HM Prison & Probation Service

Youth Custody Service

His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service
Youth Custody Service
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Charlie Taylor,
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19 October 2026

Dear Charlie,

HMIP report on an Independent Review of Progress at HMYOI Werrington between 24 August and 8 September 2026

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress report at HMYOI Werrington, whereby you followed up on four concerns and four Ofsted themes from your most recent inspection in April/May 2025.

I am encouraged to note that you found good/reasonable progress made across three priority concerns and Ofsted themes and note the following:

- **Improved relationships, behaviour management and safety:** Staff-child relationships have strengthened significantly through weekly wellbeing checks, improved child planning and a new conflict-resolution process.
- **Greater engagement in education and purposeful activity:** Despite continuing concerns about the quality and consistency of education, more children are attending education, gym and library sessions, reliance on wing-based education has reduced, and leaders have ensured access to at least 15 hours of education each week.
- **Progress supporting literacy and preparation for release:** Children receive phonics assessments on induction, targeted one-to-one reading support is helping weaker readers make sustained progress, and additional reading resources have been introduced across the site. Alongside this, resettlement planning has become more structured, with improved multidisciplinary planning meetings and a substantial increase in successful Release on Temporary Licence opportunities supporting children's transition back into the community.

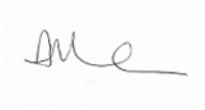
In respect of the two priority/key concerns and three Ofsted themes where you found insufficient or no meaningful progress, I can confirm that the IRP findings have been carefully considered and steps will be taken to address them as appropriate. These will include the following:

- **Time out of room (TOOR):** We recognise HMIP's finding that progress has been insufficient. Werrington will continue to focus on increasing access to education, activities and association, while supporting the reintegration of children who are self-isolating to maximise TOOR.
- **Resettlement planning:** While structured multi-agency release planning and Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) opportunities have improved, securing accommodation and Employment Training and Employment (ETE) provision remains challenging. HMYOI Werrington will continue to work with local authorities and community partners to strengthen release planning and improve outcomes on departure.
- **Education quality and behaviour:** YCS leaders will work with the establishment to prioritise improving the consistency of education delivery, reducing class cancellations and strengthening behaviour management within learning environments to create calmer, more productive classrooms.
- **Curriculum and literacy:** Work will continue to strengthen the curriculum so that it is more ambitious and tailored to children's needs, while building on the reasonable progress made in reading support to improve educational outcomes and preparation for release.

The Governor, with the support of the Deputy Director YCS Operations, will continue to progress the full action plan covering all the original priority/key concerns.

Whilst I acknowledge that there is still much work to be carried out at HMYOI Werrington, I am encouraged that progress is being made and that our monitoring of the prison is in line with your findings.

Yours sincerely



Alison Clarke
Executive Director, Youth Custody Service

CC: James McEwen – Chief Executive Officer HMPPS
Michelle Jarman-Howe – Interim Director General of Prisons HMPPS