



HM Prison &
Probation Service

HMP Lindholme

A response to the HMIP inspection: 1 June to 11 June 2026

HMIP report published: 1 September 2026

Submitted: 25 September 2026

Introduction

HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) and HM Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) for England and Wales are independent inspectorates which provide scrutiny of the conditions for, and treatment of prisoners and offenders.

They report their findings for prisons, young offender institutions, and effectiveness of the work of probation, and youth offending services across England and Wales to Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS).

In response to the report HMPPS / MoJ are required to draft a robust and timely action plan to address the priority and key concerns.

Action plans provide specific steps and actions to address these concerns, that are clear, outcome focussed, measurable, achievable, with clear accountability and appropriate timescales for completion.

Action plans are sent to the respective HMIP and published on the GOV.UK website. Progress will be monitored regularly through local, regional, and national governance structures.

Priority concerns and actions

No.	Concerns	Response: Action taken / Planned	Responsible owner	Target date
1	The ingress and use of illicit drugs was too high. The abuse of drugs had contributed to one death in custody since our last inspection, with possible links to other deaths yet to be classified.	Taking a collaborative approach to address the use and ingress of illicit drugs, the Head of Security and Head of Drug Strategy will:	See below:	See below:
	As above	Review the prison Supply Reduction Strategy and Drug Strategy Action Plan quarterly through senior governance meetings to monitor performance, identify emerging risks and trends, including vulnerable groups, and coordinate action to reduce drug-related harm.	Governor	December 2026
	As above	Ensure learning from drug-related incidents and deaths in custody is reviewed through relevant governance forums and incorporated into local drug strategy planning.	Governor	January 2027
	As above	Strengthen supply reduction activity, including intelligence-led searches, sanctions and disruption. Effectiveness will be reviewed through the monthly Joint Strategic Committee (JSC) to identify emerging threats and direct resources accordingly.	Governor	December 2026
	As above	Maintain and develop the prison's drone defence strategy to identify, deter and disrupt drone activity, in conjunction with South Yorkshire Police.	Governor	February 2027

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No.	Concerns	Response: Action taken / Planned	Responsible owner	Target date
	As above	Deliver a comprehensive Mandatory Drug Testing programme, including suspicion, frequency and risk-based testing, and use the data to monitor drug misuse levels, identify trends and target disruption activity.	Governor	January 2027
2	The health partnership had not addressed known issues impacting patient outcomes. These included long waiting times to see the GP and dentist, poor supervision of medicine administration queues and too many cancelled or delayed hospital appointments.	To improve patient outcomes, the Health Partnership will:	See below:	See below:
	As above	Increase GP clinics from four to six sessions per week to improve access to primary care and reduce waiting times for assessment and treatment. This will be monitored through the monthly Prison Health Operational Governance (PHOG) meeting.	Health Partnership	January 2027
	As above	In partnership with the dental provider, review dental clinic capacity to determine whether additional sessions could be delivered to improve access to routine and urgent treatment and reduce waiting times. Progress will be monitored through the monthly PHOG meeting. Findings will inform future service planning and decisions regarding clinic capacity.	Health Partnership	March 2027

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No.	Concerns	Response: Action taken / Planned	Responsible owner	Target date
	As above	Increase the use of in-reach healthcare services and virtual consultations, where clinically appropriate, to reduce reliance on hospital escorts, minimise cancelled or delayed appointments and improve access to secondary healthcare. This will be monitored through the monthly PHOG meeting.	Health Partnership	October 2026
	As above	Implement a formal supervision and assurance process for medication administration queues, including daily compliance checks and monthly monitoring to improve safety and reduce opportunities for bullying, intimidation and medication diversion. This will be monitored through the monthly JSC.	Governor	October 2026
3	There were not enough prisoners in full-time education, training or employment.	To expand full-time activity, the Head of Reducing Reoffending and the Head of Education, Skills and Work will:	See below:	See below:
	As above	Increase the number of prisoners allocated to full-time education, training and employment opportunities to 80% of the population, through enhanced allocation and progression arrangements.	Governor	April 2027
	As above	Increase workshop capacity through the introduction of additional workshops and expansion of existing provision to increase full-time opportunities.	Governor	January 2027
	As above	Provide opportunities for prisoners doing English and mathematics to combine learning with purposeful activity, increasing participation in full-time activity while supporting educational attainment.	Governor	October 2026

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4	Attendance at education, skills and work remained low and punctuality was poor.	To improve attendance and punctuality at education, the Head of Education, Skills and Work will:	See below:	See below:
	As above	Implement a formal attendance review for prisoners who refuse or repeatedly fail to attend education, skills or work activities to identify and address barriers, reinforce expectations and encourage engagement.	Governor	October 2026
	As above	Implement a single prison movement model to reduce movement-related delays and improve punctuality for education, skills and work. Performance will be monitored through attendance and punctuality data.	Governor	October 2026
	As above	Provide prisoners with clear information on attendance expectations, punctuality requirements and the benefits of participation through induction and in-cell technology, promoting personal responsibility for attendance and engagement.	Governor	October 2026
	As above	Align English and mathematics provision with sentence planning objectives to strengthen progression pathways, increase engagement with learning and support improved attendance at education activities.	Governor	February 2027
5	Contact with prisoners by prison offender managers was very limited.	The Head of Offender Management Delivery will improve contact with Prison Offender Managers by:	See below:	See below:

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No.	Concerns	Response: Action taken / Planned	Responsible owner	Target date
	As above	Developing and implementing a local Prison Offender Manager contact standard which sets minimum prisoner contact expectations, promotes meaningful engagement and supports effective sentence management, with compliance reviewed through routine quality assurance arrangements.	Governor	December 2026
	As above	Introducing regular Prison Offender Manager surgeries on residential units to improve prisoner access to their allocated offender manager and increase opportunities for sentence progression discussions.	Governor	November 2026
	As above	Implementing a co-working model between Prison Offender Managers and Probation Offender Managers to increase meaningful prisoner contact and support the management of complex and high-risk cases.	Governor	October 2026
6	Many prisoners were frustrated at the lack of opportunity to complete offence-focused work.	To address the lack of opportunity for offence-focussed work, the Head of Reducing Reoffending will:	See below:	See below:
	As above	Review intervention waiting lists monthly to ensure prisoners are prioritised in accordance with national guidance and can access interventions at the most appropriate stage of their sentence progression.	Governor	October 2026
	As above	Recruit and deploy an additional Programmes Team to increase intervention delivery capacity, improve access to offence-focused work and reduce waiting times.	Governor	January 2026

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No.	Concerns	Response: Action taken / Planned	Responsible owner	Target date
	As above	Increase awareness among prisoners and staff of non-accredited progression opportunities to improve access to offence-focused and rehabilitative activities.	Governor	November 2026
	As above	Ensure sentence plans identify appropriate alternative offence-focused and rehabilitative activities that support progression while prisoners await accredited interventions.	Governor	November 2026

Key concerns and actions

No.	Concerns	Response: action taken / planned	Responsible owner	Target date
7	The rate of assaults was high and above the average when compared to similar prisons.	To reduce the rate of assaults and take a proactive approach to achieving a safe environment, the Head of Safety will:	See below:	See below:
	As above	Review all assault incidents through violence reduction governance processes to identify trends, contributing factors and learning, and disseminate findings through operational briefings and assurance meetings to reduce repeat incidents.	Governor	October 2026

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No.	Concerns	Response: action taken / planned	Responsible owner	Target date
	As above	Introduce quality assurance arrangements to ensure all Challenge, Support and Intervention Plans contain meaningful objectives that support reductions in violent behaviour.	Governor	October 2026
	As above	Increase access to Dons Rugby, Intuitive Thinking Skills and Twinning Project interventions for individuals identified through violence reduction processes as being at risk of perpetrating or becoming involved in violence.	Governor	March 2027
8	Scrutiny of the use of force was limited.	To improve scrutiny of use of force, the Head of Safety will:	See below:	See below:
	As above	Implement a structured monthly Use of Force Scrutiny Meeting chaired by the Deputy Governor to review all required documentation, body-worn video camera footage and governance information in accordance with national policy, identifying areas of good practice, challenge and learning to improve the oversight and accountability of use of force incidents.	Governor	October 2026
	As above	Introduce quality assurance of use of force complaint responses to ensure all concerns raised are fully addressed, relevant evidence is appropriately considered, and learning or guidance is provided where required.	Governor	December 2026
9	There was insufficient support for prisoners on the drug recovery pathway.	To increase support for prisoners on the Drug Recovery Pathway, the Head of Healthcare will:	See below:	See below:

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No.	Concerns	Response: action taken / planned	Responsible owner	Target date
	As above	Introduce Recovery Progression Booklets across the Substance Support Unit and Incentivised Substance Free Living Unit to support consistent case management, monitor engagement and inform progression decisions across the recovery pathway.	Head of Healthcare	December 2026
	As above	Expand the Peer Mentor and Recovery Champion scheme across the recovery pathway to increase peer support, improve engagement with recovery services and provide additional support during evenings and weekends.	Head of Healthcare	October 2026
	As above	Ensure all prisoners engaged with Substance Misuse Services are allocated a dedicated Case Worker to coordinate interventions, monitor progress and provide continuity of support throughout the recovery pathway.	Head of Healthcare	October 2026
	As above	Embed weekly multi-disciplinary Risk Review Meetings to oversee referrals, coordinate support and monitor prisoner progress through the recovery pathway.	Head of Healthcare	October 2026
	As above	Increase access to Buprenorphine treatment for eligible prisoners to improve treatment engagement and support sustained recovery.	Head of Healthcare	January 2027
10	Many wings were poorly decorated and dirty.	To ensure the residential units are clean and decent, the Heads of Residence will:	See below:	See below:
	As above	Implement a targeted programme of cleaning, decoration and environmental improvements to ensure cells and communal areas on	Governor	December 2026

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No.	Concerns	Response: action taken / planned	Responsible owner	Target date
		G, J and K Wings meet and maintain the National Standard for Cleanliness and Physical Decency.		
	As above	Introduce monthly residential decency inspections, led by Residential Managers, to monitor cleanliness, decoration standards, cell condition and completion of remedial actions.	Governor	March 2027
11	Patients waited too long to transfer to hospital under the Mental Health Act.	The MoJ and National Health Service (NHS) England will implement the following measures to support improvements in the timeliness of hospital transfers:	See below:	See below:
	As above	The Mental Health Act 2025 introduces a new statutory time limit of 28 days for transfers from prison and other places of detention to hospital. This reform is due to commence by December 2027, and health and justice partners remain committed to commencing this reform in the published timeframe. This time limit, together with operational improvements, aims to reduce unnecessary delays and deliver swifter access to appropriate treatment. NHS England, MoJ and partner organisations are working together to support implementation of the Act, with reforms being introduced on a phased basis through commencement arrangements and supporting operational changes. Additionally, the MoJ continues to work with Health and Justice partners through national oversight arrangements, including the Mental Health and Justice Strategic Advisory Group, to improve oversight of transfer processes, review data and intelligence	MoJ – Offender Health & NHS England Health & Justice	December 2027

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		relating to transfer timelines, and identify opportunities to address delays.		
	As above	At a regional level, a fortnightly escalation meeting is held with healthcare providers and NHS England commissioners to discuss cases of concern. In addition, NHS England analyses transfer and remission data through routine contract management arrangements with providers to identify trends, monitor performance and support improvements across the pathway.	NHS England Health & Justice	Complete
12	Oversight of the delivery of social care by peer workers was poor.	To improve oversight of the delivery of social care by peer workers, the Head of Safety will:	See below:	See below:
	As above	Establish a monthly social care governance meeting to review new and ongoing social care referrals, oversee peer support and buddy arrangements, monitor service delivery, and coordinate support to meet the social care and safeguarding needs of prisoners	Governor	October 2026
	As above	Deliver training and guidance for buddy scheme participants and staff to improve understanding of the scheme and ensure peer workers are equipped to deliver support safely and effectively.	Governor	October 2026
	As above	Implement quality assurance checks of peer worker activity and social care support arrangements to ensure support is delivered safely, consistently and in line with agreed standards, this will be monitored via the monthly Social Care Meeting.	Governor	December 2026

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No.	Concerns	Response: action taken / planned	Responsible owner	Target date
13	The quality of education was not consistently good across education, skills and work activities.	To support improvements in the quality of education, skills and work activities, the Head of Education, Skills and Work will:	See below:	See below:
	As above	Implement the Education, Skills and Work Quality Improvement Plan, supported by strengthened quality assurance arrangements and regular learning walks to improve the quality of teaching, learning and assessment.	Governor	February 2027
	As above	Strengthen the use of learner progress booklets and learner diaries to support the recording of achievement, skills development and progression across education and vocational training, enabling staff to identify support needs and improve learner outcomes.	Education Provider	October 2026
	As above	Deliver targeted Continuing Professional Development for teaching staff to address weaknesses identified through Ofsted and quality assurance activity and improve the quality of teaching, learning and assessment.	Education Provider	February 2027
14	Some public protection arrangements were weak.	To ensure robust public protection arrangements are in place, the Head of Offender Management Services will:	See below:	See below:
	As above	Complete a comprehensive audit of public protection processes to identify gaps in risk management, information sharing and case recording, and implement an improvement plan to address identified areas for development.	Governor	October 2026

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	As above	Introduce monthly quality assurance checks by Hub Managers to monitor compliance with public protection procedures and identify areas requiring remedial action.	Governor	November 2026
	As above	Strengthen Public Protection Steering Group governance through regular attendance by key stakeholders and use of the Public Protection Assurance Tool to identify risks, monitor performance and track improvement activity.	Governor	December 2026
	As above	Deliver refresher training to relevant staff on public protection procedures, Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) requirements, risk escalation processes and information sharing responsibilities to strengthen compliance and support effective public protection practice.	Governor	December 2026
15	Resources allocated to resettlement had not kept pace with the substantial increase in the number of releases.	To ensure resettlement provision remains responsive to increased release volumes and prisoners' resettlement needs, HMPPS & HMP Lindholme will:	See below:	See below:
	As above	HMPPS is preparing to recommission its rehabilitative services. It is intended that future combined-pathway contracts will include support for all people in prison and will have greater flexibility to respond to local changes e.g. in population or needs.	HMPPS – Commissioned Rehabilitative Services	July 2027
	As above	Support the prison's return to its Category C training function through population management arrangements, reducing resettlement demand	Governor	February 2027

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		and enabling resources to be targeted towards prisoners approaching their resettlement window and transfer to an appropriate resettlement prison.		