



**INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD  
ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18  
MAGHABERRY PRISON**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Mission Statement	3
Chairperson's Introduction	5
Overview of Establishment	7
Summary of Recommendations	9
1. Accommodation	12
2. Alcohol and Substance Abuse	13
3. Catering and Kitchens	16
4. Chaplaincy	18
5. Education and Training	19
6. Equality and Diversity	22
7. Healthcare and Mental Health	24
8. Library	26
9. Life Sentence Prisoners	27
10. Progressive & Earned Privilege Scheme (PREPS)	28
11. Reception and Induction	30
12. Resettlement	32
13. Safer Custody	32
14. Segregation – Care and Supervision Unit (CSU)	37
15. Separated Prisoners	40
16. Sport and Recreation	40
17. Tuck Shop	41
18. Visits	43
Board Members 2017-18	46

## **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 (IMB) for Maghaberry Prison were 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 Maghaberry 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 to the Prison and Young Offenders 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; and
- 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. In exercising their rights under the Prison Rules, members shall take into consideration the matters referred to in Rule 124 (5) which state, in the exercise of any of its powers, the Board will not:

- undermine the security and good order of the prison;
- prejudice the efficient operation of the prison; or
- prevent the proper treatment of prisoners.

The Board shall also have reasonable access to any of the records of the prison, with the exception of medical records.

### **UK NATIONAL PREVENTIVE MECHANISM**

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

## **CHAIRPERSON'S INTRODUCTION**

I am pleased to present the annual report of the Independent Monitoring Board for Maghaberry Prison for the period 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018. For the purpose of this report, the Independent Monitoring Board shall be referred to as the IMB and 'the Board' shall refer to those members of the Maghaberry Board.

This is my third and final report as Chair of Maghaberry IMB. On behalf of the Board, I would like to put on record our sympathy to the family of the late Governor Steve Davis who died last year after a very short illness. We would also like to extend our sympathy to the families of the two prisoners who died in custody during the year and the families of those who died post-release.

In the past three years we as a Board have seen a great improvement within the prison which we would hope will be reflected in the CJINI inspection due to take place early in the next reporting year.

The introduction of the Core Day - a more structured approach to education and greater focus on reducing the amount of drugs coming into the prison - has contributed to this improvement. While we accept there will always be incidents, they are much less frequent and fortunately less serious than some years ago. This change was started by the late Governor Davis and is being continued by his successor, Governor Kennedy and his management team. We as a board are also pleased with appointment of a new Director General in the last year.

A major concern going forward is the delay in the recruiting process for new board members. With several members due to leave at end of next year due to their appointments expiring, it is difficult to see how we will be able to fulfil our statutory obligations and continue to respond to prisoner requests and attend various meetings within the prison.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the board members for their support during the year and also for the time and effort they give to what is a difficult and challenging

role. I feel it is one of the most undervalued and under supported roles within the voluntary sector.

I would also like to thank the Governors and staff within Maghaberry for their support to all the board members and for being approachable at all times if a member has any issue they wish to discuss.

*Patrick McGonagle*

**Patrick McGonagle**  
**Chair**

## **OVERVIEW OF ESTABLISHMENT**

Maghaberry Prison is a relatively modern high security prison which holds adult male, long-term and short-term sentenced and remand prisoners in both integrated and separated units. The regime in the prison is intended to focus on the balance between appropriate levels of security and the Healthy Prison Agenda – safety, respect, constructive activity and resettlement – of which addressing offending behaviour is an important element.

The majority of the prisoners are accommodated in seven residential houses on the main site. Bann, one of the ‘square houses’ accommodates mainly committal and prisoners on induction. Bush and Roe houses accommodate separated prisoners on two landings each, with the other two landings used for general prison population. Of the other two of the three other original ‘square houses’, Lagan holds mainly remand prisoners and Erne holds mainly sentenced prisoners. Quoile, a modern purpose-built house was opened approximately five years ago. This house accommodates the Donard landing and also a regime where prisoners can progress to various landings within the house. These currently include a Healthy Living Landing run in conjunction with the gym and kitchens, Key Workers Landing and there are plans for a Restorative Justice Landing in the near future. There is also the new Shimna House which was built initially as a Witness Protection Unit but now houses prisoners who are working each day. There is a separate Care and Supervision Unit (CSU) which was refurbished in 2016. The former Healthcare Unit is now renamed Moyola and is a normal landing within the prison housing prisoners who are increasingly presenting with complex medical or age related needs. Martin, Wilson and Braid are located in the Mourne complex across the road from the main site. Braid houses mainly life sentenced prisoners and Wilson is used to house prisoners who are nearing the end of life sentences and have participated in and completed all relevant programmes. Martin House, Foyle House and Glen House are at end of this reporting year unoccupied. Burren House (formerly the PAU - Prisoner Assessment Unit) on Crumlin Road re-opened four years ago and houses life sentence prisoners who are on the final phase of their sentence prior to release.

Work has commenced on a new house which should be completed in 2019 and will provide up to date accommodation and will hopefully mean the closure of some if not all

of the 'square houses'. This will mean that most of the accommodation within Maghaberry will be of a high standard.

Healthcare for all prisoners is provided by South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (the Trust). The drug and alcohol service for prisoners who are in need of consultation is provided by AD:EPT (Alcohol and Drugs; Empowering People through Therapy) in partnership with the Trust and NIPS. Education and training is provided by Belfast Metropolitan College (BMC).

Various charitable and voluntary organisations maintain a presence on site and provide valuable support to the prisoners.

The Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NIACRO) now has a programme for short term prisoners who are not subject to supervision on release. This programme called Positive Outcomes for Short Term Prisoners (POST) provides prisoners with employability advice, individual CV writing, criminal conviction disclosure sessions, debt management, first aid heart start, healthy living and a course in conjunction with the Irish Football Association (IFA) which aims to promote positive relationships within the prison and in the community as well as allowing the person in custody to gain qualifications in sports coaching and they also provide benefit advice. Their Family Links programme involves seeing every new prisoner on committal to see if their families need support. In conjunction with the Princes Trust they also run the Explore Employability programme for prisoners who would be interested in self-employment on release. NIACRO also run a bus from Londonderry via Strabane for prisoners' families on a Friday and Saturday which is very beneficial as there is no direct bus route to the prison.

SSAFA – Prison in Reach Programme is available to anyone who has served in any of the UK Armed Forces and provides both practical and financial help to prisoners and their families.

CRUSE Bereavement Care continue to provide support for prisoners dealing with bereavement issues, however this is now organised from their Belfast office as, due to funding cuts, they no longer have someone based permanently on site.



Barnardos support prisoners with family issues and run several programmes to enable fathers with parenting skills and building family relationships. These courses include, Staying in Touch, Being a Dad, Parenting Teenagers, a Pre-Release Programme for fathers and expectant fathers in the last 12 months of their sentence and deals with the realities of returning home, Partners Together and then they are involved along with NIPS in the very successful Families Matters residential programme in the Mourne Complex.

Prison Arts Foundation run a therapeutic arts and crafts course and their work continues with the prisoners after release.

People Plus NI run the Visitor Centre outside the main prison complex having won the contract approximately three years ago. Formerly run by the Quaker Service, this has had a huge impact for prisoners' families as it has meant there are no longer hot meals available for families who may have travelled a long distance, often several hours, just sandwiches, snacks and tea or coffee. The bus from the Centre to Visitors Reception is no longer in place which causes difficulties for visitors with mobility problems, mothers with young children and elderly visitors especially in wet or cold weather. There are no longer childcare facilities at the Visitor Centre which can have a huge impact if not all the children that arrive have been booked on a visit; this may entail the visit having to be cancelled causing upset to both family and prisoner. Staff continue to run seasonal events for the children and have obtained funding to purchase new toys and equipment for the centre. Advice for families is still available and crèche facilities and tea bar still running in main visits. Quaker Connections still run their befriending service for prisoners who have no visits.

Spiritual and religious matters are the remit of the prison Chaplaincy team who try to facilitate the practice of all faiths within the prison community and provide great support to prisoners and their families. Additional help is provided by the Prison Fellowship and also by St Vincent de Paul.

## **SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **The Board recommends that:**

#### **1. ACCOMMODATION**

- While the Board is pleased that building work has commenced on a new 'house', it recommends that a rolling programme of maintenance and decoration is maintained until such time as the new building is completed and operational.

#### **2. ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

- The Trust reviews the Addictions service to ensure that it is capable of working with the numbers of individuals requiring the service.
- The Trust and NIPS review the whole area of 'In Possession' medication, including safe storage and spot checks.
- The NIPS and The Trust jointly review the Drug Recovery Programme with a view to sourcing funding to establish a rolling Recovery programme.

#### **3. CATERING AND KITCHENS**

- The number of prisoners undertaking an NVQ Qualification is increased in order to facilitate employment on release.
- The practice of prisoners eating in cells is reviewed.

#### **4. CHAPLAINCY**

- The current system to enable prisoners to attend the service of their choice is reviewed.

#### **5. EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

- An outlet where crafts, garden furniture and plants can be sold should be considered.

## **6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY**

- No recommendations.

## **7. HEALTHCARE AND MENTAL HEALTH**

- No recommendations.

## **8. LIBRARY**

- No recommendations.

## **9. LIFE SENTENCED PRISONERS**

- More work and training is made available specifically for life sentence prisoners.

## **10. PROGRESSIVE & EARNED PRIVILEGE SCHEME (PREPS)**

- That appropriate training in the operation of PREPS is provided as a priority to all relevant staff members.

## **11. RECEPTION AND INDUCTION**

- Bann House should always be staffed to full complement in order to ensure the safety of prisoners and staff.
- Where possible, first time prisoners should not share a cell with experienced prisoners.
- New staff should get induction training to work in Bann.
- All induction staff are trained in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST).

## **12. RESETTLEMENT**

- No recommendations.

### **13. SAFER CUSTODY**

- The matter of provision of social care for aging prisoners is resolved.
- Houses with higher number of SPARS are adequately staffed.
- Funding is sought for the Drugs Recovery Programme to run on a rolling basis.
- A programme of secondment to PSST is implemented.

### **14. SEGREGATION – CARE AND SUPERVISION UNIT (CSU)**

- That Glen House is brought into use to accommodate those prisoners who are longer term and whose behaviour pose challenges.

### **15. SEPARATED PRISONERS**

- No recommendations.

### **16. SPORT AND RECREATION**

- No recommendations.

### **17. TUCKSHOP**

- NVQ accredited training is made available to those prisoners working in the tuck shop.
- All goods in the tuck shop are priced competitively.
- The distribution of tuck shop on the landings is reviewed.

### **18. VISITS**

- The process of transferring items left at visits reception is reviewed to lessen the delay in these items reaching the prisoner.
- There is a review of the service formerly provided by Quaker Service.

## 1. ACCOMODATION

1.1 Several previous IMB reports recommended that the square houses of Bann, Erne, Foyle and Lagan be replaced. The Board is pleased that in this reporting year work has commenced on a new 'house' which should be completed by 2019. This will mean prisoners currently located in the 'square houses' will be rehoused in very modern accommodation, and hopefully the closure or demolition of the existing square houses. Prison numbers have remained lower this year than in many previous years which does have a positive impact. Overcrowding impacts negatively on prisoners as there is little privacy in shared cells - particularly if there are lengthy periods of lock down.

**Recommendation: While the Board is pleased that work is now well underway on a new 'house', it recommends that a rolling programme of maintenance and decoration is maintained until such time as the new building is operational.**

1.2 The two linear houses Roe and Bush accommodate (in respective houses, in specific wings) separated Republican and Loyalist prisoners. The two other landings in each of these houses accommodate normal prison population.

1.3 The Board welcomed the opening of two new houses in 2013 – Shimna and Quoile. Quoile House is a modern purpose-built house which can accommodate 120 prisoners in excellent conditions. Prisoners and staff have given very positive feedback on the modern facilities which are available. Shimna continues being utilised as accommodation for 'workers' which eases pressure on other areas of the prison.

1.4 Martin House in the Mourne complex was refurbished four years ago and became the Vulnerable Prisoner Unit (VPU) with prisoners previously accommodated in Glen House moving there. The refurbishment had created a relatively spacious unit which provided excellent accommodation with a much better regime and access to the garden. However in last reporting year, Martin House and Glen House are unoccupied as is one of the 'square houses' – Foyle.

1.5 As previously stated the Healthcare facility is now being used as another landing (Moyola) within the prison, with mainly prisoners who have been transferred from VPU or older prisoners often with age related issues, e.g. mobility and personal care and/or complex medical issues. In the past reporting year there has been a good increase in

the educational opportunities available to this group. These include literacy, Numeracy, ESOL, Art and Horticulture. There is also a mental health group that meets weekly and prisoners have now got outside gym equipment.

1.6 NIPS must be given credit for recognising the importance of making the outdoor areas as pleasant as possible. Credit also has to go to the instructors, staff and prisoners who carry out the work and tend to the various outdoor areas. It is very heartening to see so many prisoners undertaking outdoor duties, from grass-cutting, to planting flowers and shrubs. Added to this is the signage which makes the prison estate much more user friendly.

## **2. ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

2.1 “Prison does not just contain addiction, it creates it.” (Centre for Social Justice, 2015 – 'Drugs in Prison')

2.2 Prescription drugs have a legitimate place in prisons. They can play an important role in treating illnesses such as depression and addiction. However, it is crucial that they are used responsibly; many are highly addictive and can have significant negative side effects.

2.3 Illegal substances are a continuing problem both in society in general and within the prison population. Many prisoners have used illegal substances for so long that it has become, for them, the 'norm'. Others are introduced to substance misuse when they come in; whilst some who have had their legitimately prescribed medication reduced on committal will go on to purchase this illicitly.

2.4 There are now focus/info groups on the landings to raise prisoners' awareness of drug dangers.

2.5 IMB members are aware that prescription drugs continue to be 'diverted' onto a 'black market', and misused. Individuals are often bullied for their legitimately prescribed medication.

2.6 It is, however, pleasing to note that there have been substantial seizures of illegal

substances by prison staff. The Security Committee has been re-established and greater attention is being paid to the drugs issue. This would appear to have had positive results in the number of drugs seizures, be they as a result of intelligence led searches, routine searches on return from outside leave, or observation during visits for example. PSNI and NIPS joint initiative continues with both prisoners and visitors being prosecuted for bringing illegal substances into the prison.

2.7 Drug testing continues, and it is interesting that the most 'common' drug that continues to show up in the tests is prescription medication (as opposed to cannabinoids which previously would have accounted for the most common). The biggest increase this year has been the use of the drug Zanax and Pregablin. There have also been approximately 140 drug related 'finds' in first quarter of this year alone. It is disturbing to note the high risks taken by prisoners in secreting large amounts of illegal substances on their person. Ingenious methods of secreting substances can often make it difficult to detect. Whilst it is still not an uncommon sight for IMB members to witness prisoners who are quite clearly under the influence of something, we feel that there has been a change in how staff view such occurrences. There is less of an 'acceptance' that this is just part and parcel of prison life, and more of a realisation that this is a problem. There is a meeting held every few weeks now by Alcohol and Drugs: Empowering People through Therapy (AD:EPT) to discuss changes in drugs available.

2.8 Some Board members have talked to prisoners who have very serious addiction problems and who would be keen to get onto the Addictions Team Substitute Therapy programme. Unfortunately, at the time of writing, only those already on the programme, and individuals at committal stage who are already on the substitution programme prior to committal, are being offered this service. There is a new Opiate Substitute Therapy Programme (OST) which should be rolled out in the next reporting year. As a result, some prisoners have told us, quite frankly and honestly, that they will obtain their drug of choice illegally. We have concerns about the risks that such individuals take to their health when sourcing illegal substances. Our main concern is the risk prisoners take by smuggling drugs internally, often in large volumes.

2.9 The Board is pleased to note the reduction in waiting time lists for the services of AD:EPT. From referral to assessment has been reduced to around four weeks and

assessment to allocation for casework to between one and two weeks. AD:EPT run Building Skills for Recovery (BSR) which is a Home Office approved course. There is also Naloxone training to which prisoners can be referred.

**Recommendation: The Trust reviews the Addictions service to ensure that it is capable of working with the number of individuals requiring the service.**

2.10 Prisoners can be subjected to bullying in relation to debts which they incur through their drug misuse. This can, as stated in previous reports, have repercussions on families. Bullying of prisoners to bring in illegal substances from home visits, or other external visits, is also an issue. Prisoners on legally prescribed medication can be bullied to hand over their supply, if they are not on 'supervised swallow'.

2.11 The availability of prescription medication in Maghaberry stems, in the main, from medication dispensed being diverted – in some cases through bullying and in others as a trade-off. There is clearly too much prescribed medication falling into the wrong hands and for this reason we feel that the whole area of 'in possession' medication requires reviewed. Whilst we acknowledge that in society in general, individuals are prescribed medication for them to take as prescribed, within a prison medication is seen as a 'tradable commodity' and for this reason there needs to be a higher level of control of such substances. We are aware that NIPS are currently running a pilot scheme where stronger medication boxes are placed in cell, and we await the outcome of the pilot.

**Recommendation: The Trust and NIPS review the whole area of 'In Possession' medication, including its safe storage, and spot checks.**

2.12 Drug Strategy Meetings have recommenced since February 2018 and the new Drugs Strategy called Local Guidance for the Management and Reduction of Substance Misuse in Custody is now in place. However, we do note that the Security Committee has extended their remit to include trends and analysis in relation to drugs.

2.13 Unfortunately, as at last report, despite a very positive evaluation, the Drugs Recovery Unit (Glen House), only ever ran one programme. The Board feels that this was a programme which worked, which was evaluated as having been successful, and which the participants valued. The staff were specifically trained, and with the lack of



other services for those with substance misuse issues, we feel that this is an opportunity missed. We would hope that a joint effort between NIPS and the Trust could review this programme.

**Recommendation: The NIPS and the Trust jointly review the Drug Recovery Programme with a view to sourcing funding to establish a rolling Recovery programme.**

2.14 In common with most other Prisons, Maghaberry has seen Legal Highs added to the list of drugs of choice however they have had little or no impact compared to the mainland. It is difficult to identify these substances as there is no specific test to establish what substance an individual has taken. This is due to the fact that as soon as one 'named' legal high is banned, there is a slight change in its constituents and it is 'rebranded'.

2.15 Towards the end of the reporting year we have seen prisoners returning from visits being taken directly from reception to Care and Supervision Unit if there is intelligence to suggest they may be trying to smuggle illicit substances into the prison. This worked very well over the Christmas period especially and led to a big reduction in the number of instances throughout the prison.

### **3. CATERING AND KITCHENS**

3.1 The catering facility at the prison is a fairly recent build, approximately eight years old. The quality of the food served is reasonable and every effort is made with the menus to try and accommodate all diverse cultural and religious needs. Prisoners have an opportunity through meetings of the Prisoner Forum to address comments or complaints with the Catering Manager.

3.2 Staffing in the unit includes 26 prisoners who are drawn from across the population and reflect the various cultures in the prison. Prisoners clearly enjoy working in the kitchen and on the serving areas in the houses. Delivery of the meal trolleys from the kitchen to all the houses continues to be carried out by selected inmates who are given permission to work unaccompanied and this continues to work well.

The Board is pleased to note that a training programme is in operation where prisoners can avail of accredited training in Level 1 Food Safety and Hygiene. To date 17

prisoners have achieved Level 2 City and Guilds qualification in Food Production with another 5 currently working towards it which will provide them with the skills to secure employment on release. Two prisoners from the Donard Centre help each day to prepare the 'breakfast packs' which are distributed every evening. Staff from the kitchen are also currently participating in the Healthy Living Landing in Quoile House.

**Recommendation: The number of prisoners undertaking NVQ qualifications should be increased in order to facilitate employment on release.**

3.3 As reported many times previously, the timing of meals in the prison, especially the evening meal, can be very early and do not reflect normal meal times. It was hoped that when the NIPS established the new core day for staff this would be rectified and the Board is pleased that the timing of the evening meal is now later.

3.4 For almost two years now prisoners are given a 'breakfast pack' when the evening meal is being served. This is to enable them to have breakfast at a reasonable time in the morning as due to staff shortages breakfast in the past was often delayed. This resulted in prisoners being late for classes, medical appointments and visits, often having to make a choice between breakfast and other activities. In the past approximately eighteen months prisoners are now being issued with a cold lunch pack with a hot meal still being served in the evening. Over the winter months, soup was also served at lunchtime.

3.5 The staff canteen opens from 7.30am to 2.30pm Monday to Friday and from 9.00am to 2.30pm at the weekends. This is again staffed by six prisoners and kitchen staff and is a great opportunity for prisoners to train for catering jobs on release. There is a good selection of hot and cold food available at reasonable prices.

3.6 Prisoners also make tray bakes for sale in the canteen with the proceeds going to a charity of their choice. Since opening around two years ago prison catering staff and prisoners have raised approximately £8,000 for charity. The good causes supported have included St John Ambulance, Walking with the Wounded and Angel Wishes. A tandem ride by staff around the three NI prisons raised almost £5000 and there was a donation of £1000 to Memorial Wall for officers who have been murdered.

3.7 The NIPS is to be applauded for including communal dining areas in refurbished

houses and in all new builds, however members regularly observe that prisoners are still taking their meals in their cells. The Board is aware that the prison is overcrowded and space is limited in the dining areas but find it unacceptable that prisoners continue to have to eat in a confined space that also holds their toilet and washing facilities. However with new house opening in 2019 the Board would hope that the numbers doing this will decrease.

**Recommendation: The practice of prisoners eating in cramped, shared cells is reviewed.**

#### **4. CHAPLAINCY**

4.1 The chaplaincy team in Maghaberry is made up of the main faiths represented in the broader Northern Ireland community; Church of Ireland, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist, Free Presbyterian and occasionally a member of the Muslim faith. Religious literature is available in eight languages. Over the past year the chaplaincy team at Maghaberry has experienced changes in terms of their Coordinating Chaplain and lead Governor. The IMB wishes to record its recognition and thanks to the former Coordinating Chaplain and wish him well in the future. The new lead Governor has continued to support the work started by his predecessor and has been able to improve upon aspects of the function in a logistical and practical way.

4.2 Due to the complex nature of the prison and the various levels of security, Mass and weekly Services have to be held, not only in the prison chapel but also in Moyola (formally Healthcare) Bush and Roe House and in the Mourne complex.

4.3 As the prison population has risen over the years so also do the demands placed upon the work of the chaplains. Every prisoner, on committal, will have an opportunity to meet a member of the chaplaincy team and 'register' with the chaplain of his desired denomination. This is a most important service because of the vulnerability of prisoners at this point. The pastoral care provided can be a stabilising influence for many prisoners and may well contribute to a steady and positive improvement in behaviour within the prison. The chaplaincy provides excellent pastoral, spiritual and practical care not only to the prisoners and their families but also to the staff. The chaplains collectively provide an effective team across all religious beliefs and this ensures no prisoner will be left isolated irrespective of their religious affiliation.

4.4 The chaplaincy provides a number of spiritual courses across denominations within the prison which have shown an increase in attendance over the past twelve months. Their influence also extends well beyond the prison to the families affected by the imprisonment of their family member. Chaplaincy staff are often able to accompany prisoners to funerals, hospital visits to seriously or terminally ill close family in areas where prison staff would be at risk. It would also at this point be appropriate to acknowledge the work carried out by St Vincent de Paul who provide assistance to prisoners and their families regardless of their religious background and beliefs or those with none.

4.5 The chaplaincy has dealt with a number of difficulties over the past year. There has been an ongoing issue with an administrative role within the chaplaincy office which has resulted in a backlog of paperwork and although the issue has yet to be fully resolved the new Governor has put a system in place which has alleviated the problem. This will require to be monitored to ensure a long term and sustainable solution.

4.6 It has been reported to the IMB that some prisoners are experiencing difficulty being able to attend their particular church service or mass. The reasons given are, not being called to go, not enough staff to escort them, lockdowns or names not registered on the system.

**Recommendation: The current system to enable prisoners to attend the service of their choice is reviewed.**

4.7 In conclusion, the chaplaincy provides excellent pastoral, spiritual and practical care not only to the prisoners and their families but also to the staff. The chaplains collectively provide an effective team across all religious beliefs and this ensures no prisoner will be left isolated irrespective of their religious affiliation.

**Recommendation: The system to enable prisoners to attend the service of their choice is reviewed.**

## **5. EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

5.1 Education is based in the new Learning and Skills Centre and since September 2015, is under the control of Belfast Metropolitan College (BMC). Their aim is to bring a

much more structured and academic atmosphere to the learning and skills unit. The more 'social' aspects of learning and skills have been removed such as movement between classrooms and the removal of tea and coffee availability except during proper break times. Management believes this more structured atmosphere will also deter the use of drugs and drug dealing. The focus of BMC has been to engage more prisoners, retention and achievement.

5.2 The main focus is to provide a range of courses in areas such as literacy, numeracy and practical skills development. The accredited courses available range from painting and decorating, woodworking, wall and floor tiling, construction skills, hospitality, practical cleaning skills, food preparation and cooking and employability skills. Each prisoner is tested on arrival for essential skills and is encouraged to participate in improvement classes as part of their overall resettlement programme. The Essential Skills course, which is funded by DEL, has been reduced to a more compact ten week course. While some of the more popular classes e.g. art, have long waiting lists. It is disappointing to note the poor attendance at some of the classes given the excellent facilities that are available in the new centre. This can be due to several reasons such as staff shortages, an incident occurring on the landing, refusal to attend from remand prisoners in particular and/or a higher priority appointment. However, it should be noted that the target is 70% and year to date achieved was 79%.

5.3 Maghaberry workshops provide a range of work and vocational training which can lead to nationally recognised qualifications, such as NVQs. Furniture-making and gardening are very popular but in the main non-attendance at workshops still causes some concern. NIPS also run courses in bricklaying, painting, tiling and joinery. They have also started a new electrical workshop in the Mourne complex which will last for 27 weeks and prisoners will gain a Level 1 Diploma in Electrical Installation. Participation in workshops can make a valuable contribution to successful reintegration on release by giving prisoners the skills to enable them to seek employment. There are also thirty spaces available in the enhanced recycling facility.

5.4 The Board recognises the level of achievement since BMC have taken over the education in the prison with in excess of 1700 accreditations in the past twelve month period.

5.5 The Mourne complex offers wheelchair and bicycle refurbishment workshops as well as having a Braille unit which teaches a very specialised and rare skill. We are pleased to note that an accredited electrical workshop opened in February 2017. The Board commends NIPS for setting this up. Education in Braid consists of courses in Essential Skills Literacy and Numeracy, ICT, Horticulture and Food Hygiene and Industrial Cleaning. Other courses taking place throughout the prison include Essential Skills in Literacy, Numeracy and ICT as well as employability take place in Bush House. Horticulture continues in Moyola and the prisoners there have made great use of the polytunnel for growing vegetables and plants. Sixteen prisoners are currently enrolled on Open University courses. Art is always a very popular subject and is currently available up to A-Level standard. There are also Driving Theory Classes and non-accredited music classes. NIACRO are running a programme for prisoners nearing release. This includes employability classes, CV writing and interview skills. NIACRO in conjunction with BMC have a programme for short term prisoners which includes First Aid and CV writing with education and employability provided by BMC. There is also housing advice available.

5.6 The garden area in Maghaberry has always been run by very dedicated members of staff. This is an area which prisoners really enjoy working and seem to get a great deal of satisfaction from growing not only plants but also vegetables. However, it is very disappointing that often these vegetables are not used, and the board have raised the possibility if this food not going to be used within the prison, that it should be donated to either homeless charities or to some of the many food banks that are now in existence. It is very frustrating to see perfectly good food being 'dumped'.

5.7 The Board has suggested on many occasions that there should be an outlet where the goods as crafts, garden furniture and plants produced by prisoners could be sold to generate money for the Governor's Fund. The reception centre for visitors is an obvious choice given the large numbers that use the facilities there over the course of a year.

**Recommendation: The Board again recommends that an outlet where crafts, garden furniture and plants can be sold should be considered.**

5.8 Each quarter BMC hold an award ceremony called a Celebration of Success for prisoners who have gained accreditation. The Board recognises the effort the new management of Education and Training have put into education within the prison and also the dedication of NIPS staff in the vocational courses. We also wish to acknowledge the fact that a full programme will continue to run throughout the months of July and August.

## **6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY**

6.1 The Equality as Diversity group continues to meet on a monthly basis with at least 10 scheduled meetings each year. The meetings are chaired by a Deputy Governor and membership can include Chaplaincy, Healthcare, security, equality commission, CJINI, and appropriate prison officers, Governors and IMB. There is also prisoner representation on the committee. With new committals arriving at Maghaberry throughout the year recruitment of prisoner representatives is ongoing. Those selected to be involved are given appropriate training.

6.2 At the time of reporting, the prisoner population in Maghaberry was 822, including 109 foreign national prisoners; 326 prisoners on remand, and 496 sentenced prisoners. Given the diversity of the prison population the role of the Equality and Diversity Committee is a challenging one as it strives to deal with the complexity of issues which arise regularly.

6.3 Data on complaints, adjudications, regime level, use of force, home leave, searches, drug testing, and opportunities for work and education are made available to all Governors and relevant individuals prior to the meeting. Where a disparity has been identified respective functional heads are required to provide evidence based explanations.

6.4 We as a board are conscious of the need to be vigilant over the nine identified categories within section 75 of the N.I Act 1998 and the work of the Equality and Diversity Committee is taken very seriously.

6.5 Those who enter custody are given the opportunity to disclose if they feel they have a disability as defined in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and the Disability

Discrimination order 2006. These disclosures are referred to healthcare for verification. A list of relevant medical markers has now been identified and the Trust and NIPS have agreed that this will provide a basis for review and provision of services.

6.6 There is a perception among some prisoners that Roman Catholic prisoners are treated less fairly than Protestant prisoners - especially in adjudications, but great care is taken to ensure that all allegations of discrimination are thoroughly examined and reported. The Board will continue to monitor this process.

6.7 Foreign national prisoners (FNPs) continue to represent a significant proportion of the prisoner population. By the end of the reporting period they represented around 13 per cent of the total population and consisted of 21 different nationalities with Lithuanian, Chinese, Romanian and Portuguese highest in terms of numbers.

6.8 All FNPs entering prison now have an opportunity at committal to indicate if they will require interpretation and translation services to allow them to participate in prison life. All key prisoner documents including job vacancies have been translated in six foreign languages.

6.9 Home Office Immigration Service visit each prison in Northern Ireland three times per annum and interview FNPs regarding deportation issues. The last visit to take place was in March 2018. Information about the early removal scheme is getting out to foreign national prisoners however decisions reference deportation are often made late in sentence. The board will continue to monitor this process.

6.10 The Big Word Translation Service is available in all the residential areas throughout the prison. It has been identified that while most FNPs have some English, they can experience difficulties in group session work which can have a detrimental effect on essential courses they need to partake in as part of their sentence and also in a healthcare setting. In general, FNPs have reported that they are content with the service. At the time of reporting, 49 prisoners had been recorded on PRISM as requiring face to face interpreters.

6.11 An event to mark the Chinese New Year was held in Maghaberry on 15 February



2018. A traditional Chinese meal was prepared by the prisoners for the group, the office of the Prisoner Ombudsman and NIPS. This was followed by an open forum.

6.12 The Board welcomes the re-establishment of the general population prisoner forums within the prison which are being held bi-monthly. Residential forums have also taken place and the minutes have been displayed on the landing notice boards. A forum for older prisoners and a disability forum have also been set up. Activities have been expanded to include gardening, a reading group with creative writing classes also being expected in the near future.

6.13 Educational Assessments are now mandatory as part of education inductions and prisoners are placed in classes based on their assessed need. Names are added to waiting lists based on date of application. Learning and skills then look at the requirement for programmes including education and attainment. Two new activity areas will be introduced on the Mourne site. This will include an electrical shop and a light engineering shop both of which will offer qualifications. Consideration is also being given to expanding the Braille facilities. On the main site a section of recycling will be set up as a low mobility work area for wheelchair users and those with poor mobility.

## **7. HEALTHCARE AND MENTAL HEALTH**

7.1 The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (the Trust) continues to be the Health Care provider within the Northern Ireland prisons. This provision is delivered by a multi-disciplinary team of health care professionals and 'aims to provide opportunities for people to develop a positive attitude towards their own health and well-being'.

7.2 A successful recruitment drive for healthcare professionals has been completed in the past year. One positive outcome of this has been a reduction in the number of requests from prisoners to discuss health care issues such as delays in seeing GP's, access to mental health services and changes in prescribed medication. While none of these have gone away completely it would appear to be exception, not unlike in the community. We are also pleased to note the since there have been some changes in medical personnel, we have seen a big reduction in the number of complaints received.

7.3 Healthcare staff working with NIPS staff have enhanced provision in Bann

House for new committals to better equip those who arrive here deal with a quite traumatic change in their personal, circumstances and those who are vulnerable.

7.4 We note the availability of A3 leaflets which provide medication information and a very brief summary of prescribing guidelines. The provision of banners in the external grounds which message where and who, in terms of organisations, can provide health related assistance is welcomed. Not only does it convey healthy living messages but it demonstrates the range of agencies involved in the delivery of these as well as offering a refreshing splash of colour in an otherwise dreary, drab environment.

7.5 The post of Health Development Worker has generated additional opportunities for people living in Maghaberry to engage in purposeful activity around health and health care issues such as health eating and smoking cessation. It also provides a vehicle for Patient and Public Involvement discussion which can help improve service delivery and uptake as well as promote well-being, physical, mental and emotional health. A Service Users' forum has held up to 10 engagement events over the past year. Uptake of health screening and vaccination programmes for relevant patients continues and onward referrals, where necessary, occur within the normal parameters.

7.6 The Trust arranged for the Virtual Dementia Experience bus to be on site for two days in February. There were 72 places for any person working on the prison site to participate in this 2½ hour training session. 12 prisoners also had the opportunity to attend this experience. It is a mark of inclusion that opportunities in the community are also being provided for those living and working in the prison environment.

7.7 IMB members have been provided with copies of guidelines on prescribing practice within prisons which enable us to be more informed about these matters when dealing with individual prisoners who raise concerns about changes in prescribing practice.

7.8 IMB members continue to participate in Supporting Prisoners at Risk (SPAR) reviews and – time permitting - will record in SPAR booklets any conversations or meetings we have with those who are held on SPARs to help provide the most comprehensive oversight possible. We also continue to attend at PSST meetings where

possible and seek to support both NIPS and the Trust in their handling of extremely complex cases. The Trust now maintains a section of Prison Healthcare on its website and various articles on research undertaken within prisons and nursing roles within prison are also publicly available at this useful source public information.

## **8. LIBRARY**

8.1 The library is a well-stocked facility with books supplied by Libraries NI, where prisoners are made to feel at ease and relaxed. It provides a choice of several thousand books and magazines, in a wide range of languages, to meet the needs of all prisoners e.g. Russian, Polish, Lithuanian, Spanish, French, Chinese and Hungarian. Approximately 600 prisoners use the facility every month. The library also stocks Law Reference Books which enable prisoners to look up information regarding their own cases. A comprehensive stock of over 500 CD's is also available.

8.2 The library is situated on two sites, one in the main part of the prison which is open six days per week, and the other one in the Mourne Education Block which is open one day per week but may be increased in the near future. Both carry a similar amount of material. The library also supplies books to Moyola, CSU, separated prisoners in Bush and for new committals in Bann House. Staff are also expecting a library to be based in the new house due to open next year.

8.3 The library is also the centre of the Book and Tape Club. This enables fathers in prison to record stories to send to their children and is very important in maintaining family links for young children. These can then either be posted out or collected. This facility is used by approximately 30 prisoners per month and is becoming more popular. 'Turning Pages', run by the Shannon Trust, is also run through the library. This is a project where a prisoner can become a mentor to help a fellow prisoner who has difficulty with reading or cannot read.

8.4 The library staff also print information and designs on handicrafts for prisoners, pictures for art classes and ceramics classes, information for Open University courses and also look up prices of items if necessary. They can also print out legal information if any prisoner requires this.

8.5 Every quarter, prisoners who do not receive visits, can order clothing through a

catalogue in the library. This is especially beneficial for foreign prisoners.

## **9. LIFE SENTENCED PRISONERS**

9.1 The unit formerly known as Lifer Management Unit is now known as the Prisoner Development Unit (PDU). It has been changed to include remand prisoners. The staff in the unit has doubled and includes two Family Officers who deal with child-centred visits. The new Family Matters landing is based in Braid House.

9.2 There are currently approximately 150 life sentenced prisoners in Maghaberry with some others on various pre-release schemes. The largest number is located in Braid and Wilson with the majority of Category A prisoners located in Erne House however, most other houses have at least one life sentenced prisoner. Burren House – formerly known as the Prisoner Assessment Unit (PAU), houses approximately 20 prisoners on the final phase of their sentence prior to release. This unit operates very well with prisoners, whilst having the freedom to go to work or to hostels at the weekend, they are still closely monitored by the staff and frequent checks are made to ensure prisoners are adhering to their agreed terms and conditions. Most are employed by Extern at their recycling plant, with others working for various charities. There are also prisoners who have found employment with businesses in the wider community.

9.3 While in prison there are numerous programmes to help those prisoners serving a life sentence, to address issues regarding alcohol and drug abuse as well as other issues. These programmes include Drug and Alcohol Awareness, Gaining Opportunities and Living Skills (GOALS), Resolve (for violent offenders), Alcohol Related Violence (ARV), Horizon (aimed at reducing offending) and Building Better Relationships. Other programmes available are Motivational Enhancement Group (MEG), Cognitive Self Change and Enhanced Thinking Skills. Alcoholics Anonymous, CRUSE, Sycamore Tree (Restorative based accredited course) are also available along with the Prince's Trust Employability Programme and Duke of Edinburgh programme.

9.4 A large number of life sentence prisoners have quite low levels of numeracy and literacy skills and all are encouraged to avail of the education facilities available. The Essential Skills Curriculum covers basic educational levels to the equivalent of GCSE and prisoners can study to degree level. The majority of life sentenced prisoners are

located in the Mourne Complex and we are pleased to note increase in the opportunities for education in last reporting year.

9.5 Given the large numbers of life sentence prisoners it would be beneficial if there was more work available. Of nearly 300 jobs available in the prison, there are only around 40 available to the life sentenced prisoners, so it can be difficult for them to use their lengthy sentences in a constructive manner. This is in addition to wheelchair/ bicycle refurbishment, internal works parties to maintain gardens and grounds, and a cookery class which is run by Extern three or four days a week when prisoners cook for all of Wilson House. There is also an excellent Braille Unit which deserves recognition for the great work they do. Not only have they translated the Bible and Hymn Books into Braille but they have created maps for some towns and also a great selection of children's books. They have also this year produced a book in Braille for the Somme Heritage Centre chronicling the history of the Ulster Division.

**Recommendation: More work and training is made available specifically for life sentence prisoners**

9.6 Following the re-profiling of the prison more life sentenced prisoners have been moved to Magilligan where there are more programmes and work opportunities available. While the greater opportunities are to be welcomed, it can also make it more difficult for family contact to be maintained given the location of Magilligan.

## **10. PROGRESSIVE & EARNED PRIVILEGE SCHEME (PREPS)**

10.1 The original PREPS was introduced to NIPS in 2000 and has undergone a number of reviews and amendments the most recent being a policy review in 2012. Notwithstanding the policy review the scheme has not substantively altered since its inception.

10.2 There are three key aims for the PREPS system:

- to encourage and reward prisoner's commitment to the completion of their Offender Management Plan through participation in activities, such as education, offending behaviour programmes, training, work placements and other constructive activities in the course of addressing offending behaviour.

- to encourage pro-social behaviour within the prison and to contribute to a better controlled, safer and healthier environment for prisoners and staff based on mutual respect.
- to prepare prisoners for release on licence or otherwise and to develop improved citizenship qualities and self-worth for effective and safe reintegration into the community and to reduce the potential for further offending.

10.3 The scheme operates on three regime levels; Standard, Enhanced and Basic. All inmates join the scheme at standard level and promotion or demotion is based on patterns of behaviour. Isolated incidents whether good or bad, will not generally impact on regime levels. An appeal process is available but it should be noted that for a sentenced prisoner to progress to enhanced they must fully accept responsibility for their offending behaviour. There is, however, a perception within the prison population that PREPS operates as a secondary punishment system rather than a scheme to encourage and reward good behaviour. Some prisoners have reported to IMB that they have received a double punishment in that they received a punishment when found guilty at adjudication and were subsequently reduced in regime level. The PREPS co-ordinator has informed that this not the case, and referred to NIPS PREPS Policy Document paras 34, 35 and 36:

- (34) While it is important to operate PREPS and the adjudication system separately, the two may come into close proximity due to loss of privileges associated with regimes making up many of the awards available to Governors.
- (35) PREPS will not be referred to in an adjudication verdict.
- (36) Reduction of regime levels will not be awarded as part of a Governor's adjudication.

There was no evidence identified to indicate the above had not been followed.

**Recommendation: That appropriate training in the operation of PREPS is provided as a priority to all relevant staff members.**

10.4 As in previous years there appears to be a religious disparity across regime levels with a higher percentage of basic prisoners coming from a Roman Catholic background. However, this and other anomalies in statistics are now subject of an ongoing project with report to be issued in next reporting year.

## **11. RECEPTION AND INDUCTION**

11.1 The Reception area is where the prisoners arrive at the prison. Those arriving for the first time can be nervous and apprehensive so the Board commends the reception staff for their calm and professional manner which helps put the new arrivals at ease. Prisoners are initially interviewed by staff at reception, searched and reviewed by a member of healthcare staff. Every committal is met, either in reception by a peer mentor or if they arrive late, to custody they are met the next day.

11.2 When prisoners leave the reception area, they are taken to Bann House for induction which usually lasts a few weeks. Induction programme includes Fire Safety, Gym Induction, and Educational Assessment by Learning and Skills, AD:EPT Induction and an awareness of Housing Rights, Samaritan Listeners Scheme, Family Officer Induction and Barnardo's Family Matters, plus a meeting with a member of the prison chaplaincy team. For those in prison for the first time this can be a very vulnerable time, so staff need to be alert to these vulnerabilities and observe whether a prisoner leaves his cell and mixes with other prisoners or stays behind the door. However, staff also need to have time to talk to new prisoners but increasingly Board members have seen that the reduction in staff numbers means they are just too busy and do not have time to speak to all those who may want to share concerns, or just want a listening ear. For this reason it is essential that Bann House should always be adequately staffed. As the population of this house is constantly changing staff need to be very vigilant as they do not have the time to get to know a prisoner in the way staff in the more 'settled' houses do. For first time prisoners, there are a lot of questions about everything from visits, phone, showers etc. and staff are constantly under pressure to answer a multitude of questions or sort out issues. As staff cuts become ever more stringent this is causing visible signs of stress to staff, and the Board are increasingly being approached by staff who are concerned they will miss something serious with a prisoner, which can in extreme circumstances lead to death of a prisoner/ serious incident and place staff careers in jeopardy.

**Recommendation: There are sufficient staff detailed to work in Bann House to ensure the safety of prisoners and staff.**

11.3 Where possible, the Board also recommends that first time prisoners are not doubled up to share a cell with experienced prisoners. Established prisoners know

the system which can lead to new prisoners getting into trouble with landing staff or, to an increased likelihood of being bullied.

**Recommendation: The Board recommends that where possible, first time prisoners should not share a cell with experienced prisoners.**

11.3 The Board has concerns about the number of prisoners that are on SPARs in Bann House. This takes up a large amount of staff time checking prisoner and associated paperwork to ensure the process is completed effectively. If there are several prisoners on SPARs at any one time it can fully occupy one member of staff, leaving insufficient staff to cover the remainder of work on the landing, and can lead to a quiet vulnerable prisoner being overlooked as staff are so busy. Experienced staff are desirable in this environment but with the arrival of new inexperienced staff it is now inevitable that many will be sent to Bann. For this reason the Board recommends that new staff get specific training to work in Bann. As so many of the experienced staff have left in the past few years it is quite common to see that the most experienced person on the landing has only a few years' experience. This puts undue pressure on new staff who are being constantly faced with new situations with no-one to whom they can immediately refer.

**Recommendation: The Board recommends that new staff should get induction training to work in Bann.**

11.4 At end of this reporting year the Board recognises that prisoner numbers have remained lower than they were a few years ago and as at end of reporting year two landings in Bann remain closed, although they were opened briefly during the reporting year. However the Board would have concerns as to how these two landings will be staffed in the event of large numbers of committals.

**Recommendation: The Board also again recommends that all induction staff are trained in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST).**

11.5 Despite the problems raised above, the Board commends the staff who work in Bann. Every new committal presents a challenge in a busy house with a lot of different demands and their professional manner is appreciated.



## **12. RESETTLEMENT**

12.1 A successful and efficient resettlement programme minimises the risk of a prisoner reoffending on release. With no supportive network in place on release prisoners with poor coping skills frequently reoffend in order to return to prison which they regard as a 'safe' option or environment. The Resettlement Team in Maghaberry works with various groups within the prison, but also relies heavily on working in partnership with many outside agencies. The Board acknowledges the support given by all the associated agencies in trying to provide a focused and detailed resettlement package for prisoners.

12.2 The team works with both sentenced and remand prisoners, but given the number of prisoners currently held, spaces on programmes are limited.

12.3 Family support is essential to successful resettlement, so child-centered visits and the family work undertaken by the Family Liaison Team and the Quakers are invaluable. The Board commends the work done by the NIPS in setting up Family Focus, which last year was moved from Quoile to Braid. Prisoners on this landing get longer visits with their children in the Donard Centre and the prisoners can prepare food for their family. These visits are very informal and are an excellent opportunity for children to spend time with their father in a more relaxed surrounding than the normal prison visit. Other support staff are on hand to talk to and support partners / wives.

12.4 NIACRO are also involved in programmes for prisoners nearing end of sentence and give advice with such areas as employability skills, CV writing, housing and are working with BMC in a four week pilot programme for prisoners nearing end of sentence.

## **13. SAFER CUSTODY**

13.1 The Justice Minister has written of Safe, Secure and Decent Custody, an aim shared by us, as members of the IMB.

13.2 The IMB recognises that Maghaberry Prison, as a high security Category A prison, will have the security of the establishment as its major priority. However, with the increasing number of prisoners presenting with multiple needs and challenges, the

Safer Custody side of the NIPS is becoming increasingly relevant and keeping vulnerable prisoners safe in Maghaberry remains a key challenge. It can be shocking for someone from outside the prison to see prisoners with scars or open wounds resulting from repeated instances of self-harm. However there is a risk that anyone who is exposed to this on a daily or frequent basis becomes desensitised. Positive staff-prisoner relationships are critical to delivering security and wellbeing within the prison.

13.3 Mirroring society in general, addictions, and in particular drug addiction (be it illegal drugs or prescription medication) are a major issue within the Prison. The issue of drugs and the abuse of prescription medication will be reported on separately in this Report. However, the impact on those individuals involved in the taking of such illegal substances is not restricted to the effects of the substances themselves, but it can often lead to bullying in order to acquire, for example, the prescribed medication of another, drug debts and prisoners requesting a move from a specific location to avoid paying their debts. During the year the prison has instigated changes to the bullying reporting procedures which have resulted in increased reporting, however there remains a significant residual risk that bullying remains under reported. It is a disturbing fact that approximately 80% of prisoners in Maghaberry continue to be on prescription medication during the reporting period.

13.4 A very high proportion of prisoners in Maghaberry suffer from mental health problems, substance misuse problems, and very often both. Such statistics place a heavy burden on support services such as Healthcare and the Prison Safety and Support Team. Prisoners with Personality Disorders pose challenges to the Prison Service particularly in relation to the often impulsive and risk taking elements of their behaviour.

13.5 Add to the mix the increasing number of elderly prisoners i.e. prisoners entering the prison system in advanced years and with increasing health and mobility problems; prisoners who have a range of learning disabilities; prisoners with physical health problems, and prisoners who are vulnerable due to the nature of their offence, and it is clear that the safety and support of such a wide variety of individuals is a challenge for both NIPS and the Trust. We, as a Board, have raised the issue with NIPS of the future provision of social care staff to give physical support to the small number of prisoners

who may need a higher degree of 'care' than is currently available. However, it would seem that there is an unresolved issue between NIPS and the Trust in relation to the provision of the social care element of healthcare.

**Recommendation: The matter of provision of social care for aging prisoners is resolved.**

13.6 Central to the prison's delivery of Safer Custody is its use of the Supporting Prisoners at Risk – SPAR - process to target additional interventions for prisoners presenting evidence of risk of depression, self-harm or thoughts of suicide or attempted suicide. Of the prison population of circa 820 around 20 prisoners are typically on a SPAR at any one time. It is important for the prison authority to impart clear leadership to establish that there is no acceptable level of self-harm within the prison and that staff do not trivialise incidents of self-harm by designating them as 'superficial' or 'just a scratch'. Due to pressures on other agencies working within the Prison Service, often the only attendees at a SPAR review are the Senior Officer, the prisoner and a member of the healthcare staff (where possible). The Safer Custody team has developed a new method of capturing and presenting statistics which can give a rolling comparison over the previous 12 months. In relation to the monitoring of prisoners under the SPAR process, IMB members have expressed concern at the low staff numbers on some landings. We have observed two staff, on occasions, running an entire wing and in addition to their other work, carrying out a number of 15 and 30 minute observations with all the associated recording. We would view such low staff numbers as a safety risk to both prisoners, and indeed staff. There is a daily review of the quality of SPAR recording and a review of closed SPARS by the PSST. The Board can confirm that the prison staff are candid in their identification of shortfalls in the SPAR process.

**Recommendation: Houses with a higher number of SPARs are adequately staffed.**

13.7 The Board has witnessed significant variations in the delivery and success of the SPAR Review process. One of the shortfalls is that they are often hurriedly convened when the relevant staff are available which can restrict IMB availability to attend. It can also be disorientating for prisoners to be brought to a review meeting at short notice when they are already at low ebb.

13.8 Members of the IMB been present at a number of the Strategic Safer Custody

meetings. Whilst there is a very good reporting format demonstrated by the statistical information available, the attendance has not been as high as desirable. A representative from IMB has tried to attend as many of the weekly PSST meetings as possible, and has reported an enhanced input from Healthcare, particularly with an identified staff member attending weekly. In addition, the input from landing staff is more comprehensive and the meeting is more outcomes focused. Members of the Chaplaincy attend, when they can, and there is normally a representative from AD:EPT. However, other disciplines rarely attend, although on occasions there are written submissions. It would be remiss of us as independent observers not to highlight both the lack of input and attendance from other disciplines. It is clear that the NIPS staff are taking the 'lead' role in working with prisoners who challenge services.

13.9 The Donard Centre is now the mental health team base. They run an Assessment Clinic on a daily basis and make referral to the various programmes which are being run. The leader of each group meets with the client before commencement to screen for suitability. While most of the courses are group based in exceptional cases they can work on a one-to-one basis. The courses run include Music, Well Man Clinic, Stress Management, Relaxation, Stress Pack (anxiety management), Reader Group, Mindfulness, Depression Management, Self-harm assessment, Reduction and Education (SHARE) Social Interaction Groups, Sensory Attachment Intervention, COOK IT programme, Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) and Gym class to build confidence to attend regular gym sessions. Action Mental Health and Positive Steps also attend to deliver their programmes. CRUSE bereavement counselling also continues to provide a service within the prison.

13.10 There have been two deaths in custody during the reporting year. IMB members attended cold debriefs in both cases of deaths in custody. In addition, there have been a number of 'near misses' during the reporting period and several individuals died post release. As all of the cases are subject to an investigation by the Prisoner Ombudsman, we cannot comment further. IMB members are aware of the impact of deaths in custody on the families of the individuals concerned, fellow prisoners and staff members.

13.11 IMB members have also attended a number of Serious Case Reviews during the

reporting period and have been impressed by the information sharing and the commitment by all present to support the individuals under review.

13.12 The Listener Programme is working well. The Listeners (all prisoners) are trained by the Samaritans and are a valuable asset to the Prison. It remains important to develop a 'pipeline' of suitable new applicants so there is sufficient support available in all parts of the prison.

13.13 The Drug Recovery Programme (a pilot programme with the aims of tackling and addressing problematic substance misuse while promoting goals for recovery, thereby reducing offending behaviour), was initiated in August 2014. This programme was very successful and has been evaluated and found to have achieved its aims. Unfortunately a second programme has not been put in place at the time of writing which is very disappointing both for the prisoners who would benefit from undertaking the programme, and the staff, all of whom were specially trained to work in the unit. However, in February, the Lagan Project commenced which is aimed at the reduction of prescribed medication.

**Recommendation: Funding is sought for the Drug Recovery Programme to run on a rolling basis.**

13.14 As independent monitors we can see on a regular basis, the effects of short staffing. The lack of stimulation increases low mood in prisoners and we are unhappy with prisoners having to eat all their meals in their cells - usually two in a cell - where there is a toilet. Prisoners have brought this issue to us, and have raised the question of hygiene. (This has been referred to in Section 3.)

13.15 As a Board we would commend the work done by the dedicated staff who form the Prisoner Safety and Support Team (PSST). We have been able to observe the skills of the PSST when dealing with highly troubled individuals. It is heartening to see the profile of PSST being raised in all areas of the Prison. We acknowledge the personal input of the team members and are aware that their case load is an ever increasing one.

**Recommendation: A programme of secondment for Senior Officers and/or Custody Staff is implemented so that a constructive and positive approach is**

**hardwired into their daily regime.**

#### **14. SEGREGATION – CARE AND SUPERVISION UNIT (CSU)**

14.1 The Care and supervision Unit (CSU) exists to hold prisoners apart from their normal location within the Prison, for a variety of reasons. For example, the placement under Prison Rule 32 (mainly for the good order and discipline within the prison, or for a prisoner's own safety based on security information), or following an award of cellular confinement through the Adjudication process. In addition to the 'accommodation' side of the CSU, all adjudications and Rule 32 Case Conferences are held there.

14.2 The United Nations standard Minimum Rules on the Treatment of Prisoners, (known as 'The Mandela Rules') define solitary confinement (under Rule 44) as:

*'For the purpose of these rules, solitary confinement shall refer to the confinement of prisoners for 22 hours or more a day without meaningful human contact. Prolonged solitary confinement shall refer to solitary confinement for a period of time in excess of 15 consecutive days.'*

14.3 In last year's annual report IMB made a recommendation that exit strategies be put in place to ensure that prisoners are kept in the CSU for as short a period as possible. We highlighted the lack of pathways from the CSU back to the general population. We are very pleased to report that our recommendations have been acted upon, and exit plans are now in place for those prisoners who have been in the CSU for more than 28 days. An Oversight Group has been established, which is multi-disciplinary, and an IMB member attends each meeting. Individual prisoners are discussed in this multi-disciplinary forum and exit strategies put in place. Copies of the Minutes are kept in the IMB office and this informs members who attend the Rule 32 reviews on the agreed plans for the way forward for individuals. The IMB member who attends the Oversight group has reported back the value of such a group. IMB members have noted, during both their weekly visit to each individual held in the CSU, and at Case Conferences, Serious Case Reviews and Prisoner Safety and Support meetings, that there has certainly been progression in a number of cases which had previously been at an impasse.

14.4 During the reporting period Rule 32 Case Conferences were held on 192 occasions, with a total number of 611 cases reviewed. IMB members attended on all but four occasions. However, in all cases where IMB have not been able to attend a case conference, the paperwork is closely scrutinised by the next IMB person on rota. The high number of Rule 32 case conferences has impacted on the relatively few members of the IMB in that as the attendance at Rule 32s is a statutory responsibility, this aspect of our function is being prioritised. This has reduced the amount of time for other aspects of the role.

14.5 During the reporting period a small number of individuals have engaged in the fouling of their cells. This has been managed under the Fecal Contamination policy with adherence to all the health and safety aspects, such as the use of protective clothing, regular deep cleaning of cells, and the necessity to shower before meeting with visitors, or personnel. There would appear to be no specific reason for such individuals to engage in such behaviour. IMB members have tried to discuss with such individuals the reason for their decision to act in such a manner, but there has been no engagement.

14.6 Efforts have been made to introduce a number of outlets for those long term prisoners who previously would have been restricted to the unit, with no options for association. Accompanied sessions in the gym and to other areas of the prison have been initiated, and have been successful. However, this limited regime has been introduced to a small number of prisoners and the greater number of prisoners in the CSU does not have a specific regime.

14.7 There have been very few complaints from prisoners within the CSU. A statutory requirement of our role is to visit each individual held in the CSU on a weekly basis. This has been met by a 100% visit rate. The type of complaint that we receive tends to be missing items when individuals are moved from one of the houses to the CSU, and is normally easily resolved by a phone call. Prisoners who are being held in, particularly, dry cells 'on suspicion' of having unauthorised articles in their possession will also complain. We are aware of cases where individuals have involved their legal advisers.

14.8 The firm stance by Maghaberry Prison management to reduce the supply and distribution of drugs within the site has resulted in a high number of prisoners being

stopped when entering the prison (following a period of home leave; compassionate leave, external appointments etc.) on suspicion of having items secreted on their person. It is becoming almost 'the norm' to detain such individuals under Rule 32, for 28 days, on suspicion of having unauthorised items. However, IMB members have felt on some occasions that the intelligence information is relatively limited and holding someone for 28 days is not warranted. Obviously IMB members are cognisant of the significant reduction in the amount of drugs reaching the landings, and applaud the prison for their proactive approach, however, we also will continue to scrutinise each individual case where individuals are being held 'on suspicion'. We are aware of the potential for a prisoner to take a Judicial Review and enjoin IMB. At one stage during the reporting period, the CSU was so full that there was no room for any prisoner awarded C.C. at adjudication. Occupancy continues to remain high.

14.9 Of concern to the Board is the amount of illegal drugs/prescription medication which some individuals are prepared to smuggle into the prison. There is anecdotal evidence to suggest that individuals are being bullied/intimidated/threatened to smuggle in prohibited items (including worrying small mobile phones); families on the 'outside' are being threatened in order to 'persuade' a family member to carry illegal substances; drug debts accrued in the prison are being settled 'outside'. Individual prisoners have told IMB members that they have refused home leave rather than face being 'persuaded' to bring unauthorised articles back into the prison. There would appear to be a link between some individuals who are, quite legally and correctly granted compassionate leave, for a variety of reasons (e.g. family issues; counselling sessions) and suspicions that they may have returned to Maghaberry with unauthorised articles, hence the move to keep such individuals in the CSU for a period. IMB members have tried to talk to individuals who have handed over unauthorised articles, about the risk to themselves by the methods used in secreting the items. However, although such individuals admit to being aware of the risks, they still feel, for whatever reason that the risk is worth taking.

**Recommendation: Glen House is brought into use to accommodate those prisoners who are longer term, and whose behaviour poses challenges**

14.10 IMB members have sat in on adjudications during the reporting period and have found all to have been conducted fairly, sensitively, and with a high degree of



professionalism. IMB are pleased to report that the number of adjudications have significantly reduced over the past few years as more of the minor infringements of rules have been dealt with by wing staff.

14.11 The CSU is managed by two experienced Senior Officers, who provide clear and consistent leadership to a very good staff team. The staff in the CSU have developed good relationships with the prisoners, particularly the more challenging individuals, which has resulted in positive outcomes for such prisoners. There have been many instances of good practice and staff 'going the extra mile' for prisoners which we cannot identify in this report, but would wish to acknowledge.

## **15. SEPARATED PRISONERS**

15.1 In 2003 the UK Government accepted the Steele Review recommendation that Republican and Loyalist prisoners with paramilitary affiliations should be accommodated separately from each other, and from the rest of the prisoner population on a voluntary basis within Maghaberry Prison.

15.2 The Board notes that separated Republican and Loyalist prisoners continue to benefit from a more stable regime than the remainder of the prison population. This can understandably cause friction and resentment with other prisoners. Staffing levels are always maintained in the separated wings sometimes to the detriment of the remainder of the prisoners even though the number of separated prisoners in both houses continues to decrease. It is particularly frustrating for the normal prison population on the other landings in Roe and Bush to see the disparity in the regime in two different sections of the same house.

15.3 Educational opportunities for separated prisoners have improved with Literacy, Numeracy, Employability, guitar lessons and arts and crafts available. Irish will also be available shortly and some prisoners are studying for their Open University Degree.

## **16. SPORT AND RECREATION**

16.1 Over the last year the sport and recreation facilities have continued to be used extensively by all prisoners. The Board commends the increase in these facilities with the building of additional football pitches some time ago. The gym facilities are also

excellent. There is also exercise equipment in some houses and an outdoor gym for Moyola.

16.2 The Sports and Recreation department provides a range of sessions, programmes and courses. The sessions include resistance training, cardiovascular training, circuit training, indoor cycling, badminton, bowls, indoor tennis, soccer and walking. Programmes include individual health appraisals, introduction to all aspects of training, power and speed development, remedial assessments /compensatory exercises, advice to fathers on their children's physical and nutritional needs, advice to inmates on their nutritional needs and wellbeing. Courses provided are Level 2 in fitness instructing, Manual Handling and First Aid.

16.3 The Board receives few complaints with regard to sport and recreation. This is due to the high quality of diverse programmes on offer, which are designed to cater for all inmates irrespective of age or fitness level. It is also a testament to the commitment of the PE staff.

16.4 In January 2017, PDU staff engaged with the Prince's Trust and the Belfast Community Sports Development Network. Within the prison, the Prince's Trust engaged with young men aged 18 to 24. Out of the 12 young men who participated in the programme, only 2 have since come back into custody. The Prisoner Development Unit has now secured future courses along with Belfast Community Sports Development Network (BCSDN) for men aged 18 - 40. The Health and Fitness Programme will consist of a number of learning outcomes. The participants complete portfolio evidence, a practical demonstration and a written assignment. The six-day course, being held over two weeks, consists of:

- the importance of fitness and how it contributes to a healthy lifestyle,
- identifying an activity for developing personal activity,
- outlining foods which promote personal help,
- planning a simple well balanced meal,
- understanding the importance of personal hygiene,
- creating a basic routine for maintaining good personal hygiene,
- heart start programme with a first aid certificate from British Heart Foundation,

- identifying a large range of contraception methods to promote safe sex and the implications of sexually transmitted diseases,
- three months of mentoring sessions within the community upon release which will lead to further programmes and job opportunities with designated agencies.

## **17. TUCK SHOP**

17.1 The tuck shop remains a crucial and integral part of the prisons operation. It provides prisoners with extra products of their choosing by way of a weekly delivery. The shop is well managed and carries a good range of stock items which is revised regularly to meet general prisoner requests and the needs of the foreign national prisoners with different religious and cultural needs. Additional seasonal food items are available at Christmas and Easter. The amount a prisoner can spend is determined by the regime they are on within the prison.

17.2 There is also a small tuck shop facility in Bann House to facilitate new committals. While it does not carry a large stock of goods it has items like flasks, basic additional food items such as confectionery, crisps and biscuits, toiletries and tobacco for prisoners who have just arrived into prison; these items are then charged to them.

17.3 Staffing in the facility currently includes eight prisoners who assemble orders. Prisoners employed in the shop enjoy the work and usually stay for a long time. The Board has said over the past few years that these prisoners would benefit from NVQ accredited training which could help them secure retail employment upon release.

**Recommendation: That NVQ accredited training is made available to those working in the tuck shop.**

17.4 As stated in previous reports prisoners feel that tuck shop prices are high and they have had the opportunity to bring this to the Prisoner Forum meetings for discussion. The Board has been advised that prices are subject to contract which is reviewed annually but continues to monitor the situation. Unfortunately a price rise is expected early in the next reporting year.

**Recommendation: That all goods in the tuck shop are priced competitively.**

17.5 All items are checked as thoroughly as is possible before they leave tuck shop

however, one issue that tuck shop staff have yet again brought to attention of the Board, is the significant amount of shortages between goods leaving tuck shop and being distributed on landings. This is an issue that needs to be resolved, possibly by better checks by landing staff.

**Recommendation: That distribution of tuck shop on landings is reviewed.**

17.6 One issue that gave cause for concern was the change in EU law from May 2017, although this was out of the control of NIPS. From May 2017 tobacco could no longer be sold in amounts under 30grams and cigarettes were no longer available in packs of ten. Prior to this, prisoners could buy tobacco in 12 ½ grams but new amounts put financial pressure on some prisoners who are managing on very small amounts of money each week. However the tuck shop staff have managed to source a replacement tobacco product within the standard earnings allowance. Reception also issued small amounts of tobacco for new committals and tuck shop now divide cigarettes into packs of 5 and heat seal them to accommodate this.

## **18. VISITS**

18.1 For those who lose their freedom, family ties are important and many studies have shown the value to prisoners of regular family visits. Several voluntary organisations support families' visits in various ways. Visits are held six days a week with several sessions per day. There are thirty-two tables in integrated visits, which can hold a maximum of three adults plus two children per table if full to capacity. Separated prisoners have their own visits area. This equates to a huge volume of visitors over the year.

18.2 For many coming to visit Maghaberry, transport can be a problem. NIACRO (supported by Probation Board for Northern Ireland) run a minibus service from Londonderry via Strabane to the prison on a Friday and Saturday although previously they ran from several areas but reduced funding has caused service to be reduced. Currently the prison also runs a free taxi pick-up service from the local train station to and from the prison on a twice daily basis.

18.3 A Family Support Officer is available at the reception area where families who have concerns or issues about their relative can talk to them in private. However, this is

now normally manned by only one person where formerly there were up to three staff and this puts pressure on staff member and limits their availability. Visitors can leave in money, cards, clothing etc. at the reception area, but there are times when it takes a considerable amount of time to reach the prisoner they are visiting. The Board has noticed over the past reporting year that there are increased complaints about the time taken for parcels to get from reception to prisoner, and also for personal belongings to get to reception when a prisoner is being released. The officer who should be on duty is often taken off to do other duties but this creates difficulties for prisoners who are frequently left without their own clothes for 5/6 days.

**Recommendation: The process of transferring items left at visits reception is reviewed to lessen the delay in a prisoner receiving them.**

18.4 All visits in Maghaberry now take place in the main visits area. The visits areas must strike a balance between facilitating families and the need for security. The Board have continued to notice an increased number of ‘passes’ of often significant amounts of illegal substances being caught over the past year, and recommend the vigilance of staff and also the joint NIPS/PSNI scheme with regard to prisoners and visitors being charged if detected. All visitors are subject to testing by a passive drug dog and at least three prison officers supervise the area. Despite the secure setting, the visitors’ arrival area endeavours to present a “family friendly” image and during the summer holiday period additional activities are organised for children. The Board is also aware that there are plans to look at the further at upgrading the visits area in the future

18.5 Child-centered visits operate throughout the year, enabling fathers and children to play in a supported, supervised manner and bond in a way that is not always possible during a normal visit. Since inception these visits have been jointly delivered by the Quaker Service, Barnardo’s and prison staff. For prisoners on the Family Focus landing, extended visits with their children are arranged on a monthly basis and held in the Donard Centre. These are made possible by the prison Visits team, Family Officers and the Quakers. This is an example of different organisations working together for the benefit of prisoners and their families and the Board commends these initiatives.

18.6 As detailed earlier in the annual report the Board is disappointed that the excellent support service at the visitor service formerly provided by the Quaker Service

is no longer available. This has had a huge impact on visitors to the prison, many of whom have travelled long distances, often with children. Hot food is no longer available, just sandwiches and snacks, and there is no longer transport to main gate which although not a huge distance can impact on the elderly, those with mobility problems and mothers with young children. This is especially noticeable in wet or wintry conditions.

**Recommendation: There is a review of service formerly provided by Quakers.**

18.7 While many prisoners receive regular visits from friends and family there are a significant number who serve their sentence with little or no contact with anyone outside. As previously mentioned the Quaker Service operates the “Quaker Connections” which provides visits to these prisoners.

18.8 In conclusion, the NIPS and the agencies and organisations which provide visit services should be commended for the help and support given to visitors on a daily basis.

## MAGHABERRY BOARD MEMBERS 1 APRIL 2017- 31 MARCH 2018

	<b>IMB Member</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Appointed</b>	<b>Resigned</b>
1.	Patrick McGonagle	Chair	20/05/13	
2.	Mary McMahon	Vice Chair	01/04/16	
3.	Phillip Lees	Resigned	02/07/10	06/12/2017
4.	Margaret McCauley	No change	05/07/10	
5.	Valerie McConnell	No change	05/07/10	
6.	Bernadette McCollum	Resigned	20/07/10	31/03/2018
7.	Andrew Heyes	No change	10/06/13	
8.	Lynn Nevin	No change	10/06/13	
9.	John Denvir	No change	01/04/16	
10.	Ian Hackney	No change	01/04/16	