



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

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## **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) Magilligan 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 Magilligan 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;
- 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 Magilligan 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 Magilligan Board.

As a result of the resignation of one long standing member and two others taking sabbatical breaks the work of the Board has been undertaken by a dedicated nucleus of five members. This has put considerable pressure on those remaining and it is to their credit that over 200 visits have been made to the prison. They have all demonstrated unstinting commitment to the role and I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to them. It is intended that there should be a recruitment campaign during 2018 which should ease the shortage of volunteers currently affecting the IMB across all three establishments.

In the autumn of this year we were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Governor Steve Davies, a former Magilligan Governing Governor. On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend sympathy to his family, friends and work colleagues.

Sadly, I have to record that there have been three prisoner deaths, two of which occurred whilst the prisoner was in custody and one who had been granted early release due to terminal illness. We wish to express our sympathy to each of these families.

Given the prevailing economic climate, it is unrealistic to expect that there will be a new build at Magilligan however, a 240 place accommodation block is planned and there has been some recent refurbishment of the prison estate. The programme of installation of in-cell sanitation is now complete and at last 'slopping out' is a thing of the past! Inevitably there has been some disruption as inmates have been moved to facilitate work on the buildings.

Each of the old house blocks now has one wing designated for a specific group of residents. H1 A & B accommodates prisoners being managed under Safer Custody, H2 A & B is devoted to older prisoners, H3 C & D to those who are vulnerable while

Halward House remains as the Committals landing. An exceptionally cold winter has occasioned a deluge of complaints regarding the archaic heating system in the H blocks. Moreover, persistent rainfall has resulted in large areas of the estate being under water for considerable periods of time.

A significant event this year was the unannounced inspection by the Criminal Justice Inspectorate Northern Ireland, (CJINI) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP), which took place from June 12<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The IMB contributed to this with both the Chair and Vice Chair being interviewed by a member of the inspection team. Overall, the outcome was extremely gratifying with the prison scoring highly in each of the four categories examined and the final report stated to be the most positive produced on a prison in Northern Ireland. However, there were areas which were identified as being in need of attention and many of the recommendations made echoed those contained in the IMB's 2016-17 Annual Report.

On several occasions the Board was requested to engage in consultations the first of these being the Northern Ireland Prison Service's (NIPS) document 'Prisons 2020' which focussed on ways to reduce re-offending. This was followed by consideration of the Visitor Experience in the prison and a review of the work of the Prisoner Development Unit (PDU).

Unusually for Magilligan, there has been a high level of staff absence due to sickness this year. An outbreak of flu coupled with injuries and long term illness contributed to serious understaffing and landings having to be locked.

The IMB monitors all aspects of the prison including making some visits during the evening and have raised concerns regarding the adequacy of Night Guard staffing given that any incident resulting in a prisoner having to be escorted to outside hospital greatly depletes the number of staff remaining. Constant changes to Governors' and Senior Officers' areas of responsibility have made it difficult to direct prisoners' requests to the person best able to provide assistance. Moreover the increase in provision of purposeful activity has resulted in fewer prisoners being present on the landings during weekdays so that IMB members find making rota visits at weekends to be more productive.

In common with prisons throughout the UK, the availability of both prescription and illegal drugs is a major concern. Despite intelligence led interceptions and increased drug testing considerable quantities still enter the prison. A number of 'near misses' have led to changes in the management of prisoners believed to be concealing substances internally. Individuals returning from Home Leave are often pressurised into bringing back illicit drugs and threats due to drug debts, are a major cause of prisoners being housed in the Care and Supervision Unit (CSU) for their own safety.

It is pleasing to report that there has been a significant reduction in the number of complaints relating to Healthcare. The incidence of prisoners with mental health issues has not reduced however and it is apparent that their needs cannot be addressed adequately within the prison environment. Both the mental health and addictions teams are severely stretched and waiting times for assessment have increased.

Magilligan prison is particularly strong in the relationships which staff have with the prisoners in their care. This was remarked upon by the Inspectorate and undoubtedly has been instrumental in avoiding the escalation of incidents on the landings. The Board wishes to record their appreciation of the willingness of staff to go the 'extra mile' and to thank them for the help and support they have given to members throughout the year.

In addition we would like to thank Governing Governors Treacy and Milling, Deputy Governor Hall and Governors of the various areas within the prison for their unfailing courtesy, co-operation and assistance.

Last, but by no means least, we are most grateful to the Secretariat for their guidance, support and friendship. We look forward to continue working with them in the year ahead.

*Anne Rowe*

Anne Rowe  
Chairperson IMB Magilligan

## **OVERVIEW OF ESTABLISHMENT**

A medium to low security prison, Magilligan holds a total of 431 (as of 31/03/2018) adult male prisoners - most of whom are serving twelve years or less although there are a small number who are life sentenced. The regime focuses on maintaining a balance between appropriate levels of security and prisoner safety, respect, engagement in constructive activity, and addressing offending behaviour leading to resettlement and a reduction in recidivism.

The prison estate is on the site of an army camp and a number of the original Nissan huts are still in existence. The majority of prisoners are housed in three H-Blocks each containing 100 cells divided into 4 landings of 25 cells each:

- House 1 comprises the R.I.S.E. Landing, on which prisoners have their own keys and B wing which accommodates prisoners who are being managed under Safer Custody. The C & D wings house prisoners from the general population. All three wings have in-cell sanitation.
- House 2 A and B wings are occupied by elderly prisoners and here all cells have wooden doors and the prisoners have their own keys. Wings C and D have in-cell toilets installed and accommodate prisoners from the general population.
- House 3 has in-cell sanitation on both wings. Landings A & B accommodate vulnerable prisoners whilst C & D house prisoners from the general population.
- Modern accommodation is provided in Halward House, which contains committals and Alpha where prisoners nearing the end of their sentence are accommodated with some being selected to move outside the wall to Foyleview.
- This is a low security semi-open unit which is comprised of a number of 'terrapins' (prefabricated modular buildings), only two of which are currently occupied due to asbestos having been found in the other buildings.
- There is also a separate Care and Supervision Unit (CSU).

Responsibility for prisoners' healthcare lies with the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (The Trust). Working in partnership with the Trust on-site drug and alcohol services for prisoners with addictions are provided by Alcohol and Drugs: Empowering People through Therapy (AD:EPT).



Education and Training is provided by the North West Regional College and library services by Libraries NI.

Various charitable and voluntary organisations maintain a presence on the site. CRUSE Bereavement Care supports prisoners dealing with bereavement issues, the Samaritans train prisoners who have volunteered to become Listeners, Barnardos provide family care and Housing Rights staff assist prisoners in obtaining benefits, housing and grants on release. The contract for providing support to families at the Visitors' Centre has passed from NIACRO to People Plus NI. Whilst this caused some minor problems initially it is now working well and accommodation has recently been refurbished.

Spiritual and religious matters are the remit of the Chaplaincy team who represent all the major denominations, facilitate the practise of all faiths within the prison community and provide support to prisoners and their families. Additional help is provided by the Prison Fellowship.

## **SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Board recommends that:

### **1. ACCOMMODATION**

- No recommendations

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

- A Drug and Alcohol reduction strategy is introduced ASAP.
- A Recovery Unit is established as a matter of priority.
- A venue is identified for the establishment of a Drop-in Centre able to house a number of helping organisations.

### **3. CATERING & KITCHENS**

- No recommendations

### **4. CHAPLAINCY**

- The Chaplains are invited to have input to consideration of Compassionate Temporary Release.
- All staff are made aware that it is of paramount importance that all prisoners who wish to attend a religious service is enabled to do so.

### **5. EDUCATION & TRAINING (PRISONER DEVELOPMENT & RESETTLEMENT)**

- Maintenance and continuation of all existing programmes and the continued development of the Sex Offender Treatment Programme facility.

### **6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY**

- Every effort should be made to widen membership of the Prisoners' Forum in order to ensure that all sections of the prison population are represented especially those from an ethnic background or who have a disability.

- Committee members are made aware of the importance of attending these meetings and of their responsibility in providing the required statistics.
- Underlying reasons for disparities in statistics should be further examined by 'drilling down' into the data.
- Prisoners in H2 C and D are provided with some additional facilities to provide some measure of equality of treatment.

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

- NIPS and Department of Health plan to resource adequately the social care needs of a growing population of elderly prisoners.
- Staffing levels for mental healthcare are increased as a matter of urgency.

## **8. LIBRARY**

- Library opening hours are extended to the weekend.
- The Big Book Share is re-instated.

## **9. RECEPTION & INDUCTION**

- No recommendations.

## **10. DOG SECTION**

- The Board recommend that accommodation for the dog handlers is provided adjacent to the dog compound as a matter of urgency.

## **11. SAFER CUSTODY**

- Training in the use of Restorative Justice is offered to more staff.
- The IMB who attended the 'death in custody' should be included in both hot and cold debriefs.

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

- A consistent method of communicating case reviews to IMB members be adopted and reviews scheduled for the same time each day
- That an area of the prison estate be established as a Drug Recovery Unit.
- To promote consistency of awards the adjudication of a group of prisoners charged with the same offence should be carried out by the same governor.
- Drug tests are carried out promptly.
- Accumulated periods of suspended cellular confinement (CC) should be split.

**13. SPORT & RECREATION**

- No recommendations.

**14. TUCK SHOP**

- No recommendations.

**15. VISITS**

- No recommendations.

## **1. ACCOMMODATION**

### **H1, H2 and H3 Blocks**

1.1 The accommodation in these three units provides capacity to house approximately 300 prisoners. Each block is comprised of two wings at either end with a central circulation space containing the entrance control, Senior Officer's office, medical station and interview/class rooms. The Board is pleased to report that all houses are now equipped with in-cell sanitation other than H2 A & B wings which accommodate older prisoners. These cells have wooden doors and prisoners have their own keys to enable free access to toilet facilities. However there remain significant problems with heating, windows require replacing and the external aspect is grim with much unnecessary razor wire. A programme of works to address some of these issues is planned in 2018/19 and the Board looks forward to its implementation.

1.2 In each block one side is dedicated to a particular group of inmates. H1 A wing has introduced the Regime Index Supervision Easement, (RISE) for enhanced prisoners who can have access to their own cells and have their own keys. They are also allowed free association in the evenings up to 10.30 pm. The B landing houses inmates who are managed under Safer Custody. H2 A & B house older prisoners i.e. those over 50 years of age, some of whom have mobility and healthcare issues. A Respite Room has been equipped with a hospital bed and showers are fitted with alarm buttons. In addition there is a small gym and a large dining room. Vulnerable prisoners are accommodated in H3 C & D wings.

### **Alpha House**

1.3 This is a more modern unit which provides accommodation for 25 prisoners in A wing and 50 in B wing, all of whom are nearing the end of their sentences and have to satisfy strict criteria in order to qualify for entry. Cells are replaced with rooms, prisoners have their own keys and there are communal dining, association and visits areas. The building is light, airy and immaculately clean throughout. There are plans to make Alpha the 'working-out' building as it is possible to isolate it from the rest of the prison estate rendering it a self-contained unit.

## **Halward House**

1.4 Constructed in 2008 this is the most modern accommodation on the prison estate and is where prisoners transferred from Maghaberry are housed initially. Standing as a separate two storey unit there is generous circulation space on each floor which allows for communal dining, recreation and association.

1.5 All cells have integral toilet facilities supplemented with communal showers on each landing. The ground floor can house 32 inmates with a further 28 on the first floor landing. Although it is preferable for these to be single occupancy, the unit can house up to 84 prisoners in total.

1.6 Both induction for newly arrived committals and a variety of education classes are held in this building. It also provides a safe cell which can be used for prisoners who have had a Supporting Prisoners at Risk (SPAR) booklet opened and require staff observation.

## **Foyleview**

1.7 This is a low security, semi-open 'working-out' facility situated within the prison compound but outside the main prison perimeter. It comprises an administration building and two terrapins which house 17 prisoners in single rooms. In addition there is a shower/toilet area and a kitchen. Three further terrapins are disused due to the discovery of asbestos in the buildings.

1.8 Whilst the terrapins are in an acceptable condition they are old and require updating to modern standards. There is a view that, once updated, these could be used to prepare prisoners for release.

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

2.1 The main recommendation of the 2017 Inspection Report was that there should be constituted a prison-wide drug and alcohol strategy with an associated action plan to address both supply reduction and support for prisoners. The Board would hope to see this implemented without delay.

**Recommendation: That a Drug and Alcohol reduction strategy be introduced ASAP.**

2.2 Working in partnership with The Trust, on site drug and alcohol services for prisoners with addictions are provided by Alcohol and Drugs: Empowering People through Therapy (AD:EPT). The AD:EPT team is under considerable pressure often resulting in lengthy waiting times for assessment and appointments. In addition to providing individual counselling members regularly attend Rule 32 extensions, SPAR case conferences and Safer Custody caseload reviews.

2.3 Despite frequent searches and both mandatory and random drug testing illicit substances continue to enter the prison. Whereas Cannabinoids would once have been the most common drugs detected, now prescription medication is indicated more frequently. There has also been a dramatic increase in the use of 'Legal Highs' which are extremely dangerous as their composition, strength and effect are often unknown.

2.4 Prisoners who wish to undertake a period of detox are initially accommodated in the CSU in order to ensure that they have no access to substances which may be available on their landing. Whilst this would not be the place of choice for this purpose there is no alternative at present and staff support is excellent. The provision of an outside gym, new therapy garden and an individual risk assessment which allows for the possibility of communal eating and exercise helps the inmate to withstand the effects of coming off drugs. Unfortunately there are frequent relapses when they return to the general population which illustrates the need for the establishment of a recovery unit.

**Recommendation: A Recovery Unit is established as a matter of priority.**

2.5 Bullying and threats of violence as a result of prisoners failing to bring back illegal substances while on Home Leave or incurring drug debts causes acute difficulties in relation to providing safe accommodation. Frequently such prisoners have to remain in the CSU for lengthy periods in order to ensure their own safety. Given that each of the three house blocks have one wing devoted to a specific group of inmates there are very few alternatives that can be considered.

2.6 Over Christmas 2017, H3 C and D wings were empty of prisoners having been fitted with in-cell sanitation. Prisoners scheduled to go on Christmas Home Leave were moved to this landing in order that they might leave from and return to it thus removing

the possibility of introducing illicit substances into the general population. This was a most successful strategy and caused a 'drug famine' over the holiday period. The Board suggests that attention be given to undertaking similar actions to reduce supply.

2.7 Currently the AD:EPT team are holding drop-in sessions in each of the houses in turn. A centralised Drop-in Centre has been discussed which would accommodate not only AD:EPT but also sessions with the Chaplains, CRUSE, Listeners and IMB but to date no suitable venues have been found.

**Recommendation: A venue is identified for the establishment of a Drop-in Centre able to house a number of helping organisations.**

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

3.1 The kitchen works to a very high standard and caters for up to 500 prisoners per day. The kitchen is always clean and tidy and all staff and prisoners are appropriately dressed. Everyone works well as a team and seem to enjoy their role within the kitchen.

3.2 The kitchen provides a varied menu cooked freshly everyday which caters for all prisoners regardless of religious, medical or cultural beliefs. No complaints have been raised to IMB in reference to the standard of the food. Level 2 awards in safety in catering and the principles of nutrition are offered within the kitchen. Prisoners who wish to undertake a level 3 qualification have been enabled to do so.

### **4. CHAPLAINCY**

4.1 The Chaplains provide valuable support to prisoners not only in the provision of religious services but also assistance with the resolution of personal issues. On occasion their willingness to accompany inmates to outside visits may facilitate attendance at funerals and other family affairs whilst their role as befrienders and counsellors is an important resource within the prison. The Board would recommend that Chaplains have input to consideration of Compassionate Temporary Release. (CTR).

**Recommendation: The Chaplains are invited to have input to consideration of Compassionate Temporary Release.**



4.2 The system by which prisoners 'sign up' for attendance at religious services requires review since inmates have stated that they have not been called to attend despite having indicated that they wished to do so. There has also been a continuing problem concerning prisoners' non-attendance at religious services due to staff shortages. Despite a Governor intervening in the matter the IMB is still receiving complaints with regard to this issue.

**Recommendation: All staff are made aware that it is of paramount importance that all prisoners who wish to attend a religious service is enabled to do so.**

4.3 A Board recommendation in the last Annual Report was that a dedicated space for inclusive worship should be established. This was reiterated in the 2017 Inspection Report (5.22) and was a repeated recommendation (2.10) from 2014.

4.4 It is disappointing that the pro rata resourcing of the Chaplaincy continues to disadvantage some groups and that this anomaly has not been addressed.

## **5. EDUCATION & TRAINING**

### **Prisoner Development**

5.1 Education & Training remains a major department in the life and work of the prison. All courses offer Level 2 as per the national quality framework. There is now a new full perspective with greater use of IT, and 12 to 14 hundred courses can be accredited in a year. All courses offer an accreditation.

5.2 It is hoped that a Hospitality course can be offered in the near future. This is currently not available - even to men working in the Coffee Dock and there are often jobs available in this area on the outside. The Board recommends that a teacher is hired to take a practical and theoretical course in hospitality work acknowledging that in the prison setting, this could not include the service of alcohol.

5.3 Lack of facilities and space in the department mean that the North West Institute which supplies all 22 staff, will not regard the department as a standard department of the college.

5.4 A further lack of potential is that a prisoner who transfers from Maghaberry, having registered on a course there, often Essential Skills which is literacy numeracy and IT cannot continue that course in Magilligan because the fee for that candidate has already been paid to Maghaberry. This needs to be rectified at an administrative level otherwise the aim of improving every student's education is undermined.

### **Resettlement**

5.5 The Prisoner Development Unit (PDU) and Resettlement Department involves co-working between prison staff, Probation Board for Northern Ireland personnel (PBNI) and the NIPS Psychology Department. Again, this year there have been staffing difficulties however despite these difficulties, this department has delivered the following programmes - Building Better Relationships; Domestic Violence Programme; Job Track; and Enhanced Thinking skills. HORIZON is a new programme that is devised to help those prisoners with deviant sexual behavioural traits examine that behaviour.

5.6 The Board is advised that staffing within PBNI is now at full compliment. This has helped PBNI place those prisoners with particular behaviours on the specific courses required to help them progress accordingly. PBNI are presently involved in helping prisoners with violent tendencies examine their behaviours and subsequent conduct.

**Recommendation: The Board recommends the maintenance and continuation of all existing programmes and the continued development of the Sex Offender Treatment Programme facility.**

## **6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY**

6.1 The Equality and Diversity committee has responsibility for ensuring that the prison complies with its obligations under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 by promoting equality of opportunity and eliminating discrimination. Chaired by the Deputy Governor and coordinated by a designated Senior Officer its membership is drawn from a number of officers at various levels and representatives from the Human Rights Commission, NIPS Headquarters, Probation Service, Criminal Justice Inspectorate, Healthcare and Chaplaincy. In addition there is a Prisoners' Forum comprised of representatives drawn from the general population whose input is extremely valuable. Unfortunately, despite the Board's recommendation in the last

Annual Report, still it has proven difficult to recruit members and currently expressions of interest are being sought in order to widen the representation.

**Recommendation: Every effort should be made to widen membership of the Prisoners' Forum in order to ensure that all sections of the prison population are represented especially those from an ethnic background or who have a disability.**

6.2 It is intended that meetings should be held monthly but it has been necessary to re-schedule on a number of occasions and, given the number of people involved, attendance has been variable. However a new Coordinator is now in place and participation has increased. The committee monitors statistical reports on complaints, drug testing, adjudications, use of force, searches, home leave, segregation and prisoner regime status. Availability of these reports is dependent upon the member of staff responsible for them providing the statistics in a timely manner which frequently is not the case. As a result the committee is unable to analyse the information to identify statistical deviations, trends or issues of concern and take appropriate action if required.

**Recommendation: Committee members are made aware of the importance of attending these meetings and of their responsibility in providing the required statistics.**

6.3 Whilst statistics are presented at each monthly meeting comparative figures are rarely provided resulting in insufficient information to facilitate longitudinal analysis and data should be extended to include all section 75 areas. There has been a good deal of publicity surrounding a perception of a disparity in outcomes for Catholic Nationalist prisoners. This has been particularly apparent when considering the number of Rule 32 and adjudication charges laid when compared to those awarded to prisoners of other religions. To date no conclusive evidence has been found to support any overt discrimination. Whilst the Inspection Report recommended that an independent external examination should be undertaken the Board would like some attention to be given to statistical 'drilling down' in order to better understand trends and anomalies.

**Recommendation: Underlying reasons for disparities in statistics should be further examined by 'drilling down' into the data.**

6.4 Equality training should be provided to all staff and offered to prisoners especially those involved in the Prisoner Forum.

6.5 At the conclusion of this reporting period there were six Foreign National prisoners in the prison population the majority of whom were Polish. Although much use is made of the Big Word Translation Service the Board is aware of a lack of understanding of the complaints procedure which needs to be rectified. Furthermore to date the IMB has not been informed of visits by the Home Office Immigration Service.

6.6 The prison accommodates an increasing number of elderly inmates, many of whom have disabilities and require day to day assistance. They are housed in H2 A and B wings and have been provided with a range of activities including a Men's shed, a garden with raised beds and an aviary. Whilst it is appropriate to provide stimulation to these inmates, given that many of them are relatively immobile, this provision has been perceived as unfair, preferential treatment by the prisoners in the C and D wings. The Board appreciates their complaint and would ask that attention is given to providing some facilities that would mitigate this situation.

**Recommendation: Prisoners in H2 C and D are provided with some additional facilities to provide some measure of equality of treatment.**

6.7 The Board will continue to monitor closely matters relating to Section 75 and promote the fair and equal treatment of all prisoners.

## **7. HEALTHCARE & MENTAL HEALTH**

7.1 Within the prison, Healthcare Services - including dental health, are provided under the auspices and management of Trust. Prisoners should be afforded the same standard of care in prison as they would receive outside, thus there are similar constraints on provision as exist in NHS services to the general public. Due to a reduction in the number of sessions provided by the prison, GP waiting times for appointments have increased and are now in the region of two to three weeks. However additional hours are being provided by a doctor from Maghaberry and, given the situation with regard to waiting times in the community, prisoners are not being overly disadvantaged.

7.2 Each house has a dedicated member of the nursing staff allocated to it which facilitates staff knowledge of an individual prisoner's medical conditions. Nurses triage

prisoners, referring to the GP as appropriate and administer 'supervised swallow' for those prisoners who are not able to manage their own medication.

7.3 The Board is pleased to report fewer complaints regarding the provision of healthcare during the period covered by this report. Due to patient confidentiality, it is very difficult for members to discuss the issues raised with staff but often they can be resolved at local nurse level and prisoners can be referred to the Patient and Client Council which, as an independent organisation, is a useful source of advice.

7.4 The majority of complaints received are concerning medication, mainly regarding reduction in prescriptions. Prior to entering prison many individuals have been used to significant over-prescribing of medication with long histories of drug use and resultant addiction. 'Safer Prescribing in Prisons' (Royal College of GPs,2011), sets out the policy adopted in prison to reduce supply, but often this results in raised levels of anxiety, self-harming and an increased likelihood of having to be placed on a SPAR in an attempt to obtain more medication. In cases where the GP suspects or knows that the prisoner is taking illegal drugs, it would be dangerous for further medication to be given. It is explained to the prisoner that the action being taken is for his own safety.

7.5 Following a serious incident in which a prisoner damaged his cell and was taken to outside hospital, a large quantity of pills - clearly seen on security photographs, appear to have been removed from the cell - despite it having been sealed as per protocol. Despite making extensive enquiries, the IMB has not be able to ascertain what happened to these pills which, we are assured, were not prescribed to the prisoner and therefore should not have been in his possession. We consider this to be a serious matter which has not been resolved to our satisfaction.

7.6 Attendance at outside hospital appointments has again caused some problems. Appointments have been missed due to a lack of escort staff and IMB members are aware of prisoners having new appointments made for them and subsequently refusing to attend.

7.7 Magilligan now holds an appreciable number of older prisoners accommodated in H2 A & B. These cells have wooden doors and inmates have keys which enable them

to come and go as they please. A Palliative/Advanced Care Room has been equipped to provide a suitable environment for prisoners who have multiple nursing requirements and a wide variety of activities has been introduced including, a Men's Shed, horticultural raised beds, music appreciation and armchair yoga. While nursing staff provide personal care where needed, a number of inmates act as assistants to individual elderly prisoners. The crisis in the community regarding the provision of social care to an aging population, is reflected similarly in the prison population and the Board recommends that the NIPS and the Department of Health make plans to allocate adequate financial resources to this area.

**Recommendation: That NIPS and Department of Health plan to adequately resource the social care needs of a growing population of elderly prisoners.**

7.8 Incidences of poor mental health continue to increase. The mental health team is completely overwhelmed by the volume of referrals and waiting lists for initial assessment are unacceptably long. The situation is especially acute at weekends when there is no member of the mental health team on site. According to the Senior Management, the waiting times and care provided in Magilligan mirror provision in the community. A psychiatrist visits once a fortnight but frequently there is a lengthy wait for a patient to be diagnosed and given appropriate treatment.

7.9 Although they make every effort to attend, increasingly healthcare staff are unable to be present at Rule 32 and SPAR case reviews. According to the Trust, healthcare staff make every effort to attend all case reviews when given prior notice. Often, the time is changed or the reviews are carried out last minute and due to pre-arranged clinics, staff are unable to attend. Whilst the Board fully realises the difficulty in recruiting psychiatric nurses, we feel that every effort should be made to increase the staffing levels in the prison.

**Recommendation: That staffing levels for mental healthcare are increased as a matter of urgency.**

7.10 The Board welcomes the introduction of therapeutic interventions in the form of 'Walk and Talk' sessions and the presence of therapy dogs.

## **8. LIBRARY**

8.1 The Library is situated close to Halward House, H1,2 and 3, is easily accessible and is staffed by an officer who has designated responsibility for its administration and day to day operation. A smaller facility is housed within Foyleview and the CSU. Each landing is allocated a dedicated day in the main library and, in addition, courses such as Literacy Support, Creative Writing and Essential Skills are also timetabled to use it. During 2017, 3,463 visits were made by prisoners and when attendance during classes is added to this a total of 8,289 visits were accommodated.

8.2 Stock is provided by Libraries NI and comprises over 3,000 books, plus CDs and DVDs. Borrowing entitlement ranges from two books for prisoners on basic regime, four items, (two CDs included), for standard and six items for enhanced which includes one DVD and two CDs at a time. Despite the recommendation made by the Board in the last Annual Report, opening hours have still not been extended to the weekend although prisoners are often allowed to borrow additional items for this period if they wish.

**Recommendation: Library opening hours are extended to the weekend.**

8.3 Prisoners are encouraged to become involved in educational projects such as submitting pieces of creative writing for the Koestler Award and producing articles for the prison magazine 'Inside Out'. It is disappointing that the Big Book Share, which enabled fathers to read and record an age appropriate story for their children, has been discontinued and the Board would recommend that this is reinstated.

**Recommendation: The Big Book Share is re-instated.**

8.4 Computer access is provided to prisoners who require it for their studies particularly for those undertaking OU courses. The Board has been made aware of a need for computer access to be widened especially since benefit applications must be made online. The provision of a number of electronic tablets is to be welcomed and newspapers are now accessible on these devices.

## **9. RECEPTION & INDUCTION**

9.1 Reception can feel under staffed during busy times partly because a member of reception staff has frequently to be deployed in drug-testing. This means on three days

a week, when there are only two staff in reception, only one officer is there to continue the work of the department. There can also be a lack of transport to take sorted bags of clothes to a prisoner's location leaving prisoners wondering what is happening with their belongings.

9.2 A further worry among some staff in reception is that the nominated senior officer for the department is one of the senior officers on duty in security. The dual role of the senior officer means that they rarely visit reception to check how things are or hear of any issues from the staff. Perhaps a monthly visit before the senior officers' management meeting would be useful thus allowing reception staff to feel more integrated into the management system and more valued as a team providing an essential prison process.

9.3 Details of clothing are now being recorded on PRISM in Maghaberry but this is not happening in Magilligan; this causes some difficulty. When the record of an individual's belongings is split between PRISM and paper files, swapped or stolen items become more difficult to trace. The Board has been informed that there are plans to extend this system to all property which is likely to cause even more difficulty.

9.4 During the course of this year, Induction was moved from its original location in the PDU to Halward House, as this became the initial accommodation for prisoners transferred from Maghaberry. Induction is now held in both locations.

9.5 Transferred prisoners receive a general induction on arrival at Halward and are provided with a comprehensive booklet which covers information relating to permitted clothing, items of bedding, regime, PREPS, communication, visits etc. Following this session, a further induction is held every Tuesday morning in the PDU. This lasts for two hours and opens with drug awareness/support delivered by AD:EPT, followed by a description of the education programmes available. Finally, a PowerPoint presentation reiterates much of the information previously provided, with more detail of the programmes and roles of Probation and Sentence Managers. Despite the majority of prisoners having already received an induction programme in Maghaberry, there are some differences in regime and rules in Magilligan which necessitates a 'Top Up'. However there does appear to be a great deal of repetition and prisoners often feel



overloaded with information. The provision of the booklet is a welcome addition to the process but does not help those inmates who find reading difficult. Those prisoners whose first language is not English, are provided with a translation. Ideally there would be more regular input from individuals representing the Chaplaincy, Barnardo's, NIACRO and IMB.

## **10. DOG SECTION**

10.1 The dog section is made up of three handlers and eight dogs. They undertake various searches within the prison which include prisoners going/returning from home leave, work parties returning back to prison, movement within the prison, visitors and intelligence-led searches.

10.2 Any complaints received from prisoners regarding searches have been investigated by an IMB member who accompanied the dog team on the search. Despite the recommendation in the last annual report, the dog handling team is still situated at considerable distance from the dog compound. Once again, the Board recommends that this is rectified ASAP.

**Recommendation: The Board recommend that accommodation for the dog handlers is provided adjacent to the dog compound as a matter of urgency.**

## **11. SAFER CUSTODY**

11.1 The Safer Custody Forum is the principle means by which the management of vulnerable individuals, incidences of self-harm, bullying, and poor mental health is monitored. Chaired by the Deputy Governor, it is coordinated by two designated Senior Officers and is comprised of members of the Safer Custody Team and representatives of the Samaritans, AD:EPT and CRUSE bereavement care. During the period under review, there has been some disruption to the pattern of bi-monthly meetings and attendance has been variable. However the Board is pleased to report that a Steering Group, comprising of staff from all three prisons, has been formed; this will work towards creating a model that will apply across the all three establishments. Forum meetings are interspersed with monthly Caseload Reviews to discuss all prisoners being managed under safer custody. During this reporting period, 34 inmates came under this umbrella.

11.2 Between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018, a total of 85 SPARS were opened and closed - a decrease of six on the last report. Self-harm, low mood and thoughts of suicide were the predominant reasons for opening a SPAR and the average time spent on one was 6.12 days - compared to 2.5 days last year. This increase may be attributed to a prisoner with severe mental health problems, remaining on a SPAR for 68 days for his own safety. Whenever possible, Board members have attended Case Reviews and Serious Case Reviews and have been impressed by the manner in which these have been conducted.

11.3 In the last Annual Report, the Board expressed concern regarding the SPAR process and recording procedure which, while providing 'keep safe' actions and documentation, did not examine the underlying issues. Our concerns were reiterated in the Inspection Report and consequently, a comprehensive review of SPARs is being undertaken. A triage approach will enable a risk assessment to be made; this should result in those prisoners manipulating the process, being supported to remain in their usual accommodation. Where an individual is assessed as being at serious risk, the option to move him to a safe cell will remain and there will be clearly identified roles and responsibilities for the provision of ongoing tailored support. The Board welcomes this initiative and will continue to monitor its progress and outcomes.

11.4 Regular monthly multi-agency review meetings for prisoners managed under Safer Custody are well attended and enable an inmate's specific issues to be addressed. Vulnerable prisoners are now accommodated in H1 B wing and Referral Assessment Criteria guidelines have been developed. Coordinated by a designated Senior Officer, each case is discussed and a personal development plan agreed. The prisoner is involved in this process with an eventual return to the general population being the ultimate aim; this has been achieved in a number of cases. This has been a very successful initiative and the Board is pleased that its recommendation that it should continue and be further developed, has been acted upon.

11.5 The Listeners continue to provide a valuable service to prisoners both through 'wing walks' and response to individual requests. A recurrent problem has been the difficulty in recruiting suitable prisoners and retaining them. At the time of writing there are ten Listeners and seven Samaritan volunteers supporting them.

11.6 In the last Annual Report, the Board called for the ‘Safer At Magilligan’ (SAM) anti-bullying process to be revised. Our concerns were echoed by the Inspection Report which recommended that there should be a prison-wide approach to tackling anti-social behaviour. Demands for drug debts to be repaid and prescription medication to be ‘handed over’, form the two most frequent reasons for bullying. Despite there being encouragement for prisoners to report bullying, they remain unwilling to do so. This is mainly due to the need to identify the perpetrators. A revised strategy has been introduced and an anti-bullying multi-discipline management board instituted whose co-ordinator can decide on procedure in individual cases. Patterns and trends in bullying incidents will be analysed and victims offered ongoing support. Reported incidents of bullying by staff are infrequent but are taken very seriously and thoroughly investigated. IMB members will monitor the outcomes of the revised strategy and will attend anti – bullying management boards as observers.

11.7 A number of staff have been trained in the use of Restorative Justice. The Board calls for this to be extended and that where appropriate, this technique should be adopted in preference to other anti-bullying procedures.

**Recommendation: Training in the use of Restorative Justice is offered to more staff.**

11.8 Paragraph 5.12 of the Inspection Report stated that recommendations from deaths in custody (DIC) reports should be implemented and that there should be a review mechanism to ensure changes in practice are embedded. Given this, it is disappointing that despite a member of the IMB having attended DICs, they were not included in either the hot or cold debrief.

**Recommendation: The member of the IMB attending DICs should be included in both hot and cold debriefs.**

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

12.1 Segregation is the restriction of association and prisoners may be removed from their usual location in the prison and housed in the Care and Supervision Unit (CSU) for a number of reasons. In general, these involve offences categorised under Prison Rule 32 - generally for the good order and discipline within the prison, or for their own safety. Cellular Confinement (CC) may also be awarded through the adjudication process for a

variety of reasons including, possession of unauthorised items, disobeying an order and damaging prison property. Members of the Board visit the CSU at least once a week and have a statutory obligation to ensure that, where a prisoner is detained under Rule 32, the process has been undertaken correctly and the paperwork generated signed to verify that this is so.

12.2 Members of the IMB must be informed when a prisoner is placed on a Rule 32 and are obliged to attend case reviews where an application for an extension to the period of segregation is sought. It is often the case that the IMB Secretariat is notified of a case review too late to be able to contact the member(s) on rota. Moreover, the time of case reviews is often changed at short notice and even when a member arrives at the CSU at the time notified, there may be a considerable delay before the review is started. This is extremely frustrating for members, and leads to much waste of time and inefficiency.

**Recommendation: A consistent method of communicating case reviews to IMB members be adopted and reviews scheduled for the same time each day.**

12.3 The Board is pleased to report that the CSU building has been refurbished as recommended in the last Annual Report. A programme of redecoration and furnishing of all cells is well underway. A new cell has been installed designed to deal with dirty protests and a property store for prisoners' belongings should alleviate missing property claims. The computer system in the medical room is to be upgraded and a Therapy Garden is being created for the use of prisoners undertaking drug detox.

12.4 Frequently prisoners are placed on Rule 32 for their own safety. Where an individual has enemies throughout the prison, it is not possible to accommodate him anywhere other than in the CSU. Segregation is not conducive to good mental health and prisoners placed on a Rule 32 should have an exit plan in place from the inception of their being placed in it. During the time covered by this report, the longest period spent in the CSU was 65 days and the average 9.52 days. The Board is concerned that this situation is occurring frequently and would ask that some alternative strategies are considered.

12.5 Increasingly the CSU is used to accommodate prisoners who wish to undertake a detox from drugs. Whilst this allows them to be removed from the general population and the availability of drugs on the landings, post detox there is often regression. In order to support prisoners who have a genuine wish to remain drug free there is a need for a Drug Recovery Unit to be established.

**Recommendation: That an area of the prison estate be established as a Drug Recovery Unit.**

12.6 Adjudication is the formal process for dealing with instances of alleged misconduct. During the period covered by this report, 732 adjudications were heard. The IMB attend these proceedings regularly and generally feel that the process has been followed and the decisions made are fair and reasonable. On occasion, members have been concerned as to the consistency of the awards made, especially on occasions where a number of prisoners were all charged with the same offence but received different awards. Several complaints were received from individuals who felt that they had been treated unfairly. On investigation, the IMB were informed that in some cases, a prisoner's previous record had been taken into consideration. The Board would recommend that where there are a number of inmates all being charged with the same offence, they should be adjudicated by the same governor to promote consistency in awards. This recommendation was also made in the last Annual Report.

**Recommendation: To promote consistency of awards the adjudication of a group of prisoners charged with the same offence should be carried out by the same governor.**

12.7 Failing a Mandatory Drug Tests (MDT) results in an automatic disciplinary award. This has resulted in an increase in adjudications and a backlog of cases to be heard. Due to staffing shortages, drug tests may be delayed for some time, especially those scheduled for the morning, and prisoners awaiting a test may be required to wait an unacceptably long time. This often causes them extreme discomfort and is not acceptable. The Board requests that attention is given to this matter and that drug tests are carried out promptly.

**Recommendation: Drug tests are carried out promptly.**

12.8 The Governor hearing adjudications may, on occasion, decide to suspend the implementation of an award of CC. In the event of a further charge, the original suspension should be implemented and added to any CCs awarded. As this might result in a lengthy stay in the CSU, the second charge may also be suspended. The Board suggests that a split period of CC be considered to avoid any build-up of CCs not served.

**Recommendation: That accumulated periods of suspended CCs should be split.**

12.9 Members of the IMB are often required to investigate a prisoner's account of an incident for which he believes he has been wrongfully charged. Depending on the nature of the offence, it is sometimes necessary for an IMB member to request to view CCTV footage in order to ascertain the validity of his assertion. Camera images throughout the prison are of variable quality and the Board would ask that there should be a check on both the technical quality and positioning of cameras across the prison estate.

12.10 Prisoners accommodated in the CSU tend to be extremely challenging. The Board wishes to compliment the regular staff on their professionalism in managing them and congratulates them on winning the Valuing People Award. Relationships between prisoners and staff are excellent and it is very rare for the IMB to receive complaints from inmates concerning their treatment.

### **13. SPORT AND RECREATION**

13.1 It is obvious to the IMB members that the Sport and Recreation Department is a well-organised and managed facility. The gym is open Monday to Friday from 8.30am until 7.00pm. There continues to be a wide range of activities for all prisoners depending upon their capabilities and mobility. Staff have advised that they operate a tailored range of activities for vulnerable prisoners - including sex offenders - separately from other inmates. It is evident that there are good relationships between prisoners and staff.

13.2 There are various activities available within Magilligan - and the other establishments. Examples of this include The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme - up to Silver award and the continuation of the 'Cycling in the Community' scheme.

13.3 One very positive initiative has been the introduction of the Magilligan Park Run which is open to all prisoners, irrespective of sentence or status. Northern Ireland's first Prison Park Run was established in Magilligan Prison at the start of this year with the first event taking place on Saturday 6th January (this is also the first of its kind in Ireland). There have now been regular Park Runs successfully completed at Lower Drummans, Magilligan, with both prisoners and staff volunteering to run each Saturday morning thus making this weekly event a success. At the last count, 120 participants had registered to join the group – including vulnerable and non-vulnerable prisoners. Staff would indicate that since the commencement of this activity, there has been a marked improvement in both the attitude & behaviour of the participants and the relationship between prisoners and staff. The Board is very keen that every effort is made to continue to resource the Park Runs.

#### **14. TUCK SHOP**

14.1 A wide variety of basic items are readily available, whilst other permissible goods can be sourced and ordered if there is a demand for them. Seasonal goods are available at Easter and Christmas.

14.2 The ordering and delivery system works extremely well and a good working relationship exists between the staff and orderlies. No complaints have been raised in this area.

#### **15. VISITS**

15.1 For those who lose their freedom, regular contact with family and friends is vitally important to future rehabilitation. Visits are held twice-daily, 5-6 days weekly.

15.2 The geographical location of Magilligan presents a challenge to many visitors. Those who don't come by car avail of the train - from where transport to the prison is laid on. Between April 2017 and March 2018, approximately 10,484 bookings were made resulting in 25,469 visitors. 8037 visitors of these were male, 12,623 were female, and 5809 children attended.

15.3 We are concerned at the reduction in the number and frequency of child-centred visits, due partly to the distinct lack of family-officers who appear to be deployed

elsewhere. Since these visits enable fathers and children to play and bond in a supervised setting - which may not be possible in a routine visit - it is important that they are held regularly.

15.4 Refurbishment of the exterior area between the gate and visits hall, the visits hall itself and also the visitors toilets, commenced earlier in the year and is most welcome. As we go to press, a new admittance system has begun whereby visitors are 'ticketed' when they arrive at the People Plus building and they can avail of refreshments and toilet facilities. This pilot-scheme shows great potential and although changes of any kind can take a while to bed-in, the previous issue of visitors queuing in inclement weather whilst unsheltered is eradicated. We commend the staff who oversee this new system, and also the staff employed by People Plus who play an invaluable role in liaising with the visitors and ensuring that the children are supervised in the very well-equipped play area. The good relationship between all staff and visitors is noted and we hope that this environment continues.



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

	<b>IMB Member</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Appointed</b>	<b>Resigned</b>
1.	Anne Rowe	Chair	13/06/2018	
2.	Paul Devlin	Vice Chair	29/06/2010	18/02/2018
3.	Diane Mackey	No change	20/05/2013	
4.	Margaret McCrory	No change	01/04/2016	
5.	Eithne McEnespie	No change	01/04/2016	
6.	Harry Montgomery	No change	01/04/2016	
7.	Tanya Quinn	No change	01/04/2016	
8.	Chris Ralph	No change	01/04/2016	