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|  | Independent Monitoring Board Annual Report 2013 – 14 MAGILLIGAN PRISON  |

**Mission Statement**

To enhance the quality of prison life, by working to ensure fairness and accountability in prison

**Statement of Purpose**

Members of the Independent Monitoring Board for Magilligan Prison are appointed by the Justice Minister under Section 3 of the Treatment of Offenders Act (NI) 1968 and under the Prison Act (NI) 1953.

The Board is required to:

* visit Magilligan Prison regularly and report to the Justice Minister on the conditions of imprisonment and the treatment of offenders;
* consider requests and complaints made by prisoners to the Board;
* report matters of concern to the Governor or, in serious cases, the Justice Minister; and
* exercise certain powers that are given under the Prison and Young Offender Centre Rules (NI) 2005.

The Prison Rules further require the Board to satisfy itself as to:

* the treatment of prisoners including provision for their healthcare and other welfare while in prison;
* the facilities available to prisoners to allow them to make purposeful use of their time;
* the cleanliness and adequacy of prison premises.

To enable the Board to carry out these duties effectively its members have free access at any time to all prisoners and to all parts of the prison to which they are appointed. The Board shall also have reasonable access to any of the records of the prison.

**UK NATIONAL PREVENTATIVE MECHANISM**

The Independent Monitoring Board is part of the United Kingdom National Preventative Mechanism (UK NPM) as required by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT).

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**CHAIRPERSON’S INTRODUCTION**

I am pleased to present the report covering the period April 2013 - March 2014 for the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB/The Board) for HMP Magilligan.

Once again, I wish to thank all the members of the Board in Magilligan for their continued hard work and dedication and for their support of the Chair throughout the year. Board members give their services voluntarily so their commitment and generous giving of their time must be acknowledged. At the end of the reporting period, the Board has ten members. Two of our most experienced members came to the end of their appointments in March 2014 and will be sorely missed. Two members were transferred to Maghaberry and Hydebank Wood respectively and two new appointments were made.

Following the Justice Minister’s announcement that the closure of Magilligan was no longer definite, the Board members wait in anticipation to hear of any future plans to improve the conditions on the Magilligan site.

As with previous years, this report contains a number of repeat recommendations which have not been implemented by the Northern Ireland Prison Service, despite some of them being repeated for some years. The Board would like its disappointment noted.

The Board continues to hold monthly meetings during which the Governor presents his report, answers any questions and addresses any concerns of the members. The Board wishes to thank the Governor - and those Governors who represent him at these meetings. The Board understands that the Governor has a very busy schedule and would like to pass on its appreciation to him and his colleagues. The IMB’s job is made much easier when the work it does is valued by a Governor.

Finally, the Board and I wish to thank the staff of the IMB Secretariat for continuing to facilitate and support the work of the IMB. Their assistance proves invaluable once again.

**Thomas Kerrigan**

**Chairperson**

**OVERVIEW OF ESTABLISHMENT**

HMP Magilligan is a medium to low security prison which houses around 500 male prisoners serving nine years or less and a small number of life sentence prisoners. The regime focuses on addressing offending behaviour and reducing reoffending.

The majority of prisoners are housed in the three old-style H-Blocks and the dormitory-style facility of Sperrin. Alpha and Halward House are newer additions which have more modern provisions including in-cell sanitation. There is also a separate Care and Supervision Unit (CSU).

Outside the main prison wall is Foyleview which is a low security semi-open unit for selected prisoners who are nearing the end of their sentence. This accommodation comprises of portacabin living quarters and the larger communal Cunningham building.

Responsibility for the healthcare for all prisoners lies with the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (SEHSCT/ The Trust), but the prison also has an in-house Healthcare Unit. On-site drug and alcohol services for prisoners with addiction problems are provided by Alcohol and Drugs: Empowering People through Therapy (Ad:ept) working in partnership with the Trust.

Various charitable and voluntary organisations maintain a presence on the site – Northern Ireland Association of Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NIACRO) provide guidance through the Jobtrack scheme for those trying to obtain a job on discharge; CRUSE Bereavement Care provides invaluable support in dealing with bereavement issues; Barnardo’s support prisoners over family issues; and Housing Rights staff brief prisoners on the complexities of obtaining housing, housing benefits and associated grants.

Spiritual and religious matters are the remit of the prison Chaplaincy team which aims to facilitate the practice of all faiths within the prison community. Additional spiritual help is provided by Prison Fellowship.

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Board recommends that:

1. **ACCOMMODATION**
2. The cells within the H blocks should be provided with in-cell sanitation (Paragraph 1.1)
3. Magilligan return to single cell occupancy as soon as possible. (Paragraph 1.4)
4. **ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE**
5. The multi-disciplinary drug strategy meetings resume as soon as possible. (Paragraph 2.2)
6. Stronger and more secure medication boxes should be provided as a matter of urgency (Paragraph 2.3)
7. Greater efforts should be made to move towards a drug-free prison with further incentives for prisoners to be drug-free (Paragraph 2.4)
8. **CATERING AND KITCHEN**
9. Greater efforts are made to ensure all meals are served hot. (Paragraph 3.2)
10. **CHAPLAINCY**

No recommendations.

1. **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**
2. Communication between the three establishments regarding any on-going training improves thus allowing prisoners to continue/finish any courses they have started. (Paragraph 5.8)
3. Consideration is given to allowing the prisoners access to the intranet from the North West College. (Paragraph 5.9)
4. Consideration is given to the development of a Market Garden. (Paragraph 5.10)
5. **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY**

No recommendations.

1. **HEALTHCARE AND MENTAL HEALTH**
2. Specialist clinics should be reinstated immediately (Paragraph 7.2)
3. Dental service provision should be monitored with a view to reducing waiting times (Paragraph 7.3)
4. A purpose built safe and secure facility should be set up for prisoners with severe personality disorder (Paragraph 7.4)
5. The use of in-house facilities and technology should be considered as a way to reduce the need for outside hospital appointments (Paragraph 7.6)
6. **LIBRARY**

No recommendations.

1. **RECEPTION AND INDUCTION**
2. The services of the IMB are made more readily available to new prisoners. (Paragraph 9.2)
3. Interpreters are available to foreign national prisoners when necessary (Paragraph 9.3)
4. Induction staff receive training in mental health awareness (Paragraph 9.4)
5. **RESETTLEMENT**
6. The Personal Officer Scheme should be reinstated (Paragraph 10.2)
7. Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) should re-engage with Family Support Groups (Paragraph 10.3.)
8. **SAFER CUSTODY**
9. The SPAR policy should be re-examined (Paragraph 11.2)
10. The TVs in Safer Custody Cells be updated or replaced in order to receive a digital signal. (Paragraph 11.2)
11. Prisoners wishing to undertake a detox programmes are accommodated appropriately. (Paragraph 11.5)
12. **SEGREGATION – CARE AND SUPERVISION UNIT (CSU)**
13. An alternative to segregation is found for prisoners in fear of their safety (Paragraph 12.2)
14. Staff should receive training in coping with difficult prisoners (Paragraph 12.4)
15. **SPORT AND RECREATION**
16. Various improvements should be made to the Physical Education facilities i.e. the two vacant staff posts are filled; the dated and possibly unsafe gym equipment should be replaced; and an all-weather or astro-turf pitch be provided for the prisoners. (Paragraph 13.8)
17. **TUCK SHOP**

No recommendations

1. **VISITS**
2. Child-centred visits should be reinstated. (Paragraph 15.2)

**Section 1 – ACCOMODATION**

* 1. They have been no significant changes in the accommodation within Magilligan Prison over the last reporting year. The main accommodation in Magilligan is three H-Block units comprising old-style cells with capacity to house approximately 300 prisoners. Despite an increasing population the majority of cells remain single occupancy cells. The Board has recommended for several years now that the H Blocks should contain in-cell sanitation; once again, this recommendation had gone unanswered. The Board understands that Magilligan is due to undergo significant accommodation improvements changes in the coming years but is still of the opinion that no in-cell sanitation remains totally unacceptable and unsatisfactory in the 21st century.

***Recommendation: The Board again recommends that the H Blocks be refurbished to provide in-cell sanitation. This recommendation has been made regularly in previous reports but disappointingly has never been implemented.***

1.2 Sperrin Unit is a 64-bedded dormitory-style unit which is divided into four units. Showers and toilets are located outside the sleeping quarters. The unit is airy, clean and tidy, with the cleaning being done by the prisoners themselves. The Board again acknowledges their efforts.

1.3 Alpha House can accommodate 50 prisoners in two wings. The cells in Alpha are called rooms and each prisoner has his own key. The unit has shower facilities and both ordinary and disabled toilet facilities. The building is immaculately clean throughout and appears to be an efficiently managed unit. The Board commends both the prisoners and staff for maintaining this standard.

1.4 Halward House, located separately from the other prison units, is the most attractive accommodation building within Magilligan. All cells have toilet facilities and there are communal showers on each landing. Halward House is bright and spacious and offers a good environment for prisoner association. It was designed as single cell accommodation however, due to an increase in prisoner population, doubling-up has increased. No serious difficulties have arisen yet, but the situation has the potential to cause problems in the long term.

Whilst the Board recognises the difficulties faced by Magilligan due to the continuing influx of prisoner, our recommendation from last year’s report remains.

***Recommendation: The Board recommends a return to single room/cell accommodation for all prisoners as soon as possible.***

1.5 At present there are 79 prisoners in Foyleview, four at the Priory in Benburb. All have single accommodation and can use their own bed linen, if suitable. Meals are served to Foyleview by their two orderlies and prisoners eat their meals in their own rooms. They have a three week rotating menu and lunch time is from 1pm to 2.15pm. Foyleview is managed by 14 staff and is supervised by three Governors. The compliment of staff may increase to 16. The criteria to gain admission to Foyleview is restricted to prisoners who;

1. have had a complete risk assessment;
2. have no more than 24 months of their sentence left to serve;
3. be on an enhanced regime - and maintained it for four months;
4. have no outstanding court appearances and/or warrants; and
5. agree to every drug/alcohol test.

 It is difficult to obtain work for all prisoners and at present 18 ‘go out’ to work with the others working in the workshops.

The buildings of Foyleview need replacing, the showers especially cause problems; the floors are not suitable for showering facilities and hold too much water. However it would appear that the authorities will not spend on updating the premises at this time.

**Section 2 - ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

2.1 It saddens the Board that little has changed since the last annual report, hence very little change to this year’s content. Drug and alcohol abuse continues to create problems in Magilligan – as with many other prisons. The Board commends the prison management on their efforts to limit the supply line. There has been an increase in drugs finds in the prison and the Board pays tribute to the observational skills and vigilance of the staff and the skill of the passive drug dog all of which contribute to making Magilligan a safer environment.

2.2 Prisoners with addiction problems can avail of the services of Ad:ept who provide courses such as the ‘Drug Education Alcohol Management and Combined Substances’ programmes. The Board is disappointed that meetings of the multi-disciplinary drug strategy forum have stopped and recommends these are resumed as soon as possible.

***Recommendation: The Board recommends the multi-disciplinary strategy forum meetings are reinstated as soon as possible.***

2.3 The use and abuse of prescription medication continues to be a particularly serious issue in Magilligan. The desired concept of dispensing medication in prison to mirror the practice in the community is an ambitious one. It is always not practical to issue a prisoner with all of his prescribed medication in one batch and expect him to administer it appropriately. Medication is bartered and traded and in many cases prisoners are assaulted and their medication is stolen. Last year the Board recommended stronger and more secure medication boxes to try to prevent theft and were told that the current design was under review and the supply of new in-cell safes would be put out to tender. To date the boxes have not yet been replaced so again the Board recommends the installation of more secure medication boxes.

***Recommendation: The Board recommends that stronger and more secure medication boxes are installed.***

2.4 As in past reports, whilst accepting that no system can be 100% effective, the Board again recommends that greater efforts should be made to move towards a drug-free prison and that further incentives should be available for prisoners who are drug free.

***Recommendation: The Board recommends that greater efforts are made to move towards a drug-free prison with further incentives for prisoners to be drug-free.***

**Section 3 – CATERING AND KITCHENS**

3.1 The Prison Kitchen is essential for the smooth operation of the prison given that it is required to prepare over 500 meals per day. The whole unit is spotless and all those working there are appropriately dressed for kitchen work. The prisoners in the kitchen work very well alongside the chief cook and his team and despite staff shortages continuing to be a problem, the kitchen is managed to a high standard and credit should be given to the staff for their dedication and commitment.

3.2 The kitchen provides a varied menu which includes ‘low fat’, healthy option and vegetarian choices as well as catering to the growing number of prisoners with special dietary requirements either for medical, religious, or cultural reasons. In general the Board hears few complaints about the food provided except that it is sometimes cold at point of service.

***Recommendation: The Board recommends that greater efforts are made to ensure meals are served hot.***

**Section 4 - CHAPLAINCY**

4.1 At present there are four Chaplains in Magilligan prison. The co-ordination Chaplain is Father O’Hagan, who has over 300 prisoners - out of a total of approximately 564 - on his case load. He is in the prison every day and has a Mass every Sunday and two on a Thursday. The Free Presbyterian Minister also holds a service every Sunday. The Methodist Chaplain - as well as ministering to the Methodist prisoners who are small in number - deals with other Christian denominations i.e.: Baptist and Elim etc.

**Section 5 - EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

5.1 As in life outside, prison education is vitally important because of all the values and opportunities it can bring to individuals within Magilligan. The NIPS is fortunate in having staff who are committed to encouraging prisoners to take advantage of the provision which exists within the regime.

5.2 Generally, the delivery of education within Magilligan is based on Library, Skills and Vocational Guidance. The policy for education within the prison appears to be determined at Prison Headquarters and subsequently followed within each of the prisons. But it would also appear that those in charge of education within the individual prisons are not consulted in the drawing up over the overall policy and this is a matter of regret.

5.3 Within Magilligan there are a number of major issues which need to be resolved - and quickly - if education is to be delivered in the most effective way possible. For example, three senior members of staff have retired or resigned and have not been replaced. One of these was the Head of the Learning and Skills Department who retired in December 2013 and that position is now covered by an Acting Head. It is important to stress that the Acting Head is dedicated to providing the best possible service to all of the prisoners and she should be commended for the positive manner in which she fulfils her role.

5.4 The other major concern is that there is great uncertainty about the future delivery of education within the NIPS. A review has been underway for some time and there is a need for a decision to be reached whether Learning and Skills will be outsourced or retained in-house or some type of combination. While such uncertainty prevails, difficulties regarding staffing and resources are bound to be increased.

5.5 Despite these concerns, it is pleasing to note the many positive elements that are being delivered through the Learning and Skills programme and Vocational Guidance with a significant number of prisoners achieving educational and vocational training certificates. There is a wide range of ability to be catered for, from those on level one to those undertaking degree modules through the Open University and it is gratifying to record that one former prisoner graduated with a 2.1 Honours Degree and others are at various stages of obtaining degrees and diplomas. Likewise, many prisoners have benefitted from the opportunities provided through Vocational Guidance with qualifications being obtained in such trades as carpentry and joinery, furniture craft, plastering, wall and floor tiling, painting and decorating, metal fabrication and computing. Such experience and qualifications will be of benefit when prison sentences are completed and employment opportunities arise.

5.6 As indicated earlier, there is a shortfall of three staff in the Learning and Skills Department with the existing compliment being one Acting Head, two full time teachers, two part-time teachers - augmented with 5 teachers from the North West College. One part–time teacher is currently on sick leave. There is also a writer in residence for 10 ½ hours each week and a music teacher funded by the Arts Council.

5.7 It is good to note that there are currently six classes organised to teach English as a second language to foreign national prisoners (FNPs). All these classes are well attended.

5.8 It would be helpful if there was better communication between prisons in respect of transfers as there are instances where prisoners are transferred to Magilligan from Maghaberry with only a few weeks off their sentence to be served, thus leaving it impossible to provide any meaningful education input and sometimes resulting in a prisoner not being able to complete a course.

***Recommendation: Communication between the three establishments regarding any on-going training improves thus allowing prisoners to continue/finish any courses they have started.***

5.9 It would also be of benefit if access to Intranet from the north West College could be considered.

***Recommendation: Consideration is given to allowing the prisoners access to the intranet from the North West College.***

5.10 The Board recommends that consideration could also be given to the development of a market garden within the prison site thus giving prisoners the opportunity to train as gardeners and obtain appropriate accreditation / qualification whilst at the same time the prison could then benefit from the sale of fruit, flowers and vegetables.

***Recommendation: Consideration is given to the development of a Market Garden.***

5.11 A further concern for the Education Department is the likelihood of a 10% reduction in the annual budget, which if implemented could adversely affect the input of the Learning, Skills element and Vocational Guidance opportunities.

**Section 6 - EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY**

6.1 At the time of writing, the prisoner population at Magilligan was 560. The religious breakdown of this population is 290 Roman Catholics, 202 Protestants and 68 classified as other. In percentage terms this translates to 51.8% Roman Catholic, 36.1% Protestant and 12.1% other. In terms of racial groups, the breakdown was as follows: White: 543; Irish Traveller: 4; Black, African, Caribbean and Black British: 3; Asian or Asian British: 2 and Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups: 7.

6.2 Equality and Diversity is an important element of the regime that is taken very seriously by NIPS and equally so by the Governors and staff of Magilligan prison. It is also an identified area of responsibility of the IMB and is an agenda item at each Board meeting – particularly with regard to the religious breakdown of adjudications.

6.3 In Magilligan there is a formal Equality and Diversity Committee which meets on a monthly basis with at least ten meetings each year. These meetings are normally chaired by the Deputy Governor with senior officers from the appropriate departments in attendance. In addition there is representation from Prison Headquarters (Equality and Diversity Manager) Criminal Justice Inspectorate of Northern Ireland (CJINI), Probation Service and Human Rights Commission. Three prisoners attend each meeting as does a member of the IMB.

6.4 As well as the formal Equality and Diversity Committee meeting, officers also attend the Prisoner Representative Committee which also meets on a monthly basis. Formal minutes are taken at all Committee meetings and form part of the agenda at ensuing meetings. Also on each Committee agenda is the reporting of Equality Monitoring including statistical analysis review and matters / issues arising from the Prisoner Representative meeting. The prison’s Key Performance Report is scrutinised as is the Prison’s Continuous Plan. The Committee examines and monitors not only the religious groupings and how they are being treated, but several other issues relating to the different foreign and ethnic groups and also those suffering from age and disability. Efforts are constantly made to assist foreign nationals and ethnic groups through displaying prisoner notices in a number of foreign languages, seeking availability of TV’s with sub titles in foreign languages and producing DVD resource information for all prisoners.

6.5 It should be noted that the religious breakdown of prisoners relates not only to adjudication but to all other aspects of the regime, for example to Home Leave, access to Foyleview, drug tests and searches, use of force, workshop opportunities and to the numbers on basic and enhanced as well as those prisoners on Rule 32.

6.6 In conclusion the work of the Equality and Diversity Committee is taken very seriously and the regime should be commended for its genuine efforts to ensure that fairness is afforded to all prisoners.

**Section 7 - HEALTHCARE AND MENTAL HEALTH**

7.1 The provision of healthcare continues to produce significant problems not least of which are caused by staff shortages. Healthcare staff are available in each residential unit during office hours each day. Outside these hours, nursing staff are available for emergencies and a GP is on call by telephone if medical advice is required. With three members of healthcare staff are currently awaiting discharge under the Voluntary Early Retirement Scheme (VERS), this service is under pressure. At the time of reporting, it is expected that vacancies will be filled within the next few months. The Trust is also in the process of appointing a number of new GPs who are expected to take up post on 1 April 2014. These measures will facilitate staffing levels being brought to the required level.

7.2 As well as the routine services that would be provided in an outside healthcare clinic, Magilligan also provides additional services such as the management of chronic diseases like diabetes and hypertension and the promotion of well man assessments amongst others. Owing to staff shortages unfortunately, these clinics have not been held on a consistent basis.

***Recommendation: Specialist clinics are re-established as soon as possible and the continuity of provision improved.***

7.3 Dental Services are also provided within Magilligan and there is a consistent, high demand for it. This creates long waiting periods of up to 10 weeks.

***Recommendations: The dental service provision is monitored so that strategies to reduce waiting times can be implemented.***

7.4 In general, the level of health of those in prison is lower than that of people on the outside. Neurotic personality disorders within prison are three times greater than that of the general population. The Board remains of the opinion that prison is not a suitable environment for prisoners with severe mental health issues and continues to recommend that there should be a secure unit / hospital outside of prison for the treatment of such prisoners. Despite being a recurring recommendation, to date this issue has not been addressed so the Board would again reiterate the need for such fit for purpose services to be established as a matter of urgency.

***Recommendation: There should be a purpose-built safe and secure facility set up for prisoners with severe personality disorder.***

7.5 Previous reports have highlighted the need for better prescription system and/or drug management; this continues to be a problem. There have been occasions were the withdrawal of medication - or the drastic reduction of medications prescribed by a prisoner’s GP - has resulted in significant levels of anxiety and vulnerability. This in itself raises its own problems with regards to individual prisoner safety and care and the prison population as a whole.

7.6 The worrying trend of the cancellation of a number of both primary care and secondary care hospital appointments highlighted in last year’s report has continued. Cancellations occurred for a variety of reasons - staff shortages for transport, lockdown of the prison, prisoner refusal to attend, to name a few. The Board is aware that a number of the secondary care appointments are for follow up treatment such as stitch removal which could be done by nurses on site. The Board will continue to monitor this closely.

***Recommendation: The use of in-house facilities and technology such as tele-medicine is investigated and used where appropriate thus reducing the need for hospital visits.***

**It should be noted that the Trust has seen this report and challenged some of the content however, the Board is content that for the year being reported on, its findings are accurate.**

**Section 8 – LIBRARY**

8.1 In Magilligan the library is located close to Houses 1, 2, 3 and Halward House so it is quite convenient for the majority of prisoners. Foyleview, being situated at the other end of the prison site, has its own library looked after by prison personnel in Foyleview.

8.2 The main library, which is part of the Education Department, is staffed by an officer and a deputy. They have encouraged a number of prisoners to become involved in the day to day operation of the library and presently there is one full time orderly and a small number of part-time orderlies.

8.3 The stock of books, CD’s, DVD’s, computers is provided by the NI Library Service and the current annual budget is £4,000. This year, the library benefited through a sum of £1,000 from the Prisoner Amenity Fund which enabled a significant number of DVDs, CDs and magazines to be purchased.

8.4 The library is open Monday to Friday from 9-12pm and 2-4pm. All prisoners have access to the service and at least 50% of the prisoner population attend with approximately 150 visits being made each week.

8.5 Prisoners are issued with an enrolment form in which they agree to abide by the library rules. Basic prisoners may borrow two books, standard prisoners may borrow four items - e.g. two books and two CD’s. Enhanced prisoners may borrow six items, two of which can be DVD’s. Normally CD’s and DVD’s can be taken out for one week but can be renewed and books may be taken out for 28 days. If an item is lost or damaged, the prisoner will be expected to pay for the cost of a replacement.

8.6 Good use is made of the 14 computers available. Prisoners working on Open University courses can use monitored Internet on eight of the computers and the remaining six can be used by other prisoners – under the supervision of prison officers. It would be beneficial to have computers and IT equipment updated.

8.7 It is encouraging to note that a book club has been established and operates once weekly for an hour’s duration. The prison officer in charge is also hopeful of starting a Hobbies Club which will operate in the evenings.

8.8 It is pleasing to note that foreign nationals are being catered for with a selection of books and magazines covering 11 nationalities. It was equally pleasing to see the helpful and friendly approach of the officer as he dealt with requests from prisoners.

**Section 9 – RECEPTION AND INDUCTION**

9.1 The reception area is where prisoners get their first impressions of the prison. The reception area itself is spacious and the holding cells are bright, clean and well maintained. Those who are arriving for the first time may be nervous and apprehensive so the Board commends the staff for the calm and professional manner in which they handle these new arrivals.

9.2 Induction continues to be a comprehensive, structured and well-run process in which prisoners are given lots of information about prison life including: healthcare, visits, home leave, tuck shop and pastoral care. Information relating to work opportunities, education, remedial care and educational courses is also included. The Board feels that the services of IMB could be highlighted more.

***Recommendation: The services of the IMB are made more readily available to new prisoners.***

9.3 Last year the Board reported that an interpreter service was provided when necessary for the increasing number of prisoners for whom English is a foreign language. It is important in the context of positive engagement with FNPs that they should have the services of an interpreter made available to them in order for them to fully engage with the prison system and to feel less isolated.

***Recommendation: That sufficient procedures are established to ensure the availability of interpreters at all times.***

9.4 As anxiety continues to be a common feature among new committals, the Board recommends that induction staff receive training in mental health awareness to enable them to spot the signs and be able to respond appropriately if they have any concerns. Otherwise the Board commends the good work of the unit staff.

***Recommendation: That Induction staff receive training in mental health awareness.***

**Section 10 – RESETTLEMENT**

10.1 Rehabilitation and resettlement is the ultimate goal of incarceration and underpins the work of the whole establishment. It is supported by strategic partnerships in the community and informed by assessment of each prisoner’s risk and needs to minimise the likelihood of reoffending on release. Magilligan has a multi-disciplinary offender management team, co-located in the Prisoner Development Unit (PDU) and this shared location helps promote information sharing and collaborative working. As part of the resettlement team, the Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI) provides in-house staff who deliver a high quality probation service to prisoners during their sentence, in preparation for release and post sentence.

10.2 As previously stated, the availability of purposeful activity is in decline while the prisoner population continues to grow. This is not conducive to constructive resettlement. The Board believes that Personal Officers could make a big difference as they could engage with and motivate prisoners.

***Recommendation: Personal Officers make a big difference as they engage positively with prisoners and motivate them; the Board recommends the reinstatement of this role.***

10.3 Family contact is an important area of the resettlement process so the Board is extremely disappointed that a review of the Family Strategy led to the NIPS withdrawing from involvement in the Family Support Groups. These groups were operating very successfully under the leadership of the Family Officer. This questionable decision to hand over the running of the two groups in Limavady and Ballymena to an outside Agency is to be regretted as the former has not met since November 2012 and the latter is struggling to continue. This multi-agency approach worked well before and therefore could work well again.

***Recommendation: The Family Strategy be reviewed again and a decision made to continue the involvement of the NIPS in all Family Groups.***

**Section 11 - SAFER CUSTODY**

11.1 Bi-monthly meetings of the Safer Custody Forum are chaired by a Governor and provide an opportunity for representatives of outside agencies and prison staff to share information and consider concerns and issues that have arisen. It is invaluable as a monitoring body as data on the number of Supporting Prisoners At Risk (SPARs) opened, suicide attempts, incidences of self-harm, bullying and implementation of Rule 32 is presented and reviewed at the meetings.

11.2 Over the period covered by this report 68 SPARs were opened, a decrease of just one from 2012/13. Given the increase in the prison population, it is commendable that there has not been an appreciable rise. A similar consistency is evidenced by the analysis of reasons for opening a SPAR in which thoughts of (27) or actual (31) self-harm and low-mood (30), were most often cited. The average time on which a prisoner remained on a SPAR was 5 days and in all 47 individuals were involved, the most vulnerable of whom had returned on four or five occasions. Members of the Board visit prisoners on SPARs and attend Case Conferences at which staff are clearly and consistently focussed on procuring the best outcome for the prisoner. However the treatment of prisoners at risk is driven by process rather than outcomes therefore the Board is of the opinion that the SPAR policy could be re-examined. The Board has been made aware that the safer television sets are not capable of receiving a digital signal and therefore recommends that they be replaced.

***Recommendations:***

***The SPAR policy should be re-examined.***

***The TVs in Safer Custody cells be updated or replaced in order to receive a digital signal.***

11.3 The Listener Scheme is now well established with nine prisoners active and 48 new referrals for training. Increased interest in the role has been generated by the introduction of uniforms and the wing walks which have raised the Listeners’ profiles with both prisoners and staff. The latter recognise the value of the scheme and Listeners have unrestricted access to areas of the prison throughout the day and night. Prisoners’ attitudes to the Listeners have changed and there is no longer any stigma attached to seeking to speak to them. Call-outs have been reduced due to the wing walks and information about the scheme is provided to new inmates at reception/induction. Training is given by the Samaritans on a fortnightly basis alternating with an internal support group. CRUSE Bereavement Care completed bereavement training for prisoners in March and a Coping Skills Programme has begun. The Board commends the excellent work of staff involved with this scheme which makes an invaluable contribution to safer custody.

11.4 Reported cases of bullying remain low - as do incidences of violence. Anti-bullying posters are displayed on notice boards throughout the prison, but prisoners are often reluctant to make formal accusations despite there being a robust response by staff when instances occur. By relocating prisoners it is often possible to keep them apart but where drug related intimidation poses a serious threat, prisoners may be housed in the CSU for lengthy periods while awaiting transfer or release. Whilst this ensures their safety, it does not provide a suitable environment.

11.5 Prisoners who wish to undertake a detox programme are given good support by healthcare and prison staff. As there is no specialist drug treatment accommodation they are often housed in the CSU which is inappropriate

***Recommendation: More appropriate accommodation is provided for prisoners who wish to undertake a detox programme.***

**Section 12 – SEGREGATION – CARE AND SUPERVISION UNIT (CSU)**

12.1 The CSU houses a number of categories of prisoners: those detained under Rule 32 who have offended against good order and discipline; those undergoing cellular confinement; those awaiting adjudication; violent and refractory prisoners and vulnerable prisoners - who are accommodated there for their own protection.

12.2 During the reporting year, some prisoners who feared serious injury being inflicted upon them by fellow prisoners, spent lengthy time in the CSU – in some cases amounting to months. Whilst cognisant of the restraints, both financial and resource wise, under which the NIPS operates, the Board feels this is detrimental to the prisoners and is most concerned about this practice.

***Recommendation: More innovative practices and procedures are introduced as an alternative to segregation as soon as is reasonably practical.***

12.3 During the reporting year, a number of protests were staged by some long stay prisoners in the CSU which could have disrupted the good order, discipline and control of the prison. Despite this the officers continue to do sterling work and the Board has always been very impressed by the relationships between prisoners and CSU staff. The unit is very well managed and the Board commends the staff for their dedication, care and patience.

12.4 A large number of prisoners in the CSU can be disruptive, display behavioural difficulties and may have personality disorders, the Board is of the opinion that training to handle such individuals properly and dealing with their diverse problems would be beneficial to officers attached to the CSU.

***Recommendation: That the relevant staff receive specialised training to cope with and understand the needs of such prisoners****.*

12.5 The Board has a statutory duty to attend all Rule 32 case conferences if practicable and to apply critical scrutiny to all the relevant paper work as soon as possible thereafter. This is to ensure that due process has been followed and that the rule has been fairly and reasonably applied. The Board is facilitated in the discharge of this duty by the CSU staff who treat the prisoners with the utmost respect, dignity and fairness. The Board wishes to express its gratitude to the staff in the CSU for all their assistance during IMB weekly visits.

12.6 It is in the interest of society, prisoners and prison staff that the NIPS operates in an efficient, effective and fair manner and to enable this to happen, good discipline is essential. Adjudications on offences against good order are held in the CSU and are conducted by Governors. The Board is once again pleased to note a decrease in the overall number of adjudications during the reporting period. Board members regularly attend adjudications and it is clear that the proceedings are conducted to the highest professional standards and in accordance with the rules of natural justice. Where any doubt exists, the matter is always resolved in favour of the prisoner and awards are only made where there is clear evidence of, or where the prisoner admits the offence.

**Section 13 - SPORT AND RECREATION**

13.1 Physical education fulfils a very valuable role in the lives of prisoners in Magilligan Prison and falls within the ambit of the Learning and Skills Department.

13.2 There is currently six staff although there is an establishment of eight but a reducing budget has meant that two staff positions remain unfilled. The staff are all qualified, holding a Level III in Gymnastic Instructor Awards through a nationally recognised agency (FOCUS). Training for such awards takes place over a two year period.

13.3 Facilities include a large indoor sports complex, an all-weather pitch, a grass pitch and a portacabin classroom. Unfortunately neither the all-weather pitch nor the grass pitch is playable at present and has not been for some time. There is also a smaller sports hall at Foyleview.

13.4 The sports complex is well equipped but a number of items have been in use for several years and really need to be replaced, especially being conscious of Health and Safety requirements. Ideally the portacabin should be replaced as it is not really suitable for classroom activities especially Emergency First Aid. Equally the accommodation for staff members is totally inadequate given they have to use such a limited area for lunch and other breaks.

13.5 Attendance at Physical Education is not compulsory but prisoners wishing to participate may do so. The regime imposes no restrictions, but there are some limitations depending on categories, for example basic prisoners may have one session per week, standard prisoners can have two sessions and enhanced prisoners can avail of five sessions.

13.6 The Physical Education. Department is open seven days a week and operates 9-5pm each day. In addition prisoners based in Foyleview have sessions on Tuesdays and Fridays from 4.30-6.30pm. The Department is able to cater for a maximum of 45 prisoners per session but this figure is rarely achieved because prisoners - for whatever reason - do not always take up their entitlement.

13.7 Staff encourage prisoners to take coaching awards and some prisoners are involved in attempting Levels I and II in Gymnastic Instructor Awards in the hope that such awards may be of benefit in employment opportunities on their release. Staff are also keen to re-establish the Duke of Edinburgh Award which has lapsed but hopefully will be re-introduced.

13.8 From observation visits to the Sports Complex, it is obvious that prisoners benefit greatly from their participation and appear to enjoy the activities on offer. Officers are to be commended for their enthusiasm and interest. However, the overall situation could be improved if the following could be given proper consideration and action:

* Extension of sports hall to part of the adjoining metal workshop (approximately 20 square feet).
* The provision of a proper classroom to replace existing portacabin.
* The filling of two vacant staff posts.
* A room for staff (6 - 8 members) which could be provided in the space above the existing staff room.
* A number of items of gymnastic equipment need to be replaced.
* Given the problems with the existing soccer pitches consideration should be given to the provision of a modern all weather pitch astro-turf or similar.

***Recommendations: The two vacant staff posts are filled; the dated and possibly unsafe gym equipment is replaced; an all-weather or astro-turf pitch is provided for the prisoners.***

**Section 14 - TUCK SHOP**

14.1 The Tuck Shop is a very well-managed and well-maintained facility. It is amply stocked to provide for the many varied demands of prisoners and can now cater from those prisoners who suffer from diabetic or coeliac conditions.

14.2 The Board recognises that is good for the morale of those enhanced prisoners to be placed in a position of control within the Tuck Shop.

**Section 15 - VISITS**

15.1 As the maintenance of family relationships has a pivotal role in providing a supportive environment for prisoners, it is important that visits provide a positive experience. A total of 30,921 visitors attended the prison during the period covered by this report. Of these 6,357 were children. Entry procedures are well managed although the covered walkway provided is inadequate affording little protection from the prevailing winds. The Board recommendsthat the sides of the structure be enclosed. The visitor’s centre is bright and welcoming. NIACRO provides excellent facilities including a well-staffed and resourced play area for children.

* 1. Although Family Officer posts have been appointed, staff shortages have meant that there has been no regular Family Officer or child-centred visits. It is important that these are re-instated and the Boardrecommends that this should be implemented without delay.

***Recommendation: Child-centred visits should be reinstated.***

**MAGILLIGAN BOARD MEMBERS 2013-2014**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | **Mr Thomas Kerrigan** | **Chair (reappointed in January 2014)** |
| **2** | **Jack Walls** | **Appointed Vice Chair in January 2014** |
| **3** | **Mrs Rae Morrison** | **No change** |
| **4** | **Mr Brian Collins** | **No change** |
| **5** | **Mr Paul Devlin** | **No change** |
| **6** | **Ms Christine Stoll** | **Re-appointed from sabbatical April 2013 (originally based in HBW)** |
| **7** | **Ms Diane Mackey** | **Appointed May 2013** |
| **8** | **Mrs Anne Rowe** | **Appointed June 2013** |
| **9** | **Mrs Stella Burnside** | **Appointed June 2013** |
| **10** | **Mr Keith Acheson** | **Transferred from Maghaberry in January 2014** |
|  | *Mr Brian Doherty* | *Transferred to Hydebank Wood in January 2014* |
|  | *Mrs Bernadette McCollum* | *Transferred to Maghaberry in April 2013* |
|  | *Mrs Margaret Campbell* | *Tenure completed March 2014* |
|  | *Mrs Christine McLaughlin* | *Tenure completed March 2014* |