



**INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19
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) for Magilligan Prison who have served more than 3 years were appointed by the Justice Minister under Section 10 of the Prison Act (NI) 1953. New members to the Board were appointed by the Permanent Secretary to the Department of Justice.

The Board is required to:

- visit Magilligan regularly and report to 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 IMB 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 2018- 31 March 2019. For the purposes 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 two members taking sabbatical breaks, the Board has comprised of five dedicated members. Despite the considerable pressure this has caused, more than 200 visits have been made to the prison. The members have all demonstrated unstinting commitment to the role and I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to them.

A recruitment campaign was undertaken in the autumn of 2018. In the past, attrition levels have been quite high so, in an attempt to avoid this, the initial advertisement contained links to 4 videos in which current members described their role. Subsequently, all applicants who had been invited to interview were asked to spend a day in one of the prisons to give them an opportunity to experience the reality of being in a jail. Following this, those who were willing to continue with their application and who were successful at interview undertook an induction programme, developed jointly by the Department of Justice and the IMB, which gave a 'warts and all' description of the work involved. It remains to be seen whether this approach will result in more members remaining with the Boards, but it has received a resounding 'thumbs up' from the two who have joined the Magilligan team.

Sadly I have to record that there have been four deaths in custody over the last twelve months. On behalf of the Board, I would like to express our sympathy to each of these families.

In April 2018, Richard Taylor succeeded Gary Milling as Governing Governor, Dave Bowden became the Deputy Governor and Tracy Megrath became Head of Function Governor. There were also a number of Senior Officers (SOs) appointed on temporary promotion which resulted in a re-assignment of responsibilities and many moves of staff around the prison. For the Board, the effect of these changes has been the difficulty in knowing to whom prisoners' requests should be directed. Moreover, injuries, long term sickness and staff on restricted duties coupled with retirements have contributed to serious understaffing with landings often having to be locked and prisoners having certain activities curtailed.

Investment in the prison estate has resulted in a major upgrade of the entrance and reception area. The walkway to the main gate has been faced with wood, the control tower demolished and a large, circular reception desk installed. A business case for a 240 cell new-build has been completed and there are associated plans for independent living units, a welcome/visits centre, an energy hub and an administration building. More immediately, there is a scheduled improvement

to the water supply and the installation of a new electricity source and gas supply - the cost of which is to be shared with the Ministry of Defence.

A review of the Supporting People at Risk, (SPAR) process was piloted at Magilligan but will be extended to all three institutions. Known as SPAR Evolution, it is a more bespoke, person-centred approach and has reduced the number of prisoners manipulating SPARs in order to obtain moves to a different landing or to avoid adjudication. Coupled with it is a move to use technology to record interactions with prisoners on tablets rather than in booklets as at present.

With the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) individuals gained more control over their personal data; this had implications for the way in which IMB members obtained and stored their communications with prisoners. Privacy Notices were produced and issued to prisoners informing them of how and why their personal data was being used and informing them that they could have access to it if they wished. Board members ensured that only relevant and accurate information was logged and subsequently, all three Boards undertook an audit of document use, retention and disposal and agreed a consistent approach. The Executive Council has now incorporated this into policy.

The current structure of the IMB and Secretariat had not undergone a complete review for 10 years and the Executive Council felt that it was time to undertake a fresh one. Ian Kerr, from the Policing Policy and Strategy Division, was commissioned to conduct it and members of the Magilligan Board had input. The ensuing report was published in September and all but three recommendations were accepted, some of which have been implemented already and others are being taken forward.

In view of the importance of the contribution which the IMB makes to the UK National Prevention Mechanism (NPM) the Executive Council decided to establish a working-group with responsibility for providing evidence to the NPM Annual Report, input to business meetings and involvement in thematic research. By highlighting issues encountered in their monitoring work, Board members provided information to the sixth periodic review of the UK's progress in implementing the Convention against Torture.

During this year there have been a number of inspections. Both the Board Chair and Vice Chair were interviewed during the Safety Thematic inspection during which concerns regarding the adequacy of Night Guard staffing were re-iterated. Resettlement is a key element in reducing the risk of re-offending and the report of the Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland's (CIJNI) inspection stated that there was much to applaud in the work undertaken to provide effective services to support rehabilitation.

Magilligan's strength has always lain in the excellent relationships between staff and prisoners. The 2017/18 report noted a decline in this which has continued during this reporting period. Staff absence has been consistently high and morale is generally very low. Despite several significant intelligence-led interceptions, significant amounts of drugs are still entering the prison. With the reduction in the number of prisoners receiving their medication via supervised swallow, there are larger quantities of prescription drugs circulating on the landings leading to an inevitable rise in bullying and intimidation. There is also a need to make provision for prisoners who have undertaken detoxification only to be returned to the general population where they frequently relapse.

The Board is pleased to report that the reduction in complaints relating to Healthcare has been maintained but the incidence of prisoners with mental health issues has increased and it is increasingly apparent that their needs cannot be addressed within the prison environment. Both the mental health and addictions teams are severely stretched with increased waiting times for assessment and treatment.

More positively, the introduction of animal therapy has been extremely beneficial for many of the most vulnerable prisoners. A small flock of rare breed sheep have joined the pygmy goats and Tom, the donkey. There are a considerable number of hens, some Indian Runner ducks, rabbits and a ferret. An Assist Labrador has been purchased and The Dogs Trust who have organised 'Taking the Lead' classes which engage learners in understanding canine behaviour & care and encourage responsibility. The ability of dogs to show unconditional affection to men who have never experienced this has the potential to be life-changing.

Moreover, involvement in sporting activities has an important role to play in rehabilitation. Saturday's Park Run goes from strength to strength and cycling proficiency has proven to be very popular.

Finally the Board would like to thank Governing Governor Richard Taylor, Deputy Governor Dave Bowden and Governors of the various areas within the prison for their co-operation, courtesy and assistance. In addition members are most grateful to the Secretariat for their guidance, support and friendship and look forward to continue working with them in the year ahead.

Anne Rowe

IMB Magilligan Chairperson

OVERVIEW OF ESTABLISHMENT

Magilligan is a medium to low security prison and as of 31/03/2019 holds a total of 464 adult male prisoners - the majority of whom are serving six years or less although there are 36 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 was first opened in August 1971 as a detention facility during the introduction of internment. Detainees were held in Nissan huts - a number of which are still in existence and are now used as workshops and classrooms. The majority of prisoners are housed in three H-Blocks, each containing 100 cells, divided into four landings of 25 cells each. There has been a considerable amount of refurbishment of these blocks during the past year. In-cell sanitation has been installed throughout and a programme of fitting double glazed windows commenced. Much of the razor wire and sheeting encircling the outside of the buildings has been removed and both external and internal painting has greatly improved the overall environment.

Modern accommodation is provided in Halward House, a two storey unit with shared cells which houses new committals. Those prisoners nearing the end of their sentence are accommodated in Alpha which comprises 50 single rooms and acts as a preparation for selection to move outside the wall to Foyleview. This is a low security semi-open unit which is comprised of a number of terrapins - only two of which are currently occupied due to asbestos having been found in the other buildings. As preparation for release, residents work in a variety of organisations in the community or within the prison in activities requiring low supervision. They are also able to avail of weekend home leave and town visits.

A separate Care and Supervision Unit (CSU) provides the location for adjudications and other aspects of the disciplinary process. There are 18 cells and a Sensory Garden which provides a therapeutic area for prisoners with mental health and addiction issues.

The Prisoner Development Unit (PDU) houses multi-agencies involved in sentence management and resettlement. In conjunction with partner agencies, a number of programmes are delivered aimed at reducing the likelihood of re-offending.

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 NI Libraries.

Various charitable and voluntary organisations maintain a presence on the site. CRUSE Bereavement Care supports prisoners dealing with bereavement issues and the Samaritans train prisoners who have volunteered to become Listeners. Barnardo's 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 Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NIACRO) to People Plus who organise a bus service from Belfast to Magilligan on Wednesdays and Fridays, and a minibus to meet trains at Bellerena station.

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.

POINTS OF CONCERN / RECOMMENDATIONS

1. ACCOMMODATION

H1, H2 and H3 Blocks

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 and that a programme of refurbishment is being undertaken to replace windows, upgrade heating and improve the exterior of the building.

In each block, one side is dedicated to a particular group of prisoners whilst the other houses prisoners from the general population. H1 A wing comprises the Regime Index Supervision Easement (RISE) landing for enhanced prisoners who have their own keys. B wing - renamed the Murlough Wing - accommodates prisoners who are managed under Safer Custody. H2 A & B wings, 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 the 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

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, gym and visits areas. The building is light, airy and immaculately clean throughout. There are plans to make this 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

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.

All cells in Halward 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.

There are interview and classrooms on each floor 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 SPAR opened and require staff observation.

Foyleview

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. Whilst there has been some refurbishment of the terrapins, they still require considerable updating to bring them up to modern standards.

2. ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Both the 2016/17 and 2017/18 Annual Reports and 2017 CJINI Report recommended that there should be a prison-wide drug and alcohol strategy with an associated action plan to address both supply reduction and support for prisoners. Currently a review of the strategy is ongoing and the existing document is under review.

Recommendation: The Drug and Alcohol Strategy be implemented without further delay.

Despite frequent searches and both random and mandatory drug testing illicit substances continue to enter the prison. The vigilance of staff in visits has led to regular interception of drugs 'passes' and there have been successful intelligence led seizures. However the Board is concerned that staff, visitors, delivery personnel and contractors are not automatically searched on entry to the prison.

The majority of prisoners now receive their medication for self-administration with a minority still having it dispensed by supervised swallow. Whilst this is a sensible step in preparation for leaving the prison and having to manage their own medication, it has caused an increase in the number of prescription drugs available on the landings. In February 2019, the Board were made aware of prisoners being reluctant to move to the RISE landing due it being 'rife with prescription medication' and being pressurised to 'hand over their prescriptions.

Throughout the year adjudication statistics consistently show that presence of drugs and possession of unauthorised articles account for the highest number of individual charges and that an increase in prisoners refusing to undertake a drug test is due to the possibility that a fail might lead to the withdrawal of the medication. Whereas Cannabinoids used to be the most common drugs detected, the results of drug testing indicate that the most common drugs now are

Buparmorphine, Benzodiazepine, Pregabalin, Tramadol and Gabapentin. However in the period covered by this report, there has been a decrease in the use of 'Legal Highs'.

The AD:EPT team work in partnership with The Trust to provide on-site drug and alcohol addiction services to prisoners. Current staffing of two full-time and two part-time members is supplemented by eight prisoners acting as mentors. Waiting times for assessment and appointments can be lengthy. In addition to providing counselling, and a number of harm reduction/building skills for recovery courses members of the team attend Rule 32 extension conferences and SPAR and Safer Custody case reviews when required.

The Board is pleased to report that the recommendation to establish a Drop-In Centre to accommodate AD:EPT, mental health staff and other helping organisations has been acted upon and a new Mental Health Wellness Hub has been established which provides interview rooms and a larger space for group sessions.

Prisoners who are selected for the Methadone programme or 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. This would not be the place of choice for this purpose but there is no alternative at present. Staff support is excellent. An outside gym and a therapy garden provide distraction and an individual risk assessment allows for the possibility of communal eating and exercise. Whilst prisoners can do well when in the CSU, there are often relapses when they return to the general population. Once again, the Board reiterates its recommendation that a recovery unit be established.

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

Prisoners who fail to bring back illegal substances while out on home leave or who incur drug debts, are often intimidated and threatened with violence which may be extended to their family members. Providing safe accommodation for these prisoners is difficult especially since the three main house blocks all have one wing devoted to a specific group. With few alternatives, the CSU is the only place in which their safety can be ensured and they may have to remain there for lengthy periods. The Board would recommend that consideration be given to reconfiguring the three house blocks to provide more options for accommodation.

Recommendation: The configuration of the three house blocks is reconsidered to provide more options for accommodating prisoners in the general population.

3. CATERING AND KITCHENS

The kitchen provides a varied menu, cooked freshly every day, which caters for all prisoners - regardless of religion, medical or cultural beliefs. No complaints have been raised to the Board in reference of the standard of food. However, there have been some issues in reference of portion sizes. Portions are standard within the prison and prisoners are able to purchase food items from the tuck shop if required.

4. CHAPLAINCY

There are 5 chaplains within the prison at present, and all religions are catered for except for those who follow the Muslim faith. We welcome the fact that a search for a Muslim cleric is underway. We have very grave concerns that, in recent times, lock-ups are still happening despite reassurances from Senior Management that all prisoners would have full access to their religious services on a weekly basis. Due to staff shortages one area of the prison had no services for 3 weeks and on at least one occasion a member of the clergy, despite giving advance notice of his arrival, and travelling a distance, was unable to conduct his service upon arrival, due to lock-ups. This is a serious matter and one of which we take a dim view.

5. EDUCATION AND TRAINING (PRISONER DEVELOPMENT & RESETTLEMENT)

The Education Department continues to thrive with 165 places available every day. There are 24 full and part-time teaching staff and 50 accredited courses offered at level two or higher, including a new course in the Irish language. Most staff are trained to be able to teach at level 4 or 5 in all subjects.

The Education Department is still not regarded by the North West Regional College as a standard department of the college, despite often achieving better than average student results. A current plan to expand into the old Sperrin building will provide new opportunities and some alleviation of the College's concerns. It is hoped that new courses in barbering and catering/hospitality will also contribute to this development.

Skills workshops are popular and well attended. Employment festivals, frequented by local employers, will help increase employment prospects for men upon their release.

There are regular presentation awards ceremonies to acknowledge the achievements made by prisoners. These provide a genuine boost for those prisoners involved and their families and should continue as often as is practicable.

There is a current anomaly that means prisoners who could benefit from essential skills training

cannot be offered this in Magilligan because they had originally registered in Maghaberry. The fees have already been paid to the Education Department in Maghaberry for them to attend and, for whatever reason, cannot be transferred to Magilligan. This means not only do these prisoners miss out on learning but Maghaberry Prison benefits financially.

Recommendation: The fees irregularity is rectified at the highest administrative level.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

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 SO, its membership is drawn from a number of officers at various levels who report on the areas of adjudications, segregation, control and restraint, home leave, drug testing and complaints. Representatives from Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) Headquarters, PDU and the Trust also have a role to play.

There is a Prisoners' Forum, comprised of representatives drawn from the general prisoner population, whose input is extremely valuable. The Board would recommend that membership of this forum should be widened to ensure that all sections of the population are represented. Initially, this forum had a significant number of prisoners, including a foreign national, but as the year has progressed, several prisoners have ceased to attend. House 2 is now the only residential accommodation with a Prisoners' Forum that meets on a regular basis. The Board is of the opinion that it is important that forums are constituted in each house and that the prisoners meet at least monthly. From these meetings, a representative can then be mandated to attend the Equality and Diversity meetings. In order to encourage prisoners to establish the forums, they could be timetabled to meet at weekends where there is less pressure on time, staff and prisoners. Individual representatives to the Equality and Diversity committee could be allowed to meet together prior to the monthly meeting. It has been suggested that the House SO also attends. The Board would also recommend that some incentive be offered to prisoners who agree to be members of a forum and contribute to it.

Recommendation: Prisoner Forums should be established in each house and timetabled to meet on a monthly basis. Consideration should be given to providing an incentive to prisoners who volunteer to become members of the Forum and contribute to it.

The Board is pleased to report that statistics required for the Equality and Diversity Committee meetings are now being produced in a timely manner and formats which enable disparities to be identified clearly.

Monthly statistics provided to the Committee are analysed and any disparities discussed at the

meeting and investigated if necessary. There has been publicity surrounding a perception of a disparity in outcomes for Roman Catholic prisoners, which is consistent with the other two establishments. All statistics are carefully examined under the headings of Religion, Race and Age and, to date, no conclusive evidence has been found to support any overt discrimination. In response to a recommendation in the CJINI report of 2017 that an independent external examination be undertaken, there have been two recent fact-finding exercises - neither of which identified any obvious issues which need to be addressed. The Equality and Diversity Committee has made the decision to continue to 'drill down' into the data but also to concentrate on more comparative statistics, and any comparisons between the three institutions, and focus on the promotion of instances of positive diversity.

Magilligan Prison accommodates an increasing number of elderly prisoners many of whom are immobile or have disabilities and require assistance. They are housed in H2 A and B landings and have been provided with a range of activities including a Men's Shed, a garden with raised beds, hens and an aviary. They have also received cookery lessons and are allocated a budget to purchase their own food and cook it themselves. Whilst this is an example of good practise for this group who need stimulation, the provision has been perceived as unfair preferential treatment by the prisoners in H2 C and D wings and prisoners in other houses. The Board appreciates these complaints and, despite the reasons for the provision to the elderly prisoners being made clear to the rest of the general population, it has not decreased the resentment. In the last Annual Report the Board recommended that attention was given to providing some facilities to mitigate this and are repeating this recommendation.

Recommendation: Prisoners are provided with some additional facilities to provide some measure of equality of treatment as those in H2 A and B.

Currently there is no record of the number of prisoners with a disability within the prison; this information is generally recorded on a self-disclosure basis. The Board has been made aware of problems regarding access to facilities in H3 and, whilst a decision has been made to equip all areas to an acceptable standard throughout the prison, at present needs have to be met on an individual basis. The Board recommends that a survey should be conducted to allow prisoners to disclose a disability in order to prioritise what adjustments need to be made.

Recommendation: Prisoners should be surveyed to ascertain the number and nature of disabilities in the prison population.

Complaints submitted by prisoners are collated by the Night Guard and a summary is provided to the Equality and Diversity Forum. Missing property, problems with accommodation, frequent lock-ups, bullying for medication and issues with staff are most frequently cited. The Board has been made aware of prisoners' dissatisfaction with the complaints procedure, in particular with

complaints not being investigated within the stated time frames and not taken seriously. There is also a need for the complaints boxes to be sited away from areas where they are clearly visible to staff. The Board understands that a review of the complaints procedure is to be undertaken.

Recommendation: A comprehensive review of the complaints procedure is completed without delay.

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

7. HEALTHCARE AND MENTAL HEALTH

Healthcare services, including dental health, are provided under the auspices and management of the Trust. People in custody should be afforded the same standard of care in prison as they would receive in the community and the Board is satisfied that this service is being delivered. There are similar constraints on provision as exist in Health and Social Care (HSC) services to the general public, e.g. waiting times for an appointment with the GP being in the region of three weeks.

Each house is allocated a member of nursing staff. This aims to provide continuity of care and facilitates staff knowledge of an individual's medical conditions. Nurses triage health care requests, referring them to a GP as appropriate, and administer medication, including 'supervised swallow', for those deemed at risk of self-harm and/or who are unable to manage their own medication. The regional shortage of nursing staff across Northern Ireland continues to be felt within the prison. Many of the nurses are bank staff. There have been a number of attempts to recruit nursing staff including attendance at a Health Fair, but to date these have been largely unsuccessful. The attractive terms offered by some agencies may be having an impact on the ability to recruit permanent staff.

The Healthcare Manager attends the monthly Board meetings on a quarterly basis, unless there are specific issues that require her to be present more often. During the period covered by this report, there have been few complaints regarding healthcare and the majority of those complaints tend to concern reduction in prescribed medication, especially in relation to painkillers. Medication prescribed by the doctor in Maghaberry may be reviewed when the person is moved to Magilligan. Moreover, in cases where the GP suspects or knows that the person is taking illegal drugs, it would be dangerous for further medication to be given. It is explained to the patient that this action is being taken for his own safety.

Where a person in custody raises an issue relating to their healthcare with the Board, patient confidentiality means that, whilst the issue can be passed with the consent of the person, there are limitations on what information Healthcare staff can share with the Board member. However,

resolution can often be achieved by informing the House Nurse or, in more intractable cases, the Patient and Client Council, which can provide advice as an independent organisation.

The crisis in the community regarding the provision of social care to an aging population is reflected similarly in the prison population. Magilligan prison has 44 prisoners between the ages of 51 to 60 and 32 over 60 (March 31st 2019) - many of whom have complex medical conditions. In the 2017/18 Annual Report, it was recommended that NIPS and the Department of Health address the resourcing of the social care needs of these prisoners. The Board reiterates this recommendation.

Recommendation : that NIPS and the Department of Health address the resourcing of the social care needs of these prisoners.

The prison population with mental health issues continues to increase year on year with more individuals presenting with complex needs and problems. At times demand outstrips capacity in the mental health team with the volume of referrals. Lengthy waiting times mirror provision in the community and although, at one point, waiting lists for initial assessment were unacceptably long this has been resolved. A psychiatrist visits once a fortnight but frequently there can be a lengthy wait for a patient to be diagnosed and offered the appropriate psychiatric treatment plan. In the interim the patient is managed by the GP.

Although they make every effort to attend, it is not possible for a member of the mental health care team to be present at all Rule 32, SPAR and Safer Custody case reviews. This is unfortunate as their professional input is important in contributing to the optimum outcomes for the person in custody.

The Board welcomes the provision of the Mental Health Wellbeing Hub which provides the mental health team with a base for their work and the clients a place for the provision of therapeutic interventions.

8. LIBRARY

The library is situated close to Halward House, H1, H2 and H3. It is easily accessible for all prisoners and is staffed by an officer who has the designated responsibility for the running of this area. Stock is provided by Libraries NI. During the course of this reporting year, the library had 4003 visits by prisoners. It accommodates courses associated with the Open University, creative writing and also has music classes.

Prisoners on basic regime are allowed to borrow two books, standard prisoners are allowed to borrow four books and enhanced prisoners are allowed to borrow six books. Despite the Board's

recommendation that The Big Book Share be reinstated, this has not happened.

The Board has been made aware of the need for computer access to be widened - especially since a lot of benefit applications are now made online.

9. RECEPTION AND INDUCTION

RECEPTION

The Reception area continues to feel routinely under staffed, particularly as one of the three officers based there is the main, nominated drug test operative and as two officers must be present at every drug test; this leaves only one officer to continue the work of sorting and storing prisoner's clothes.

There can often be a delay in transporting belongings from reception to the prisoner; this leaves prisoners short of the items which they need and causes anxiety that they may be lost.

Recommendation: When items are ready to be delivered, it should be a priority that they are delivered to the prisoner within half a day.

Although the Oscar 1 Duty Manager visits daily, Reception staff have very little contact with their over-riding SO - one of the SOs on duty in Security Section. The Board is of the opinion that if the Security SO called into reception at least once a month - perhaps a day or two before the monthly SO meeting, it would help morale in reception. The team of officers in reception work to log all prisoners' property on to the PRISM system. Consequently, property records for new admissions are available on PRISM, but records for more long-standing prisoners are still kept in writing. The task of transferring these written records onto PRSIM is a time consuming and sometimes complicated task. The Board thinks consideration should be given to an admin person to carry out this task for a stated number of hours each week.

INDUCTION

This important and valuable intake procedure provides new inmates with valuable knowledge regarding their new circumstances. Induction programmes include: AD:EPT, Gym Induction, Educational Assessment, Samaritan access, and Chaplaincy practices. The Board are very keen that its services are explained to all new inmates and would recommend that IMB contact details are made clearly available.

10. DOG SECTION

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

The total number of searches carried out between April 2018 - March 2019 is 4,868.

Despite a recommendation in last year's annual report, the dog handling team is still situated a considerable distance from the dog compound. The Board again would recommend this is rectified.

Recommendation: Accommodation for handlers is provided adjacent to the dog compound.

11. SAFER CUSTODY

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. Jointly chaired by the Deputy Governor and Head of Prisoner Well-being, it is co-ordinated by an SO and comprises members of the Safer Custody Team, CSU, Healthcare, PDU and representatives of the Samaritans, AD:EPT and CRUSE Bereavement Care. Meetings are held monthly, interspersed with bi-monthly reviews of prisoners managed under Safer Custody. The group of prisoners trained by the Samaritans as Listeners attend the start of the Forum meeting.

Magilligan prison was chosen to trial the complete revision of the SPAR process, renamed SPAR Evolution. This has reduced significantly the number of prisoners using a SPAR as a manipulative tool. Prisoners are triaged and risk assessed to ascertain what action should be taken. Often, a petition of concern followed up by a number of meaningful conversations, provides an individualised approach which negates the need to move the prisoner from his landing and place him in a safe cell under camera.

During this reporting year, a total of 98 SPARS were opened and closed and the average time that a prisoner was on a SPAR was 4.95 days. This is higher than the 2017/18 statistics which showed 85 SPARS opened and closed but the average time spent on a SPAR was reduced from 6.12 days. Self-harm and low mood were the predominant reasons for opening a SPAR. Since the introduction of SPAR Evolution, SPARS have been reduced by 30%. Concern forms have been found to be very beneficial and in designing the process, a major element was the introduction of support mechanisms which address the root cause of the crisis and focus on care planning.

Regular bi-monthly, multi-agency review meetings for prisoners managed under Safer Custody are well attended and enable an individual's issues to be addressed. Co-ordinated by a designated SO, 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. Each prisoner has a key worker assigned to him. H1 B wing has been renamed the Murlough Wing and during September, the Murlough therapy room was opened; this provides a range of activities for vulnerable prisoners. The Board is pleased that its recommendation that this initiative should continue and be developed, has been acted upon.

The Listeners continue to provide a valuable service to prisoners. By March 2019, there were five listeners and a programme of training scheduled to begin in April. Over the reporting year, there have been 58 call-outs - the majority of calls being in relation to family issues, bereavements, self-harming, isolation and mental health. There are Listeners based in H1 and H2 and they can move to any location within the wall. Weekend drop-in sessions have proven to be very popular. Foyleview still has no night cover, but a mobile phone is available if any resident needs to speak to the Samaritans. This arrangement also pertains to the CSU. On occasion, Listeners have reported concerns to prison staff, but there have not been any subsequent follow-up actions taken. This is concerning and the Board would like this to be addressed.

Recommendation: Concerns reported by Listeners to staff are formally recorded and actioned.

In the last two Annual Reports, the Board has called for the 'Safer at Magilligan' (SAM) anti-bullying process to be revised. Whilst the policy has now been reviewed, there remains reticence on the part of the victims to name the perpetrator, which leads to a subsequent withdrawal of the complaint. Work has been undertaken on the use of restorative justice and an anti-bullying, multi-discipline management board analyses patterns and trends in bullying. It then decides on the most appropriate procedure in individual cases and offers victims ongoing support. Focus centres on individuals presenting with anti-social and challenging behaviour which, in turn, managers must challenge. Reported incidents of bullying by staff are infrequent but are taken seriously and investigated thoroughly. The Board will continue to monitor the SAM process.

Despite the recommendation that a member of the Board should attend hot and cold debriefs following serious incidents or Deaths in Custody, members have only been notified on one occasion. This is disappointing given that there are recommendations from Death in Custody reports of which the Board should be made aware. There has been a review of the Death in Custody action plan covering 'Live Recommendations', 'Near Miss' and 'Archive' for all three prison establishments. The Board has received a copy of the updated plan for Magilligan.

Recommendation: The Board should be notified of hot and cold debriefs following a serious incident or Death in Custody.

12. SEGREGATION – CARE AND SUPERVISION UNIT (CSU)

Segregation - the restriction of association - may be used as a deterrent for a number of reasons.

They are:

- Those categorised under Prison Rule 32, pertaining to the maintenance of good order or discipline within the prison;
- To safeguard the prisoner's personal safety; or

- 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 procedure has been undertaken correctly and the paperwork generated signed to verify that this is so. The Board must be informed when a prisoner is placed on a Rule 32 and are statutorily obliged to attend case reviews where an application for an extension to the period of segregation is sought. Despite there being a protocol for contacting a Board member, it is often the case that the IMB Secretariat is notified of a case review with very late notice and they are unable to contact the Board member(s) on rota. Also, the time of case reviews is often changed at short notice, reviews may be cancelled 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 not only frustrating for members – who ultimately are unpaid volunteers who often travel considerable distances to get to Magilligan - but also extremely inefficient. Once again the Board recommends that the situation is addressed as a matter of urgency and a uniform plan to process R32s is adopted.

Recommendation: A consistent method of communicating Rule 32 case reviews to IMB members be adopted and reviews scheduled for the same time each day.

The Board is pleased to report that the CSU building has undergone some refurbishment. In addition to new furniture being installed in the staff office and a programme of redecoration being undertaken, the Sensory Therapy Garden for prisoners undertaking drug detoxification is now open and two dry cells instituted.

Frequently prisoners are placed on Rule 32 for their own safety. In instances where an individual has enemies throughout the prison, it is not always possible to accommodate him anywhere other than the CSU due to the very limited landings available. The Board would recommend that the current designation of landings be reviewed to enable the available space to be used more flexibly. Segregation is not conducive to good mental health and individuals placed on a Rule 32 should have an exit plan in place from the inception of their being placed in it.

Recommendation: The current designation of landings is reviewed to enable space to be used more flexibly.

During the reporting year, the total number of prisoners held on Rule 32 was 185; this compares with 198 in the previous year. It should be noted that individual prisoners may be admitted to the CSU on several different occasions. The longest period spent in the CSU was 58 days, (65 days in 2017/18) and the average 11.38 (9.52) days.

Adjudication is the formal process for dealing with instances of alleged misconduct. Members of the IMB attend these proceedings regularly and are generally satisfied that the process has been followed and the decisions made are fair and reasonable. Due to changes in staff and absences due to sickness, there has been a backlog of adjudications leading to an increase in charges being opened and adjourned to be heard at a later date. The Board is aware that this has resulted in unacceptably long delays in prisoners receiving awards; these delays cause prisoners considerable anxiety. On occasion, members remain concerned as to the consistency of awards being made and have received complaints from individuals who believe they have been treated unfairly. Where a number of prisoners have all been charged with the same offence, they are not always adjudicated by the same governor nor given similar awards.

Depending on the nature of the offence, it is sometimes necessary for an IMB member to view CCTV footage of an incident. Camera images throughout the prison are of variable quality and the Board repeats the recommendation made in the last reporting period that the CCTV system is upgraded and the positioning of cameras is reviewed.

Recommendation: The CCTV system is upgraded and the positioning of cameras is reviewed.

With reference to adjudications, both AD:EPT and the mental health team agree that punishment is not effective in the management of individuals who are trying to come off drugs and, in particular, limiting the use of time in the gym is detrimental to their wellbeing. The Board recommends that attention is given to imposing other forms of sanctions.

Recommendation: Confiscation of time in the gym is not used as a punishment for prisoners who are trying to become drug free.

Prisoners accommodated in the CSU are often extremely challenging. The Board wishes to compliment the staff on their professionalism in managing them. Relationships between prisoners and staff are excellent and it is very rare for the Board to receive complaints from prisoners concerning their treatment.

13. SPORT AND RECREATION

For many prisoners, access to gym facilities is an important element within their daily regime. The main gym is open Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 7pm and there is a small gym located in the Foyleview complex. There is also outside apparatus in the CSU exercise yard. New gym rotas were introduced at the start of the year which resulted in a deluge of complaints. The Board is pleased to report that the situation has been resolved with the appointment of six new Relief Sports and Games Officers whose role is to enable provision of the full gym programme. Evening

attendance has been increased in order to replicate gym access in the community, where individuals are required to fit in gym sessions around their times of work, and weekend sessions are prioritised for prisoners fully engaged in work from Monday to Friday.

The additional members of staff are appropriately skilled to deliver a broader selection of sports. A Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) training course was organised in December concluding in a challenge match involving staff, prisoners and guests.

There have been regular Park Runs held at Lower Drummans, Magilligan on Saturday morning. Staff, prisoners - both vulnerable and non-vulnerable - and invited guests join in together to make this a most successful event.

14. TUCK SHOP

The Tuck Shop continues to be well-managed and carries a wide variety of items. Staff are willing to source permissible goods and the orders/delivery system is well organised. No issues have been raised here.

15. VISITS

Family ties are imperative to life inside and outside prison and it is therefore vitally important that these relationships are maintained during a prisoner's sentence. During the reporting year, (18 April 2018 - 19 March 2019) records show that 10,691 bookings were made resulting in 25,812 visitors. Of these, 8133 were male, 11,823 were female and 5856 were children. These figures show a slight increase on the previous year.

The IMB continues to have concerns about the lack of child-centred visits; once again, this is partly due partly to the lack of family officers. Two new officers were appointed earlier in the year, but due to staff shortages, one of them has been assigned to other duties.

The Board has been made aware of concerns regarding the continued cessation of Thursday visits. There is a possibility that they will soon be re-instated; the Board hopes this is sooner rather than later.

Entry procedures are generally well-managed. Given that it can take considerable time to pass visitors through security - to log and process money & parcels etc. - Board observations would indicate that staff are often under pressure. There are three computer stations to be manned along with the booking office and often two or three members of staff to do so. This has the effect of reducing contact time between the prisoner and their visitor(s) especially at the weekends and during holiday periods.

Refurbishment of the visits hall is ready to commence and this is most welcome, as is the on-going work outside. The new ticketing system, if and when applied properly, appears to work well. It does however need consistency, the lack of which results in irate visitors and staff alike.

People Plus continues to do sterling work in the management of the Visitors Centre. The staff provide a welcoming environment which is especially important to first-time visitors.

MAGILLIGAN BOARD MEMBERS 1 APRIL 2018 - 31 MARCH 2019

IMB Member	Status	Appointed
Diane Mackey	Member (Sabbatical)	20/05/13
Harry Montgomery	Member	01/04/16
Margaret McCrory	Vice Chair	01/04/16
Eithne McEnespy	Member (Sabbatical)	01/04/16
Tanya Quinn	Member	01/04/16
Christopher Ralph	Member	01/04/16
Anne Rowe	Chair	10/06/13