in meeting demands, such as dietary requirements and amended menus for outside workers returning late. The provision is remarkable considering the small budget per head. The kitchen is well maintained and well managed, in the Board's view, with prisoners learning useful life skills such as bread-making.

5.2 Segregation

There is no segregation unit in the prison, but there are two 'transition rooms' which, the Board believes, are adequately equipped and supervised when in use. During 2024, 61 prisoners were placed in a transition room. The recent HMIP report recommended some changes to the transition room guidance and support log, which have since been implemented.

In total, 68 prisoners were returned to closed conditions: 13% were from minority ethnic backgrounds; 9% were under 25 years of age; and 18% were over 50 years old.

5.3 Staff and prisoner relationships, key workers

From the Board's observations, there is a calm and respectful atmosphere within the prison, with very few challenges to authority. A total of 81% of exit survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their personal officer was helpful.

The safer custody suite was staffed during the day, Monday to Friday, offering a comfortable, quiet space, with activities such as auricular acupuncture, fidget gadgets for managing anxiety and season-specific activities, including painting mugs for Christmas presents and a hot chocolate session.

The Board observed staff working hard to promote positive relationships throughout the prison, and good relationships appeared to be the norm.

Exit survey responses showed 72% believed the regime to be constructive; 64% thought their needs were addressed; 77% considered relationships with staff to be positive; and 73% saw their time at Kirklevington as an opportunity to change their future.

5.4 Equality and diversity

There is no purpose-built accommodation for physically disabled prisoners, although every effort is made to facilitate them when required.

During 2024, the prison received eight discrimination incident reporting forms (DIRFs), five of which were upheld and three dismissed. The number is too small to provide any statistically significant indications relating to groups with protected characteristics (including, among others, race, religion, disability, age, sex and sexual orientation).

Exit survey responses indicated that 85% felt safe from being injured, bullied or threatened by other prisoners during their time at Kirklevington, and 82% felt staff spoke to them respectfully.

Screening indicated that 45% of prisoners were neurodivergent or had learning needs. Kirklevington proceeds on a social, rather than a medical, model, so support was available to all, with or without a medical diagnosis. The neurodiversity support manager (NSM) carried out monthly training, which has now been completed by 70% of staff. Additional 'easy read' training sessions were held every two months for staff whose roles involve regular communication with prisoners who have special needs.

Support and education plans were created to assist individuals whose needs were classified as 'moderate' or 'severe'. Those assessed as 'very severe' were invited to consent to their support plans being shared with external employers. The NSM sent out monthly bulletins to all staff and facilitated areas with supportive environments, namely a sensory garden and a quiet room. She provided individual, targeted support and made referrals for prisoners preparing for release, including sharing support plans with their community offender manager (COM). She monitored neurodivergent prisoners, compared with their peers, in rates of learning, external employment achievement, suspended ROTL (release on temporary licence) and being returned to closed conditions. The NSM was particularly mentioned in the HMIP report, regarding good practice.

Kirklevington has staff leads for each protected characteristic. There are also leads for additional characteristics not covered under the Equality Act, such as veterans in

custody, neurodiverse prisoners, young adults/care leavers and victims of hate crimes. There are four diversity and inclusion prisoner representatives, who meet monthly. Diversity and inclusion meetings take place every two months. These review DIRFs that involve any complaints where the equality and diversity box has been ticked. These data and each protected characteristic provided an update on work/activities undertaken. Examples included Age UK, staff from which attended the prison twice a week to provide support to older prisoners. They resolved issues such as providing a room for Muslim prayer for prisoners who did not have enough space in their cells, as well installing a foot wash. These meetings were detailed and proactive.

Around the prison, regular displays are created that are linked to cultural and religious events, such as Remembrance Day, Black History Month, Ramadan, Holocaust Remembrance Day and Roma, Gypsy and Traveller cultural events, as well as Pride and transgender celebrations. Services are held to celebrate/commemorate such events and prisoners are involved in planning, creating and cooking special meals for these occasions.

Each month, Kirklevington has a theme that drives inclusion, awareness and diversity activities in the prison. In 2024, these included a universal month for human rights and faith, and a month where the focus was on the importance of setting boundaries and feeling empowered to say no. Others included 'happiness happens', which encouraged people to share happy moments to emphasise mental health benefits.

5.5 Faith and pastoral support

A Roman Catholic priest was appointed in October and celebrated Mass weekly. Faith support was also provided for Anglican (Church of England), Free Church, Buddhist, Muslim, Pagan and Sikh prisoners. Support sought for two Jewish prisoners remains outstanding.

Most of these services happened weekly, with the Buddhist, Pagan and Sikh services taking place fortnightly. As far as was possible, new prisoners in reception were seen by the chaplaincy team within 48 hours of their arrival.

There were nine prisoners trained as Listeners. Training was provided by Middlesbrough Samaritans and, additionally, prisoners who have been trained as Listeners at other prisons are identified on reception and assume that role at Kirklevington.

5.6 Incentive schemes

All prisoners were given enhanced status (the top level of the incentives scheme) on arrival. This was reduced to a lower level (either basic or standard) by their custody manager if they displayed poor or non-compliant behaviour. The IMB did not receive any complaints about such decisions.

5.7 Complaints

No prisoner complained to the IMB regarding overdue responses to prison complaints. Easy, informal access to officers and staff and a monthly, well-attended consultation meeting with prisoners successfully pre-empted many issues from escalating.

Internal complaints (complaints made at Kirklevington Grange)

Subject of complaint	No. of internal comp 1s	No. of internal comp 1As	Total no. of internal complaints	No. of internal upheld comp 1s	No. of internal upheld comp 1As	Total no. of upheld internal complaints
Property	35	5	40	21	0	21
Residential	13	1	14	5	0	5
Other	6	0	6	2	0	2
OASys/Offender management	5	0	5	2	0	2
Canteen	17	0	17	13	0	13
Work	5	0	5	2	0	2
Finance/cash	23	2	25	10	1	11
Food	2	0	2	2	0	2
Visits	2	0	2	2	0	2
Staff	2	0	2	0	0	0
Education	9	0	9	3	0	3
Gym	7	0	7	0	0	0
Pre-release/release	1	0	1	0	0	0
Security	12	0	12	0	0	0
Transfer/allocation	1	0	1	0	0	0
Recategorisation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reception	0	0	0	0	0	0
	140	8	148	62	1	63

External complaints (complaints from a previous establishment)

Subject of complaint	No. of external comp 1s	No. of external comp 1As	Total no. of external complaints	No. of external upheld comp 1s	No. of external upheld comp 1As	Total no. of upheld external complaints
Property	23	1	24	8	0	8
Residential	1	1	2	0	0	0
Other	1	0	1	0	0	0
OASys/Offender management	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canteen	5	0	5	3	0	3
Work	0	0	0	0	0	0
Finance/cash	1	0	1	0	0	0
Food	0	0	0	0	0	0
Visits	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staff	0	0	0	0	0	0
Education	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gym	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pre-release/release	0	0	0	0	0	0
Security	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer/allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recategorisation	8	1	9	0	0	0
Reception	1	0	1	1	0	1
	40	3	43	12	0	12

A total of 42% of internal complaints were upheld, while 28% of external complaints were upheld.

5.8 Property

Between January 2024 and December 2024, Kirklevington received 40 internal complaints regarding property: 15 were answered within the prison and 25 were referred to other establishments. Of the 40 complaints, 21 (52%) were upheld. The biggest issue remains prisoners not receiving property on transfer from other establishments.

6. Health and wellbeing

6.1 Healthcare general

Spectrum Community Health CIC continues to be the contracted provider for all nursing provision, clinical drug and alcohol recovery team (DART) services, GP clinics, mental health services and non-clinical DART and pharmacy services. Healthcare meetings are held with the Governor and there is also a forum held with the prisoners.

Staffing

Role	Banding	Staff in post	Hours
Head of healthcare	8A	1	Full-time (37.5 hours): covering both HMP/YOI Deebolt and HMP Kirklevington Grange
Clinical manager	7	1	Full-time (37.5 hours)
Senior nurse	6	1	Part-time (25.5 hours)
Staff nurse	5	1	1 x full-time (37.5 hours)
Pharmacy technician	5	1	Full-time (37.5 hours)
Associate practitioner	4	1	Full time (37.5 hours)
Administration manager	5	1	Full-time (37.5 hours): covering both HMP/YOI Deebolt and HMP Kirklevington Grange
Administration assistant	2	3	1 x full-time (37.5 hours) 2 x part-time (15 hours each)
Bank staff nurse	5	1	Bank hours: staff members used to cover weekend medications

Outsourced services

- Dentistry: Hardwick Dental Practice
- Mental health: Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (subcontracted under Spectrum)
- Optician: Henderson Opticians
- Podiatry: North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust
- Physiotherapy: North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust
- Diabetic eye screening: North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust

6.2 Physical healthcare

Care and treatment are delivered in line with an individual care plan and health staff complete a pre-admission assessment on arrival. These are continuously assessed. The Board was not concerned about waiting times for appointments at most of the clinics or for opticians' services. Should it be necessary, prisoners are referred to external healthcare services.

Prisoners are encouraged to take direct responsibility for their health and wellbeing and drop-in clinics are available. Those with disabilities have access to special equipment, which can be acquired through a referral to the local social care team.

Two complaints were received regarding the provision of healthcare, both in relation to the prescribing of Pregabalin (a strong pain killer) medication. Smoking cessation services take place, and prisoners are encouraged to attend.

Prisoners who receive methadone treatment for drug dependency were supervised when taking their prescribed medicines. They had access to relevant information on drug misuse and their dangers throughout their sentence.

Buvidal was introduced in September 2023 as an alternative treatment for opioid dependence and was well received as an alternative drug to methadone. A total of 13 prisoners received Buvidal therapy, whilst nine received methadone. In cases of an opioid overdose, Naloxone (a medicine that rapidly reverses an opioid overdose) has been prescribed and training has been given to enable staff to administer doses if necessary.

There is no 24-hour coverage by a nurse, but transport is provided should a prisoner need to go to hospital. There is a defibrillator on site for use in an emergency.

Prisoners are offered a pre-release appointment with a healthcare nurse up to a month prior to leaving. The administration team will register them with a community GP, ready for discharge, and enough medication is provided on leaving, if required.

Health records are kept securely and only authorised staff can access them. Prisoners can view their own medical records on request. On-site management of medicines is carried out with use of the SystmOne, which is a centrally hosted clinical computer system. Dental records are not kept by the prison; local practitioners attend the prison for appointments and, if necessary, prisoners can be referred to local facilities. Only healthcare staff can access medicines out of hours.

In November, the DART team ran a 'forest school', consisting of woodland walking and woodcraft skills, which was well attended.

6.3 Mental health

The mental health service was good, in the Board's view, with a clear pathway for referral and treatment. DART provided a wide variety of interventions and support to prisoners. Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust offered secondary mental health services, subcontracting Rethink Mental Illness to provide psychological interventions and Mind for counselling services. The healthcare team gave regular emotional health and wellbeing support to prisoners.

The number of mental health referrals varied each month, and included self-referrals, as well as those by staff and the healthcare service. On average, there were 10-15 referrals per month, with some being transfers of care (patients already on secondary caseload whilst in their 'sending' establishments).

A total of 15 ACCTs were dealt with throughout the year. These were clearly indicated so that the Board member on duty was aware and could visit the prisoner to see if they had any concerns. The Trust delivered mental awareness training to Listeners. In addition, the majority of officers and staff received mental health

training. A pamphlet is displayed around the prison showing the individual Listeners alongside their photo.

No patients were transferred to a secure health unit under the Mental Health Act during the year. But if a prisoner is diagnosed as being mentally unwell, there is a protocol of referral in conjunction with HMP Holme House (which is about eight miles away).

6.4 Social care

Social care services are provided by Stockton Borough Council. They regularly attend the site to assess and review patients and provide training to staff. Once care plans are put in place, the on-site nursing team provide care to the patient.

6.5 Time out of cell, regime

As a category D establishment, prisoners have a key to their own rooms and can leave their rooms to use communal areas from 6.30am, but they must be back in their rooms by 9.30pm. There are four roll checks each day when, if on site, the prisoner is required to be at their cell for counting. Besides many of the men who have outside paid employment, some men are employed in the prison itself. Prisoners have relatively free access across the majority of the site. This is appreciated by the men, as it gives them the freedom to exercise outside.

6.6 Drug and alcohol rehabilitation

The drug and alcohol recovery team, known as DART, is provided by a charity, Humankind, which is subcontracted by Spectrum Community Health. There is a full-time service manager based at HMP Holme House, a lead practitioner who works between HMP Holme House and HMP Kirklevington Grange, and a full-time recovery co-ordinator. All other support is provided by staff based at HMP Kirklevington Grange. If necessary, mandatory drug testing can take place at weekends. Daytime drug treatment sessions run from 9am to 5pm.

Substance misuse support is a priority for the prison. Within 24 hours of arrival, all prisoners are seen and an assessment completed, which looks at a wide range of drug and alcohol misuse and any associated physical and health needs. Active support is encouraged at the prison and, on average, there were 38 prisoners involved with the prison team, which is an increase on the previous year's figures. In August, the prison held a drug overdose awareness day.

The DART team provides access to both Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous monthly support groups at a nearby location. Prisoners can also attend local Recovery Connections support group meetings once a month. The prison team runs weekly evening DART support sessions, which have been well attended. Two DART peer mentors were introduced this year, who facilitate a weekly recovery group.

6.7 Soft skills

Prisoners are encouraged to be active during their leisure time and have excellent facilities, with access to a gym, a separate building within the prison, a fitness centre in the main building, and exercise machines in one of the outer units. There is an outside five-a-side football facility, together with an outside playing field. The gym

personnel offered a variety of activities throughout the year, involving both staff and prisoners. These included:

- Walking the Cleveland Way, a popular national walk of 175 km, which is taken in 'bite' sizes and involves prisoners and staff.
- Carpet bowls, with a local outside group giving prisoners the opportunity to mix with local people.
- Training with both Middlesbrough and Sunderland Football Club Foundations, working towards a coaching qualification.
- The national Park Run, which can include up to 20 runners, both staff and prisoners.
- Sea fishing off the northeast coast.
- A sports day, with both staff and prisoners competing.
- Prisoners competed in the recovery games (linked to DART and drug abuse).
- Wellbeing events, for both staff and prisoners, including 'trauma' yoga and acupressure courses, where prisoners can use these skills for other prisoners.
- Two prisoners competed in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme.

7. Progression and resettlement

7.1 Education, library

Novus held the contract for education within the prison. The annual delivery plan for April to December 2024 had a 99.7% achievement rate. A total of 85.38% of eligible prisoners were allocated education placements, with an 87.67% attendance rate between April and December. The pass rates for various qualifications from April 2024 were as follows:

Course/Level	1 st quarter	2 nd quarter	3 rd quarter	Total
Maths E1/E2	0	0	0	0
Maths E3	5	8	1	14
Maths L1	18	13	19	50
Maths L2	8	10	3	21
English E1/E2	0	0	0	0
Maths E3	1	2	1	4
English L1	14	10	12	36
English L2	12	22	17	51
EDSQ (essential digital skills qualification)	1	4	8	13
Total	59	69	61	189

The service level provides the highest attainment for English in the region at 77%. The Ofsted inspection, as part of the wider prison inspection, graded education as 'good with outstanding features'.

- Overall effectiveness: good
- Quality of education: good
- Behaviour and attitudes: outstanding
- Personal development: good
- Leadership and management good

Our ongoing weekly monitoring of education gives us figures that confirm the recent Ofsted report, and we appreciate the work done by the education department for the benefit of the prisoners.

The Ofsted inspection reported: *'The education, skills and work department in the prison was well led and our previous concerns had been taken seriously, resulting in significant improvements to activities provision and quality assurance. Efforts to cultivate links with community employers had led to many prisoners working outside the establishment in meaningful jobs, and a high proportion remained in employment on release.'*

As Kirklevington is an open prison, there is an understandable preference amongst the men for paid, outside employment over education. However, the Ofsted inspection notes: *'Prisoners attending education were paid at the same rate as those*

in work within the prison and were not disadvantaged by attending education.'

Prisoners, many of whom have had long sentences and avoided education, are often reluctant to engage at this stage, even if their literacy and numeracy skills are low.

Novus provided education and vocational training in the prison. Ofsted noted that teachers planned the curriculum logically to enable prisoners to develop their knowledge and skills over time. Ofsted was positive about the work provided by the education team: *'Prisoners were well prepared for their functional skills examinations. They completed practice papers, reading and writing exercises, and mental mathematics exercises. Teachers tracked the progress of prisoners carefully. When prisoners made swift progress, any additional support was reduced, and where prisoners made slower progress their support plan was reviewed carefully and amended appropriately.'*

In the prisoner survey, carried out as part of HMIP inspection process, 79% of prisoners said they received help and support from education staff for their learning difficulties. The support provided by education staff was mentioned in the exit interview survey data.

The IMB observed classes that were calm, purposeful and supportive. No sessions were cancelled during the year, as they were either covered or rearranged.

Various initiatives were used by the education team in 2024 to further the prisoners' reading skills and to encourage reading. For example, some men entered poems in the Mike Garry project, in which they wrote about their experience of their first night in prison.

A specialist started sessions on Fridays to support men developing their reading skills. New initiatives such as a 'book on the bed' for new arrivals at the prison had a positive impact by encouraging prisoners to read for pleasure. In the Ofsted prisoner survey, 93% of prisoners with low reading abilities said they had been supported by staff at the prison to improve their skills.

Ofsted highlighted that there needed to be more emphasis on British values and the risks of radicalisation. The essential digital skills qualification (EDSQ) includes a section on staying safe online. There are also activities in the maths and English scheme to address these areas.

The library team was very responsive to the changing context of the prison. With more men at work, an evening slot was created for games, quizzes, activities and library use. Alongside this, a coffee morning was held each week to encourage prisoners to make use of the small but welcoming facility. Attractive, frequently changed and themed displays invited library use. These included Holocaust Memorial Day, LGBTQ+ information, Autism Acceptance Week, International Children's Book Day, health information, sport information, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History, Literacy Day, Black History Month and Remembrance Sunday.

There was a Shannon Trust facilitator, who identified potential learners. This was successful this year for both mentors and learners. The revamped numeracy booklet was more appropriately aimed at adult learners. A Reading Ahead Challenge was run to encourage readers to try reading new genres and a Dungeons and Dragons club was successfully introduced.

The laptop available for HGV and vehicle driving test practice continued to be popular, as was chess, which had a 33% increase in participation. A reading/coffee area was created in the gardens for internally working prisoners to read magazines and newspapers during their breaks.

Library use figures were as follows:

Kirklevington library user engagement													
2024	A	B	C	F	G	H	J	L	M	R	door	staff	Total
January	40	46	53	137	32	23	18	46	27	70	84	52	628
February	32	40	49	161	42	35	13	49	32	47	92	54	646
March	30	37	47	99	55	42	13	51	17	42	83	39	555
April	49	32	33	94	56	44	11	75	17	50	110	35	606
May	29	20	19	86	46	47	20	76	5	41	60	34	483
June	33	42	21	103	64	42	16	96	5	29	33	38	522
July	30	20	28	93	74	42	17	93	6	28	48	37	516
August	22	14	32	146	78	66	22	168	24	78	140	54	844
September	13	11	33	82	33	47	9	113	32	42	91	43	549
October	16	30	27	110	17	41	1	70	18	19	82	53	484
November	9	44	48	60	45	36	10	67	8	26	112	35	500
December	31	46	34	65	61	22	15	87	5	28	92	31	517
Total	334	382	424	1236	603	487	165	991	196	500	1027	505	6850

7.2 Vocational training

Training opportunities were provided in the following areas: manual handling, environmental awareness and food hygiene. Additionally, in response to HMIP findings, a course in British values began in December. This was directed at men approaching access to ROTL work opportunities to address attitudes in the workplace. Internal work was provided in horticulture, waste management, the laundry, catering, cleaning and prison driving. There was also a multi-skills course, which included bricklaying, tiling, painting and decorating, joinery and general maintenance. A new multi-skills trainer brought increased impetus to this provision.

A forklift truck allowed men with the certification to continue to practise their skills, but no accreditation or new courses were available. A construction skills certification scheme (CSCS) ran to enable prisoners to access jobs on construction sites and the local Teesworks project. The prison employment lead (PEL) ensured a seamless progression from the 12-week multi-skills training to the CSCS assessment and into external work.

A twinning programme ran throughout the year with a local professional football club, allowing prisoners who were able to complete a course to obtain a Level 1 coaching certificate, which can be extended to Level 2 in the community on release.

The SDS40 scheme, which allows certain prisoners serving standard determinate sentences (with a 50% conditional release point) to be released at the 40% point of their sentence, subject to eligibility criteria, created a quick turnover of prisoners and contributed to some difficulties during the autumn for staffing the kitchen. A flexible

and responsive staff coped, but it did increase the workload and some closures of the popular internal café, enjoyed by inmates and staff.

A lot of work has been put into reducing the turnaround time before men are risk assessed and ready to access ROTL. Planning and liaison with outside agencies and businesses ensured alignment of the skills and qualifications offered within the prison to each prisoner's individual plan and with work opportunities arising in the local area. This was tweaked regularly.

Due to the short period (9-12 weeks) available before prisoners can access ROTL and external work opportunities and the priority given to education, it is difficult to offer accredited courses, as these require more time to complete. Attending all sessions of the twinning course is often impossible due to the commitment to education and the necessity for health and admin appointments.

The employment advisory board brought opportunities for networking and co-operation between employers and voluntary and statutory agencies. It seemed to effectively support the employment team in their work of extending the variety of jobs available, their geographical flexibility and the number of posts.

In the Board's view, changes to Government policies undermined the successes achieved in prisoner employment in several ways. Some of the businesses that employed prisoners expected them to be available for ROTL work for lengthy periods, only to find they were subsequently released early. This created volatility in their workplaces and deterred employers from offering jobs to prisoners and working with the prison in the future. This was very regrettable.

Some men arrived at Kirklevington with too little time remaining in their sentence to benefit from the opportunities provided, leaving them feeling that the move to open conditions was pointless. This was exacerbated by the temporary presumptive recategorisation scheme (TPRS), which was aimed at creating spaces in closed prisons.

The focus of Kirklevington Grange is to rehabilitate and resettle offenders, with employment being key to this. Of the 333 confirmed employment offers in the north east prison group region (NEPG) during 2024, Kirklevington contributed 225. Unfortunately, the official employment figures collated through the Probation Service ceased to be available between March and December 2024, due to a change in criteria and a reset of the IT system.

The prison worked hard to remove barriers to gaining employment, hiring vans to transport prisoners to workplaces and resetting the way transport costs were calculated prior to deducting the victim's levy.

Many additional purposeful activities have been added to the regime, including T-shirt designs for Christmas, card making, mug design, creating Jesmonite items, wreath making, Lego and Airfix modelling, outdoor chess, music clubs, badminton, darts, quizzes, cycle to Lapland, local walking trails for staff and prisoners, book club, Bible study and allotments. Some activities were set up through a 'bring your hobby to work' initiative, which encouraged staff to run groups based on their own interests.

7.3 Offender management, progression

The offender management unit (OMU) is led by the head of offender management services and the head of offender management delivery and has 18 members of staff. Each prison offender manager (POM) has a case load of 20-30 prisoners. Despite the challenges of the emergency early release policies, there were no backlogs in the offender assessment system (OASys) reviews and none in releasing prisoners.

The reporting year was extremely challenging for the OMU, with several national initiatives and policy changes being introduced to support population pressures, which affected the whole estate. The team seemed to work hard to ensure prisoners received timely communication regarding changes to their release date, as well as completing hundreds of additional sentence calculations. Handovers, prior to the prisoners' release with community offender managers, were held with little notice. The positive outcomes evidenced much goodwill from the OMU staff and strong partnerships between the prison and probation services.

All risk assessments for ROTL were completed within 12 weeks.

The POMs contributed to the induction process and met with prisoners during their first week. They can be accessed via the kiosk system, and some drop-in sessions were conducted to clarify the changes around early release schemes, such as SDS40, and increased eligibility for the home detention curfew (HDC) scheme.

Personal officers (PO) supported the prisoners, generally, in twice-monthly meetings and often informally throughout their sentence. They contributed to risk assessments and sentence planning. However, a few prisoners, when asked by the IMB, said there was a lack of contact with their PO.

A total of 82% of prisoners who responded to an exit survey were happy, or very happy, with the support they received from their personal officer. With 5% stating they were not, and 84% saying they were happy with the support provided by their POM, 86% of respondents reported being helped to plan for their release. A total of 65% agreed, or strongly agreed, that their needs were addressed within the prison.

Some prisoners arrived at Kirklevington Grange with outstanding courses to complete. A small number attended Building Better Relationships (BBR) in the community and POMs offered Choices and Changes to individual young offenders, as appropriate.

An exit survey of 181 respondents showed that 60% agreed, or strongly agreed, that staff took a personal interest in them during their early days at Kirklevington, and a further 32% were satisfied. A total of 49% agreed, or strongly agreed, and 23% were satisfied that the induction process helped them understand the expectations of them.

A total of 67 prisoners were returned to the closed estate for failures to comply with the regime, six of whom were TPRS prisoners. This represented 21% of the TPRS cohort. There were 27,577 releases on ROTL, with only 54 failures and three unlawfully at large (UAL) after failing to return from ROTL.

A total of 215 prisoners were released during the year:

- 96 releases on home detention curfew (HDC)

- 48 with end of custody supervised licences
- 55 on a conditional release date
- 12 on parole
- 3 unlawfully at large (UAL)
- 1 death in custody

Eleven parole hearings took place: 10 men were released by the parole board during the year and one parole application was declined.

7.4 Family contact

During 2024, there were 3312 temporary releases for the purpose of maintaining family ties. IMB members met informally with prisoners and their visitors on occasion. They expressed appreciation of the facilities, relaxed atmosphere and helpful staff. Prisoners were happy with the process for booking and the frequency of social visits. There were five social visit sessions available to book each week, with flexible timings; social video calls were also available and prison-to-prison calls could be arranged. There were no complaints to the IMB regarding social visits.

Special licences were arranged for prisoners whose family members were seriously ill in hospital or babies were due to be delivered.

Indoor and outdoor play areas were available at family contact sessions, while family days, timed to coincide with half-term holidays, provided themed events and activities such as mask making, fancy dress and pumpkin decorating at Halloween. Families were provided with lunch and refreshments at these events. Non-uniformed staff supervised these sessions.

NEPACS ran a group programme to prepare prisoners for their return to family life, as well as helping to organise evening enrichment activities and small family reading groups. They also provided training for prison staff to raise awareness of the 'hidden sentence' implications for family members.

7.5 Resettlement planning

There is an effective, robust and timely system for ensuring prisoners have the requisite ID documents, bank accounts, qualification certificates and sentence plans in place ahead of their first ROTL opportunity. Support is provided with writing CVs, job searches and interview technique. HMIP found insufficient input for raising awareness of British values. This was addressed immediately, with a taught course particularly linked to attitudes in the workplace.

The New Directions centre is a useful easy-access resource for all rehabilitation services, including substance misuse services, chaplaincy, employment services, the library and job vacancy listings.

The exit survey revealed that 91% of 141 prisoners were registered with a GP on release.

The table, below, shows the accommodation on release during 2024.

Housing on Release	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Family home	19	17	35	31
Flat				
Hotel/B&B				
Other*	13	13	18	16
CAS 2 accommodation			4	4
Approved premises	3	11	9	2
Transient/short term	6	5	4	1

*This consists of householder/rental/supported housing/rough sleeping. On release from HMP Kirklevington Grange, it is exceptionally rare for prisoners not to have accommodation.

This was a very challenging year for probation staff, due to the early release schemes putting additional pressure on accommodation providers. HMP Kirklevington Grange works with statutory and third-sector organisations to offer support to prisoners. Charities such as Clean Slate, established by ex-offenders, helped prisoners on release with their resettlement in the community, providing mentoring as well as practical support.

8. The work of the IMB

The Board has been able to meet its commitment to monitoring duties throughout the year and has been able to report on issues of concern and to identify good practice on each of those visits. A Governor attended all our monthly board meetings, giving an update on the prison and a national update. At each meeting, we had a presentation from different departments, such as healthcare, for example, to update us on current practices. We have had good support from Governors, officers and staff to carry out our duties and have been given access to all parts of the establishment.

We were kept well informed of prison status by observing various departmental meetings for monitoring purposes and receiving a daily brief, a daily update and a weekly update on a regular basis. Members have an area of special interest, in line with our monitoring guidelines, and are diligent in observing meetings associated with these, giving an increased oversight of their particular section.

The IMB Chair attends the regional Chairs' meetings, together with the open estate forum (of category D establishments) each quarter to receive updates and discuss best practice.

The prison conformed with the Memorandum of Understanding, providing the Board with a dedicated office and access to a confidential secretary as and when required for correspondence and minutes at Board meetings, etc.

We started the year with seven members and ended the year with the same number. Two members resigned and the national recruitment drive produced for us two new members. Our recommended complement is nine, but the lower number of members does not compromise our position of being able to monitor the prison effectively.

During the year, with a limited number of fully trained members, we were still able to attend the prison on two days each week for monitoring and to observe the various meetings, each time producing a comprehensive report for the Governor and the Board. Members were made aware of their time commitment through a visits' rota, compiled by the Chair three months in advance.

Again this year, there were relatively few formal applications, which are prisoners' written representations to the Board (see the applications table, below), finishing with a similar figure to the preceding year. This is probably a result of a low population, a more settled establishment, the staff being able to find solutions and the visible presence of IMB members, who listened to prisoners' concerns.

Board statistics

Recommended complement of Board members	9
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	7
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	7
Total number of visits to the establishment	269

Applications to the IMB

Code	Subject	Previous reporting year	Current reporting year
A	Accommodation, including laundry, clothing, ablutions	0	1
B	Discipline, including adjudications, incentives scheme, sanctions	3	-
C	Equality	0	1
D	Purposeful activity, including education, work, training, time out of cell	0	1
E1	Letters, visits, telephones, public protection, restrictions	0	-
E2	Finance, including pay, private monies, spends	0	-
F	Food and kitchens	1	-
G	Health, including physical, mental, social care	2	4
H1	Property within the establishment	0	2
H2	Property during transfer or in another facility	0	5
H3	Canteen, facility list, catalogues	0	0
I	Sentence management, including home detention curfew (HDC), release on temporary licence (ROTL), parole, release dates, recategorisation	1	6
J	Staff/prisoner concerns, including bullying	2	2
K	Transfers	0	1
L	Miscellaneous	1	-
	Total number of applications	10	23



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