



IMB ANNUAL REPORT FOR HMP LINCOLN

1 February 2015 to 31 January 2016

**THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT FOR HMP LINCOLN**

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1 STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB

- 1.1 The Prisons Act 1952 requires every prison to be monitored by an independent Board appointed by the Secretary of State from members of the community in which the prison is situated.
- 1.2 The Board is specifically charged:
 1. To satisfy itself as to the humane and just treatment of those held in custody within its prison and the range and adequacy of the programmes preparing them for release.
 2. To inform promptly the Secretary of State or any official to whom he has delegated authority as it judges appropriate, any concern it has.
 3. To report annually to the Secretary of State on how well the prison has met the standards and requirements placed on it and what impact these have on those in custody.
- 1.3 To enable the Board to carry out these duties effectively, its members have right of access to the prison's records, every prisoner and every part of the prison.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON

- 2.1 HMP Lincoln was mainly built in Victorian times. It is a Category B Local Prison serving the courts of Lincolnshire. It currently holds remand and convicted adult/young-adult male prisoners, including foreign nationals, life sentenced prisoners and prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection.
- 2.2 The Prison has four large residential wings, a care and separation unit, chapel, reception area, offender management unit, visits hall, kit distribution centre, gymnasium, workshop block, academy, gatehouse, pedestrian gate entrance and a number of temporary buildings.
- 2.3 The average number of prisoners over the reporting period was 608 which is 83.4% of the operational capacity. HMP Lincoln's Certified Nominal Accommodation (CNA) was 403 and its Operational Capacity (Op Cap) was 729.
- 2.4 Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust provided general and mental healthcare. The contract for Resettlement services transferred to CRC Purple Futures from May 2015 and they appointed Shelter as their 'through the gate' local provider. Some services continued to be provided by Lincolnshire Action Trust by virtue of sources of funding from outside the prison. Education was provided by Manchester College and this transferred to Novus, a stand-alone organisation within the Manchester College group, from September 2015. The workshops were staffed by civilian instructors. The Samaritans trained Listeners and the escort contractor was GeoAmey.
 - 2.5.1 HMP Lincoln moved to the top of its comparator group.

3 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 3.1 Two thousand and fifteen was another challenging year for HMP Lincoln due to the number of prison officer vacancies in the earlier part of the year (para 9.10), the impact of the split regime on wing staff and prisoners (9.12), and increased use of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) (Paras 6.13, 7.8). Despite this, the prison continued to demonstrate an improved performance in a number of areas.
- 3.2 The Board was particularly pleased with the opening of the 'First Night Centre' (para 9.5), the development of the Departure Lounge (para 8.4) and the opening of a drug recovery unit, (Transform), in association with Addaction (6.12).
- 3.3 Other areas to be commended are Education, the sound management and care of segregated prisoners in the Care and Separation Unit, the work of the Offender Management Unit and the Safer Custody team.
- 3.4 Although the Board recognise the achievements and improvements during the year, it still has particular concerns with the following issues:

3.5 Key issues

- 3.5.1 The delay in transferring prisoners with mental health problems to an appropriate health facility (para 11.9).
- 3.5.2 Continuing failures of the heating system in the Care and Separation Unit (paras 9.1, 11.8).
- 3.5.3 Concerns with the application and complaints system (paras 9.15, 9.16).
- 3.5.4 Welded cell windows on C Wing (para 9.9).
- 3.5.5 The increase in rats and cockroaches, particularly near the kitchen (para 9.2).
- 3.5.6 Prisoners on E wing not being permitted their full amount of exercise (para 9.12).
- 3.5.7 The infrequent staffing of the Observation, Classification and Allocation (OCA) desk (para 9.17).
- 3.5.8 The poor hygiene standards of the toilets and recessed areas on the wings (para 9.2).
- 3.5.9 The lack of CCTV on E wing (para 10.13).
- 3.5.10 The high level of self-harm (paras 5.5, 10.2).
- 3.5.11 The high use of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), also known as legal highs (paras 6.13, 7.8).

3.6 Particular issues requiring a response

- 3.6.1 The key issues identified in 3.5.1 to 3.5.11

3.7 Previous Year's Concerns

- 3.7.1 *The continued lack of sufficient prisoner clothing at all times.*
The closure of the laundry and the introduction of a kit distribution centre addressed these problems (paras 7.2, 9.3).
- 3.7.2 *The provision of suitable working showers at all times.*
Although this item remained on the IMB Issues Log, there was a rolling programme to replace the showers with a more robust model and all but twelve were replaced. This was downgraded to an amber status (para 9.4).
- 3.7.3 *The Discrimination Incident Report Form (DIRF) process.*
There were difficulties during the year as the position of Equalities Officer remained vacant. DIRF's were processed by the Equalities clerk (para 5.7).
- 3.7.4 *The lack of facilities for prisoners with a physical disability or reduced mobility.*
This remained a problem. The lift to the chapel remained unusable and disabled prisoners had to be escorted through the Operational Management Unit to use their lift (para 5.8).
- 3.7.5 *The delay in transferring prisoners with mental health problems to an appropriate health facility.*
This remained a concern for the Board (para 11.9).
- 3.7.6 *The constant failure of the heating system in the Care and Separation Unit, the Multi-skills Workshop and Education.*
This remained a concern for the Board (paras 9.1, 11.8)

4 EDUCATION, LEARNING AND SKILLS

- 4.1 Manchester College were the contracted education provider from 1 February 2015. In September 2015 this transferred to Novus, a stand-alone organisation within the Manchester College group.
- 4.2 From July 2015, when the Education Manager post became vacant, responsibility for the department was overseen by the Education Manager from North Sea Camp. The appointment had not been substantiated. New education induction staff were recruited and the department introduced a fast track induction process for returning prisoners.
- 4.3 A new curriculum was phased in from 1 August 2015. Due to budget constraints, Art is no longer offered as the curriculum became employment focussed. The Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) was not offered as it required a live internet connection. It is hoped that this may be available in the future using a 'job bus' which has a satellite internet connection. The course can be accessed through Liberty for Futures on release. The cookery course was changed to a 'Hospitality and Catering course' and buffets have been prepared to provide work experience. An industrial cleaning course commenced February 2015.

- 4.4 The library between A and B Wing was enlarged and an IT system installed to facilitate distance learning which was co-ordinated between the National Careers Service and the Activities department. At the end of the period, six prisoners were enrolled on distance learning courses and five applications were being processed.
- 4.5 In December 2015, the education department moved into the Academy building to help achieve the vision of creating a college within the prison. Six interactive white boards were installed and tutors have their own desk space in the education administration office. The IMB viewed this a very positive move.
- 4.6 Not all prisoners allocated to education were able to attend due to clashes with healthcare appointments, court appearance etc. but 73% of all prisoners allocated to education attended. Prisoners refusing to attend were issued with a warning and had their Incentives and Earned Privilege status (IEP) reviewed.
- 4.7 The education department was severely underfunded compared to similar prisons within the region. This was ameliorated by a transfer of funds from North Sea Camp during the year.

5 EQUALITY AND INCLUSION

- 5.1 A member of the Board attended the meetings of the Equalities Committee and reported to the Board any problems or developments.
- 5.2 Equality prisoner representatives were in place on each wing. They received training and were provided with information packs to support them in this role. Several of the equality representatives attended each meeting of the Equalities Committee.
- 5.3 A range of focus groups representing specific sections of the prison population, including Older Prisoners, Veterans, and Foreign Nationals were also represented at Equalities Committee meetings. Not all prisoners wish to attend these groups and there was a need to find ways of attracting men to them.
- 5.4 Among the foreign nationals held in the prison were a small number who had served their sentence but could not be released pending agreement from the immigration authorities. The Board were concerned that some were waiting for relatively long periods without any determinate date or explanation, causing them considerable anxiety.
- 5.5 The Equalities Monitoring Tool (EMT) recently implemented, has shown that young prisoners (aged eighteen to twenty four) made poor use of the available facilities, e.g. healthcare, and their rate of self-harm was well above average for the prison estate. The disciplinary process was also incurred disproportionately for this age group. The Board supports the efforts made by the prison to find ways to help these young men, for example, mentoring by older prisoners.

- 5.6 All religions in the prison were catered for and an extensive range of religious festivals celebrated. Festival food was provided and made available to all, to help improve understanding and tolerance of others' religions. Similarly, displays in the library and use of the chapel for non-church functions helped to bring in non-religious prisoners. Rising numbers of Muslim prisoners have meant that the chapel could not provide adequate prayer mat space and a more suitable venue is being sought. The Anglican chaplain retired and had not yet been replaced.
- 5.7 The position of Equalities officer remained vacant for the majority of the year but an appointment was made in January 2016. Discrimination Incident Report Forms (DIRF's) were processed by the Equalities clerk during that period.
- 5.8 The lack of facilities for prisoners with a physical disability or reduced mobility, highlighted as a key issue last year remained a problem. The lift to the chapel remained unusable and disabled prisoners had to be escorted through the Operational Management Unit to use their lift. This area should have been out of bounds to prisoners.

6 HEALTHCARE AND MENTAL HEALTH

- 6.1 Nottinghamshire Healthcare Foundation NHS Trust provided general and mental health services to the establishment. Addaction provided drug treatment services
- 6.2 During the year there were increased waiting times for podiatry and sexual health clinics. It was initially thought the increased screening in Reception had affected the sexual health clinic and in November 2015 a contract review was requested by healthcare to investigate.
- 6.3 In the early part of the year there were long waits to see a Dentist but this was addressed and the wait reduced from twelve weeks to six days.
- 6.4 There were increased waiting times to see a GP throughout the year. Locum care was obtained when possible but a substantive GP had been appointed to start in February 2016.
- 6.5 The number of missed appointments remained low throughout the year with the 'Did not attend' (DNA) rate averaging around 6%. Healthcare staff continued to follow up each missed appointment to find the reason for non-attendance.
- 6.6 Throughout the year there were an on-going number of nurse vacancies in general healthcare but a number of posts were filled following a successful Recruitment Fair for clinical staff in November 2015.
- 6.7 Three pharmacy technicians were recruited during the year which lessened the impact on the nursing staff dispensing and monitoring medication to prisoners.
- 6.8 Reception staff frequently reported to the IMB delays in the admission of new prisoners due to the non-availability of nurses when required. It is understood there are plans to pursue a permanent post for Reception duties.

- 6.9 In October 2015, a Complex case management register was developed which identified the frequency of visit or intervention required for each individual. Each case is also discussed at the daily handover.
- 6.10 Mental Health services had nurse vacancies throughout the year. This situation was exacerbated as Mental Health staff supported HMP Morton Hall two days per week for a number of months
- 6.11 The Mental Health team changed to a Monday to Friday service from October 2015. This led to an impact on attendance at Assessment Care in Custody Teamwork (ACCT) reviews and at weekends and evenings. The general healthcare team participated if available. Due to the high level of ACCTs on a daily basis the mental health team had to prioritise their attendance due to staffing shortage. However when the team were unable to provide a physical presence an oral report was provided and followed up in writing as required. A request was also made for new ACCT reviews to take place within the core hours during the week to ensure the Mental Health team could attend
- 6.12 The Board were pleased to see the development from May 2015 of a drug recovery unit (Transform) on the C4 wing landing in conjunction with Addaction. During the year 63 prisoners joined the recovery programme and six five week courses were held. These figures include the pilot group of five men.
- 6.13 The Board remained concerned with the continued high level use by prisoners of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) also known as legal highs. The increased use presented a challenge to the prison in terms of detection and for healthcare, the effect of taking legal highs often masked, or could be confused with, a genuine mental health disorder.
- 6.14 A Drug Strategy group was established with Addaction which met monthly. Addaction reported an increase of drug finds by dogs. Mobile phone blockers were tried. A number of initiatives to increase prisoners' awareness of the dangers of legal highs were put in place and included posters, leaflets and information provided on the prisoner radio Channel 19. Addaction continued to report action taken in conjunction with the establishment to tackle the use of legal highs
- 6.15 There were concerns with the daily queues of prisoners for medication on A wing and the risks this posed. The issue was recognised by the establishment and options are being considered and evaluated with Addaction to address this
- 6.16 HMP Lincoln is to become smoke free by February 2017. In preparation for this a smoke free landing (B1 wing) was identified but to date there were only a very small number of prisoners who indicated they would move to this area.
- 6.17 As at January 2016, the smoking status of 89% of prisoners had been recorded and 94% of those prisoners had been offered support or advice to stop smoking. Nicotine patches and vapour cigarettes are available on the Facilities list for prisoners to purchase.

7 PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITY

7.1 The following table details the type of work available to suitable prisoners together with number in each category.

WORK AVAILABLE	Places
Cutting	Closed
Tailors - full time	20
Tailors - part time	40
Textiles - full time	30
Textiles - part time	60
Laundry	Closed
Multi Skills – full time	20
Multi Skills - part time	40
Kit Distribution – full time	10
Kit Distribution - part time	20
Industrial Cleaning	14
Orderlies	
Wings : cleaners, servery workers and wing laundry	103
Gym	
Orderlies	4
Places	12
Domestic Waste Management	8
Outside Gardens	6
Kitchen	25
Academy	
Painting	12
Carpentry	12
Building	No longer running
Hospitality & Catering Course	10
Education Reps	8

7.2 The total number of workspaces were 454 compared with 324 the previous year. The extra places were due to the regime change implemented during the year (para 9.13) which encouraged and enabled more prisoners to work by reducing the number of full time and creating a number of part time positions. The 160 part time positions were all located in the workshops. A new Kit Distribution Centre was opened on 20 September 2015 which considerably improved the operation and provided ten full time and twenty part-time workspaces. It had, in part, replaced the forty spaces lost when the Laundry was decommissioned.

7.3 Unemployment figures at the end of the period were: 165 prisoners awaiting allocation, six on remand, eight unfit, seven disabled and thirteen on nil-pay. In the workshops the target numbers were 160 with 115 prisoners actually in work, 71.9% attendance, an increase of 10% over previous weeks.

- 7.4 The introduction of orange notices for prisoners not arriving for work, followed by an Incentives and Earned Privileges (IEP) warning has been found to be effective. However this effectiveness lessened since the initial introduction.
- 7.5 The development of electronic files for each prisoner had been planned but was abandoned as it was too labour intensive. However, information in respect of the type of work allocated and location are now recorded on the National Offender Management Information System (NOMIS).
- 7.6 One hour sessions in the gym were: three per week for employed prisoners, one for unemployed and a further two sessions for enhanced prisoners only. The number of sessions had to be increased to fit in with the new regime.
- 7.7 Purchase of replacement equipment for the gym had been put on hold. Staff considered the present lighting unfit for purpose as it caused shadows and could hinder perception when team sports are played. The office carpet was torn with holes and was considered a tripping hazard. The computers had been out of action for seven weeks so staff had to leave the gym and go to the Academy to complete their work.
- 7.8 The increase in incidents linked to the use of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), also known as legal highs, caused particular concern in the workshops where many instructors are singleton posts.
- 7.9 After discussions with the Public Sector Prison Industries Team, the textiles workshop increased the production of prison wear.

8 RESETTLEMENT

- 8.1 CRC Purple Futures were awarded the national resettlement contract from 1 May 2015 with Shelter being the chosen provider at Lincoln. Seven members of staff were transferred under the 'Transfer of Undertakings, Protection of Employment scheme' (TUPE) to Shelter from the previous provider, of which three were made redundant. Purple Futures supplied three people to oversee the twelve week transition and they also managed the medium to low risk prisoners for the probation service.
- 8.2 Lincolnshire Action Trust (LAT), the previous provider, were still contracted to deliver other services, e.g. the First Night Centre, the Families Team and 'Being Dad' courses. They continued to deliver the Supporting People after Remand or Conviction project (SPARC) with funding secured until March 2016 and expected for a further year. Seven hundred and five detainees had been seen by a member of the SPARC team and had their entry to prison assisted, which was particularly important for those going to prison for the first time.
- 8.3 Shelter were contracted to give employment advice but there was some duplication with the National Careers Service (NCS). The NCS was contracted from 1 April 2015 and created a resettlement journey file for each prisoner, a working document for all agencies to keep up to date with relevant information and again, there were concerns regarding duplication of information.

8.3 cont.

Although the NCS exceeded their targets, they continued to provide support for some men that they were unable to claim for. The Department of Work and Pensions worked with Novus, the education provider to feed job opportunities through to them.

- 8.4 Part of the resettlement process included a 'Through the Gate' letter which the prisoner received prior to release and a copy was sent to the probation service or the next establishment. Families made more use of the Departure Lounge through which prisoners were released. This allowed them to meet out of public view. LAT looked at providing craft activities during the time the families were waiting which gave opportunities for staff to engage with them. Community Chaplaincy provided a volunteer for the departure lounge each day and supplied 'Through the Gate' support when requested. All those referred to them had substance misuse problems. Trained social workers were also available.
- 8.5 Liberty for Futures, a Community Interest Company previously called Liberty Personnel, provided a service for families, not just ex-offenders. They worked with HMP Nottingham two days a week.
- 8.6 Shelter were audited on 25 November 2015 and exceeded their targets. Purple Futures tracked prisoners for thirteen weeks after release and prisoners found employment mainly in the construction industry.
- 8.7 Shelter implemented a peer mentoring system. Their peer support officer covered prisons in Lincolnshire, Humberside and North Yorkshire.
- 8.8 A new programme of reward was piloted; good behaviour was acknowledged and praise given.
- 8.9 Play-workers were no longer provided during visits and families were encouraged to join in with activities.

9 RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

- 9.1 The Board remained concerned about the continuing failures with the heating system in the Care and Separation unit (CSU) which only worked efficiently when the heating was switched off in the old Education Department and Multi-skills Workshop. This problem, highlighted last year, was placed on our 'Issues Log' which is brought to the attention of the Senior Management Team at their monthly meeting. The areas were part of a system installed between 2011 and 2013 and was generally considered not fit for purpose by the previous maintenance team. Amey, the new contractors, were to undertake a survey of the system.
- 9.2 Cleanliness was good inside the wings apart from the toilets which are generally extremely filthy. Our report last year noted that cleaning products needed to be stronger and more effective and there was little improvement during the year. The Board remained concerned about this issue and identified it on the 'Issues Log' as a priority for action with a 'red' status.

9.2 Cont

Outside areas were constantly dirty due to items thrown out of the windows by prisoners which in turn, led to a problem with rats and other pests particularly near the kitchen. The establishment made concerted efforts to contain this problem with little success, despite daily cleaning of outside areas and regular visits by pest control experts.

- 9.3 The laundry was decommissioned due to ongoing problems with boiler breakdowns and laundry is now processed by HMP Ranby three times a week. A Kit Distribution Centre was opened in place of the laundry and there were difficulties with the stock counting system. Discrepancies between HMP Ranby and HMP Lincoln sometimes resulted in shortages, especially in socks, pillowcases and boxers and regular kit shortages were identified in the First Night Centre.
- 9.4 The provision of working showers on all wings identified as a key issue in our report last year, was addressed throughout the year with a rolling replacement programme using a more robust model. By the end of the year 75% had been replaced.
- 9.5 Last year, the Board welcomed plans to segregate part of the A1 wing to accommodate new prisoner admissions. A gated area was completed during the year to create a 'First Night Centre' for new admissions, easing them into the prison system and ensuring that they are prevented from being bullied by existing prisoners to relinquish any goods they may have brought in with them.
- 9.6 The kitchen were mostly understaffed and did not receive their full allocation of prisoners. Although they were able to manage with less, their numbers were reduced by those who attended court and healthcare appointments which created pressure on the other workers. All new recruits received an induction which included basic hygiene training.
- 9.7 The food was of a good standard catering for many religious denominations but consistent portion control was an issue. Many C and E wing prisoners complained that they did not receive enough food. One Ultra-Orthodox prisoner had food sent in weekly, which took staff time to check for unauthorised items.
- 9.8 The replacement of the kitchen floor was delayed (until late 2016) and the ceiling leaked during heavy rain which made the floor hazardous when wet. Some broken catering equipment was out of use for extended periods due to the length of time taken for repair. The kitchen also had major problems with hot water only available intermittently. Other maintenance issues included washing machines on the wings not working for extended periods of time.
- 9.9 The Governor agreed to withdraw the cells with welded windows on C Wing, (highlighted in last year's report) from use in the summer months. The capital expenditure to change the windows had not yet been agreed.
- 9.10 The Prisoners usually had a good relationship with the prison officers especially in the CSU where officers were often faced with some very difficult situations. There were a high number of prisoner officer vacancies in the earlier part of the year and a recruitment drive resulted in being fully staffed towards the end of the year. Some difficulties were noticed due to the large ratio of new, inexperienced officers.

- 9.11 Prisoner Voicemail was introduced in October 2015 to enable prisoners to receive messages and maintain stronger contact with families. The prisoners also enjoyed using the pool tables provided.
- 9.12 The Board expressed concern during the year that prisoners on E wing were not receiving their full entitlement of exercise time; each session being short by approximately ten minutes. It was understood that this was a problem due to prisoner movement but the Board raised this on their 'Issues Log' with a 'red' status.
- 9.13 A 'split regime' was introduced in October 2015 making a number of work places part time, enabling more men to be employed. It was envisaged that healthcare appointments and visits could be timed for the periods that a prisoner was not employed to reduce the interruptions to work. The establishment considered adding domestic visits in the morning but this had not been actioned to date.
- 9.14 The prison is due to become smoke free by February 2017 and the ground floor landing on B wing was designated as a smoke free landing.
- 9.15 A member of the Offender Management Unit (OMU) and an administrator held surgeries on all wings. They were visible during the association periods to respond to ad-hoc queries initially for approximately two hours. It was planned to reduce the times of the surgeries to half an hour and visit each residential wing on a rota basis once a month. This had a direct impact reducing the number of complaints.
- 9.16 It was planned to introduce a new general application system during the year but the new system was not routinely in place by the end of the year. Following previous concerns, the Board have placed this on their 'Issues Log' with an amber status and will regularly monitor the process.
- 9.17 The Board were concerned about the infrequent staffing of the Observation, Classification and Allocation (OCA) desk throughout the year. This was the process by which prisoners are transferred to other establishments. Prisoners requests for transfer were therefore delayed which impacted on prisoner wellbeing and potential unrest within the prison.

10 SAFER CUSTODY

- 10.1 The Safer Prisons Committee met monthly. From May 2015 it was renamed the Safer Prisons and Safeguarding meeting to reflect the additional focus on the safeguarding agenda. It was a multi-disciplinary group including representatives from Safer Custody, Security, Mental Health, Healthcare, Addaction, Chaplaincy, Samaritans, Lincolnshire County Council Social Care Practitioner, Prisoner Listener representatives and the IMB. A member of the IMB attended the majority of the meetings. The purpose of the meeting was the management of prisoners at risk of harm to self, to others and from others in accordance with the Safer Custody Prison Service Instructions (PSI). Prison Listeners reported on prisoner contacts and 'listens', information was shared on Assessment Care in Custody Teamwork (ACCT) books opened and closed, incidents of self-harm, deaths in custody, assaults, violence reduction, constant supervision and safeguarding.

- 10.2 544 Assessment Care in Custody Teamwork (ACCT) books were opened which is 156 more than reported the previous year. There were a high number of ACCTs throughout the year and this was considered to be due to the increase of ACCTs opened in Reception by Healthcare. There were 413 cases of self-harm reported (compared to 135 in the previous year). The high level of self-harm incidents remained a concern.
- 10.3 The total number of violence reduction incidents reported, on either the Incident Reporting System (IRS) or the Violence Reduction database (VR) was 233 compared to 324 the previous year. It was reported that not all VR incidents were investigated during the year.
- 10.4 There were 2 deaths in custody during 2015, one suicide and one health related. There were also two inquests held following deaths in custody from previous years.
- 10.5 During the year the Adult and Children Safeguarding policies and procedures were introduced in order to comply with Section 11 of the Children's Act. A post was identified to lead on this work and significant progress was made during the year. HMP Lincoln was one of the first establishments in the country to be compliant with child safeguarding. At the end of the reporting period it was a concern to the Board that the funding for this post had been withdrawn. The Safer Prisons group also reviewed prisoners identified as an adult safeguarding risk
- 10.6 A dedicated Safer Custody Team was established which was proactive throughout the year in terms of reviewing policies and procedures, producing information and developing and promoting new initiatives
- 10.7 The Violence Reduction Policy was implemented which set out a Zero Tolerance approach to violence. The National Offender Management System (NOMS) Violence Diagnostic Tool was put in place in the latter months of the year and reviewed at the Safer Custody meeting. Violence statistics were produced each month for both reporting and monitoring purposes
- 10.8 HMP Lincoln achieved a Green rating in the national Safer Custody Audit
- 10.9 The number of prisoners on constant supervision was high throughout the year regularly up to six which is the maximum spaces the Establishment can accommodate in specially adapted cells.
- 10.10 An information booklet was produced about the early days in custody which was delivered by the Insiders in the First Centre
- 10.11 As part of the Violence Management Strategy a prisoner engagement event and a Violence Reduction week were held in November 2015.
- 10.12 There were eleven prisoner Listeners in place with an improved coverage across the four residential wings. The Listeners provided a very valuable role and reported a steady number of 'listens' held each month. The Samaritans provided an active contribution to the training of Listeners. There was concern with the state of the Listeners suites and some refurbishment had taken place but improvement was still required.

- 10.13 The Safer Custody signed up for the national Pen Friends scheme in November 2015 and a small but increasing number of prisoners had taken up this initiative.
- 10.14 The Board raised concerns that there is no CCTV on E wing which houses vulnerable prisoners.
- 10.15 The Board still had concerns about the accommodation of sex offenders with other institutionally vulnerable prisoners on E wing. This made it difficult to relocate vulnerable prisoners to other wings if considered necessary or desirable due to the stigma of being from E wing. The Board continued to suggest consideration be given to segregating sex offenders from vulnerable prisoners in any future change to the prison accommodation.
- 10.16 Concerns were reported to the Board from prisoners and staff about bullying on E wing during the latter part of the year. This was to be investigated by the Safer Custody team.

11 SEGREGATION, CARE AND SEPARATION

- 11.1 HMP Lincoln has a nine cell Segregation unit which is locally referred to as the Care and Separation Unit (CSU). A prisoner is segregated and denied normal association from the mainstream prison population for a number of reasons under national Prison Rules. These include Good Order or Discipline (GOOD), Own Protection, Cellular Confinement, Temporary Confinement and removal from the wing for a period of up to twenty eight days.
- 11.2 The main reasons for segregation at HMP Lincoln were for GOOD or Own Protection. Segregation Review Boards were required after 72 hours and then at no more than fourteen day intervals, to review whether a prisoner could continue to be segregated. The segregation Boards at HMP Lincoln are termed GOOD reviews and a member of the IMB attended each review and was required to sign to say whether they agreed with the decision to continue to segregate a prisoner.
- 11.3 In August 2015 a Supreme Court Judgement related to the segregation of prisoners beyond 72 hours. The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) implemented a revised Policy for the Review and Authorisation of continued segregation from September 2015. The new arrangements were appropriately and effectively put in place at HMP Lincoln.
- 11.4 The Board raised concerns throughout the year about the punctuality of review meetings when chaired by some Governor grades. The Board have also commented on GOOD reviews and ACCT reviews taking place at the same time when appropriate.
- 11.5 The Board is of the view that the day to day management of the CSU and care of the prisoners in the unit by prison officers is of a high standard.
- 11.6 The Board remained concerned about the physical condition of the CSU. It was understood that in 2015 there had been discussions nationally to look into the feasibility and cost of refurbishment of the ceiling of the building and a bid submitted for additional Corian furniture for a number of cells. This had not taken place.

- 11.7 The Special Accommodation Cell remained not fit for purpose throughout the year and therefore was unavailable for use.
- 11.8 During the year the Board raised concerns about the lack of heating in CSU cells and prisoners often complained about being cold. We were advised in the summer this had been resolved but as winter approached the problem was still evident with prisoners complaining they were cold. A survey on the heating system was due to take place by Amey, the maintenance contractor, (see para 9.1).
- 11.9 The Board raised concerns over the last few years that the assessment and transfer of prisoners with mental health issues took far longer than the fourteen days stipulated in the National Best Practice Guidance. This continued to be a problem in 2015 and prisoners with mental health problems were still being held in the segregation unit which is not appropriate for their needs.
- 11.10 During the year the availability of in-cell activities for prisoners were reviewed.
- 11.11 The Segregation, Monitoring, Advisory and Review Group, (SMARG) met quarterly to review the use of segregation. They reviewed the number of prisoners held on average each week, analysis of the rules under which prisoners were held, length of stay, adjudications that result in cellular confinement, ethnic minorities, length of time officers had worked in the unit and staff training. A member of the IMB regularly attends the meeting. Overall attendance at the meeting by partner agencies has been poor throughout the year.
- 11.12 The IMB observed an increase in the number of ‘three and four staff unlock’ prisoners which reflected the nature and type of prisoners in segregation. This was reviewed for each prisoner on a regular basis. During the year there was a reduction in the length of time prisoners had been kept in the unit.
- 11.13 The full complement of cells (nine) had not been available with one cell permanently out of use due to damage and other cells out of use due to damage on a regular basis.

12 THE WORK OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

- 12.1 Five new members were recruited in 2015. One has yet to start due to health problems and one resigned due to work commitments. The remaining new members successfully completed their probationary period. Three further members resigned, one due to work commitments, one due to ill health and one did not return at the end of sabbatical leave. Another member moved away from the area but was granted sabbatical leave to enable transfer to another board. The Board retained its commitment, teamwork and high morale.
- 12.2 Members of the Board visited areas of the prison each week. Good practice and concerns were noted and reported in writing. The report was emailed to all members each week and was read by the Governor who commented on issues raised prior to the monthly Board meeting. Should any concerns be unresolved, the Board could raise them with Managers or Ministers.

- 12.3 Written and verbal prisoners applications to the Board were collected weekly and processed within seven days. The Board monitored the trends in applications and ensured that frequently recurring problems were added to the Issues Log, (see para 12.8).
- 12.4 Board members were allocated areas within the prison to ensure closer monitoring of each area and to alert colleagues to problems. The Board attends some prison meetings, IMB and prison staff training, inquests, special and seasonal events.
- 12.5 The Board administered the Lincolnshire Discharged Prisoners Welfare Charity. One application for a grant was received and approved.
- 12.6 The IMB National Council and the IMB Secretariat continue to assist the Board in its work.

Committees attended by the Board

Equalities
Health and Safety
Offender Management
Prisoner representatives
Quality Improvement Group
Reducing Reoffending
Safer Prisons
Segregation, monitoring, advisory and review Group
Senior Management Team

- 12.7 Board statistics and IMB applications information is contained in Appendix A and Appendix B respectively. During the reporting period there was a 22.74% decrease in the number of applications received from prisoners compared to the previous year. The Board attributed the reduction to the falling roll number within the year.
- 12.8 An 'Issues Log' was maintained by the Board. The main concerns of the Board are highlighted for the Governor's attention and are given a Red, Amber or Green status, (RAG status). Items eventually resolved are moved to Green status and are archived. The Issues Log is included as an agenda item at the weekly Senior Management Team meetings (SMT). The Board remained concerned with the length of time some issues remained (and still remain) on the log.

Appendix A

BOARD STATISTICS

Number of Board members at start of the reporting period	10
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	11*
Number of new members	5
Number leaving	4
Total number of Board meetings	12
Total number of visits (including all meetings)	400
Total number of segregation reviews attended	205
Total number of IMB Confidential access (from 35 prisoners)	51

* The number includes one member on sabbatical and one new member who was appointed but unable to start her duties due to health problems.

Appendix B

IMB APPLICATIONS

		APPLICATIONS TO THE IMB FROM PRISONERS			
Code	Subject	15/16	14/15	13/14	12/13
A	Accommodation	10	14	22	13
B	Adjudications & Segregation	6	8	1	8
C	Equality, Diversity and Religion	4	5	4	6
D	Education/Training/Employment	29	33	27	17
E1	Family Visits	29	8	33	35
E2	Resettlement Issues	3	17	4	2
F	Food/Kitchen related	5	6	11	8
G	Health related	42	50	62	47
H1	Property (related to previous prison)	24	73	42	16
H2	Property (related to current prison)	26	15	31	22
H3	Canteen, Facilities, Catalogue shopping	11	9	16	7
I	Sentence related (including home detention curfew, release on temporary licence, parole, release dates, re-categorisation etc	33	32	46	28
J	Staff/Prisoner related concerns including bullying	11	18	26	12
K	Transfers	33	73	62	49
L	Miscellaneous	50	48	47	48
Total		316	409	434	318