



**HYDEBANK WOOD
WOMEN'S PRISON**



INSPECTION OF HYDEBANK WOOD WOMEN'S PRISON 2024

In May and June 2024 there was an inspection of Hydebank Wood Women's Prison. This booklet tells you what Inspectors found. A copy of the full report is in the library for you to look at.



Education and
Training Inspectorate
Empowering Improvement



The Regulation and
Quality Improvement
Authority

WHAT IS A PRISON INSPECTION?

A prison inspection checks out how well services are working and what needs to be better. In this inspection we wanted to see how well women living in Hydebank Wood were being kept safe, treated and cared for. We also looked to see if there are some things that could be done better.

We look at five areas during prison inspections:



Leadership

Prison leaders work to deliver good results for women;



Safety

Women are held safely;



Respect

Women's relationships with their children, family and support networks are central to their care and their needs are met;



Purposeful activity

Women can do activities to benefit them; and

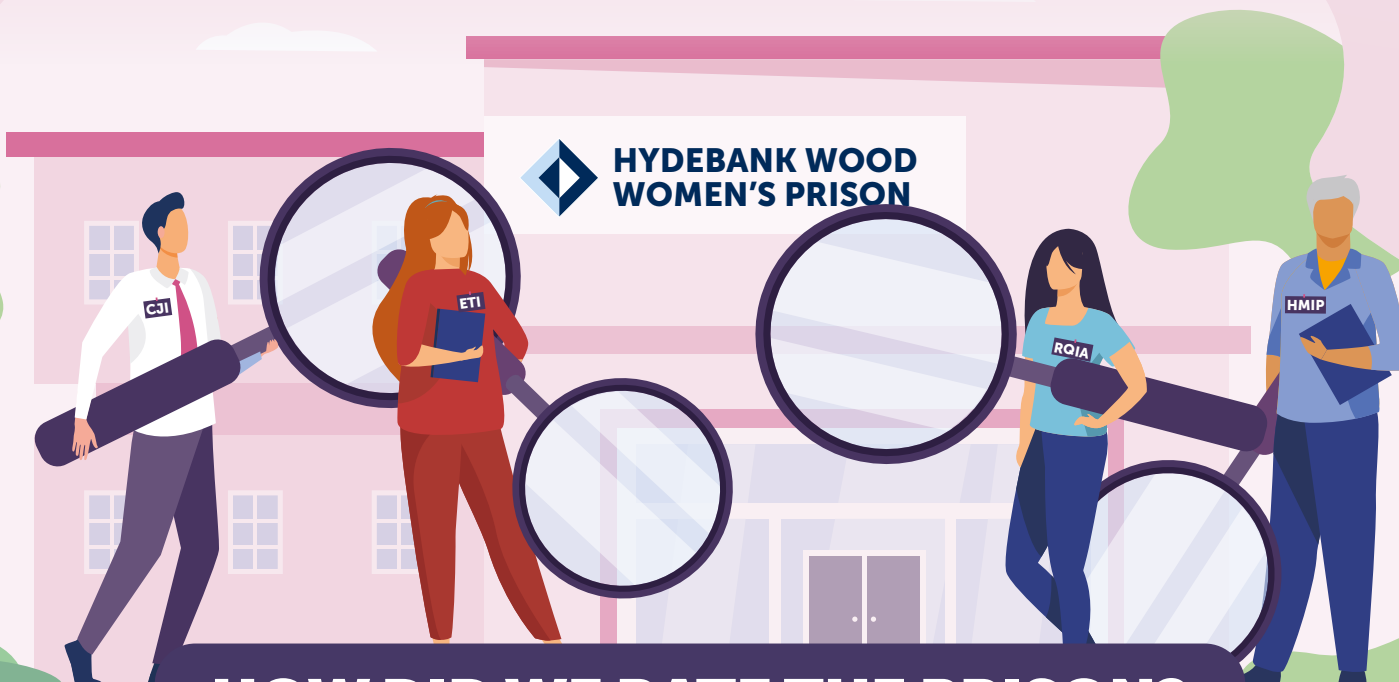


Preparation for release

Women are helped to prepare for release back into the community.

WHO DID THE INSPECTION?

Four Inspectorates worked together and looked at prison standards, health care and learning and skills.



HOW DID WE RATE THE PRISON?

All prisons in Northern Ireland, England and Wales are rated in the same way against Healthy Prison Tests. Inspectors look at all the evidence including lots of information, surveys and interviews with leaders, staff and women in custody and decide how well the prison is performing.

There are four ratings:



Good

Things are working well for women in custody.



Reasonably good

Things are mostly working well but some things need to improve.



Not sufficiently good

Things are not working well. If nothing is done, these areas will become serious concerns.



Poor

Something needs to be done immediately.

HEALTHY PRISON OUTCOMES

The ratings for Hydebank Wood Women's Prison against the four Healthy Prison Tests

	 SAFETY	 RESPECT	 PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITY	 PREPARATION FOR RELEASE
2019				
2024				
	 Good	 Reasonably Good	 Not Sufficiently Good	 Poor




Hydebank Wood Women's Prison was continuing to perform well since the last inspection.

EXAMPLES OF POSITIVE PRACTICE



We saw nine things that Hydebank Wood Women's Prison was doing well and that other prisons could learn from.

These included:

-  The work done by the Prisoner Safety and Support Team and by the Women's Support Officer;
-  The amount of time women could spend out of their cells and things they could do was much better than in many prisons in England and Wales; and
-  The choir and the project with the Lyric Theatre were great opportunities for women to come together and be creative.

WHAT NEEDS TO IMPROVE?

WHEN WE FIND SOMETHING THAT NEEDS TO IMPROVE WE CALL THAT A CONCERN.

WE IDENTIFIED SIX KEY CONCERNS:



The investigation of adult safeguarding concerns and serious complaints was not good enough.



The number of patients who could not attend outside hospital appointments was too high.



The prison didn't use information well enough to improve how it worked.



When force was used on women, it was not always clear that it was necessary and reasonable.



The links between education skills and work and other support programmes could be better.



There was no arrangement for social care for those women that needed it.



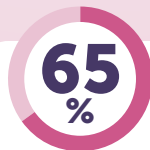
THE SURVEY RESULTS

When we visited, most women in prison filled in our survey (87%). You can see all the results in the report which is in the library. You told us:

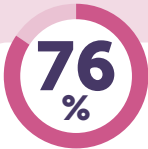
Compared to other womens' prisons in England and Wales



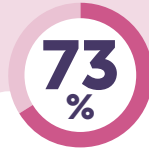
88% said they got good support from other prisoners.



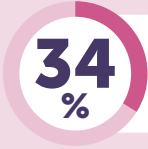
65% said the Progressive Regimes and Earned Privileges Scheme encouraged them to behave well.



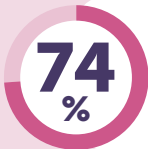
76% said that they were consulted about things like food and health care.



73% said positive well-being was promoted.



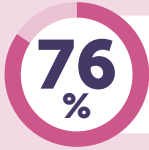
34% said they had a sentence plan.



74% said they would report if they were being bullied or victimised by other prisoners.



80% said there were opportunities to progress in the prison.



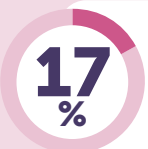
76% said it was easy to see a nurse.



Only 12% said it was very easy or quite easy to get illicit drugs.



90% reported being involved in purposeful activity.



17% said it was easy to see a substance misuse worker.



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?



We hope the Northern Ireland Prison Service, the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust and Belfast Metropolitan College will work to improve the things we said needed to change. Inspectors will come back to check how things are going.



**Criminal Justice Inspection
Northern Ireland**
a better justice system for all



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