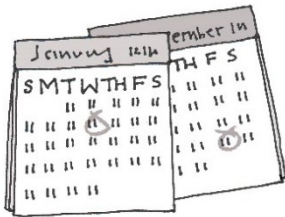
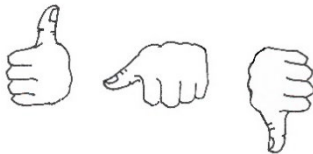




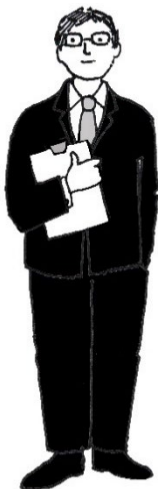
Inspection of HMP & YOI Chelmsford



Inspectors visited this prison in July 2026.



We wanted to find out if things were better, the same or worse for prisoners since we last visited in 2024.



Inspectors did this by:

- looking around the prison
- asking prisoners and staff to fill in a paper survey
- speaking to prisoners
- speaking to staff and helpers
- reading documents.

What did we find?



Safety: 3 out of 4

- The prison was quite safe and there was less violence than before.
- The prison was doing a lot to sort out the problems with drugs.
- Too many prisoners were harming themselves.



Respect: 2 out of 4

- Too many prisoners were sharing small cells.
- Health care was not good enough.
- Prisoners with mental health problems were not getting enough help.
- Not all prisoners were treated fairly.



Things to do: 2 out of 4

- Most prisoners did not get enough time out of their cells.
- Lots of prisoners did not get to lessons or workshops on time.
- Some prisoners could not make good progress in their learning.
- The prison did a lot of work to help prisoners with their reading.



Getting ready to leave prison: 3 out of 4

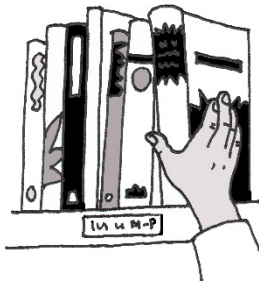
- Prisoners got good help to see their families.
- Prisoners got help with finding a job, finding somewhere to live and sorting out benefits.
- Prisoners coming back to the prison did not get enough support.

What should the prison do?



We want the governor to read the report we wrote about HMP Chelmsford and make a plan.

The plan should tell us how they will fix the problems at HMP Chelmsford and make things better for prisoners.



You can find the report we wrote in the prison library.

What do we want to happen?



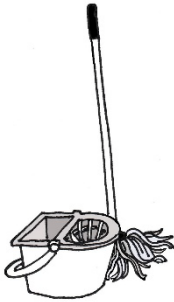
We want the prison to do more to stop prisoners harming themselves. We want prisoners with mental health problems to get support quickly.



We want health care to be safe. We want doctors and nurses to write down what they have done. We want them to give out medication safely. We want them to sort out complaints and learn from mistakes.



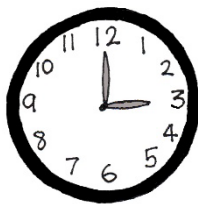
We want prisoners to be taken to their medical appointments.



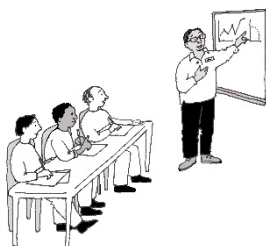
We want health care rooms to be clean and tidy.



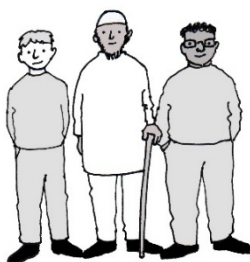
We want prisoners with serious mental illness to be moved to secure hospitals quickly.



We want prisoners to get to education and workshops on time.



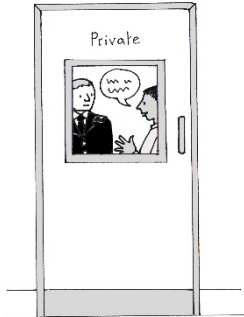
We want prisoners to make better progress in education and work. We want prisoners to be able to tell people what they have learnt.



We want all prisoners to be treated fairly. We want prisoners with disabilities to get the help they need.



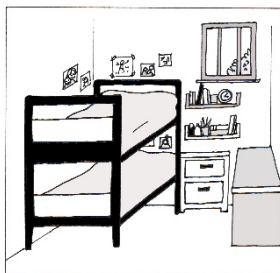
We want prisoners with drug and alcohol problems to get support quickly.



We want prisoners to have more time with their key worker (an officer who knows them). We want key work sessions to be helpful.

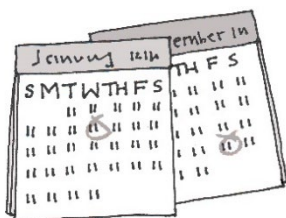


We want prisoners who are separated from the other men to get more time out of their cells. We want all prisoners to get more time out of their cells at weekends.



We want prisoners to live in cells that are less cramped.

What will we do?



We will come back in a few years to check how well the prison is doing. We will write a report to tell people what we find.



If you have any questions, please write to us:

HM Inspectorate of Prisons
3rd floor
10 South Colonnade
Canary Wharf
London
E14 4PU