

SECTION 5: ISSUES FOR THE GOVERNOR

- *The Board is pleased to note that efforts are being made to install CCTV cameras in the Kitchen. The Board also supports efforts to improve the quality of CCTV in other areas of the Prison and hopes that this vital aid to safety and security will progress once restrictions related to the pandemic ease. Given the importance of this, it is difficult to understand why contractors performing this function were not considered to be "Key Workers."*

Response:

This is not a decision for the Governor. Each contractor has its own protocols and the decision rests with them. Contact with a contractor will only be made in emergency situations.

- *The Board was concerned to learn of a number of occasions when detainees have been kept for lengthy periods in either the Court Custody Suite or the transport van outside the Prison Gatehouse due to the non-availability of reception staff. The Board appreciates that staff shortages and the extra pressure on visiting days have an impact, but would urge the Governor to find a solution to this problem which is detrimental to the safety and welfare of both detainees and escort contract staff.*

Response:

We are keeping records of this and in recent times can confirm there have been no occasions when this has occurred. I would also note that if there are any medical issues then they are treated as a priority, and if an individual has the requirement to see a Doctor to gain a prescription, this is addressed during working hours.

In general this is also being considered as part of the re-profiling exercise currently being undertaken.

- *The Board appreciates the need to have comprehensive Induction Compacts but remains concerned that some detainees struggle to fully understand them. The Board would suggest that the language used in the compacts could be simpler to aid understanding.*

Response:

This is on our priority list to address. We intend to use prisoners to deliver the induction process in the future. However, the process during these unprecedented COVID related times has of course been distinct and individuals, on

their reception, are being given the Induction Pack rather than having 1:1 interaction with staff.

- *Whilst applauding the progress made in this area, the Board hopes that the role of the Custody Support Officers will be further developed, with particular emphasis on increasing interaction with detainees held in the CSU. Whilst such interactions should be part of all discussions with detainees, the Board would still like to see consideration being given to a protected time slot for Officers to achieve this.*

Response:

The Prison Information Management System entries reflect that there is a continuous flow of interaction with prisoners. There have been some challenges in this area due to Senior Officer shortages throughout the reporting year.

- *The Board would urge the Governor to continue to support the Education Manager's efforts to obtain funding to enable full use of the Prison Workshops for vocational training. Should this initial bid be successful, the Board hopes that the Minister and the Governor will be able to identify and allocate sufficient funds to sustain such a vital initiative.*

Response:

This is supported by the Department.

A bid has been made to the Seized Assets Fund and this is presently yet to be considered and that group meet quarterly, hence the delay with regard to receiving the outcome of that bid.

- *The Board applauds the efforts of the Senior Management Team (SMT) to maintain work activities under difficult circumstances throughout the year. The Board would continue to encourage the SMT to look at increasing options for work and possible Resettlement Day Release (RDR) opportunities for more detainees. Whilst acknowledging the progress made during the reporting year, female detainees remain a concern as the female prison population continues at a high level.*

Response:

Resettlement Day Releases (RDRs) are risk assessed. Currently, there are four prisoners participating.

Given that we have a significant number of prisoners meeting the criteria for working in the community, there are clearly notable RDR opportunities.

There are a number of prisoners awaiting transfer to the UK who would not meet the criteria for RDR.

- *The Board would also continue to support the ongoing use of Resettlement Overnight Release (ROR) wherever possible. The desire to achieve both RDR and ROR is very evident and the detainees who have reached this level of trust have shown great enthusiasm and application.*
- *The Board continues to encourage the SMT to bring changes and concerns that impinge on the routine and safety of detainees, to the 'Jurby Advocates' for early notification and discussion. The Board also applauds the efforts of the SMT to encourage increased detainee engagement in suggested changes and new initiatives and hopes that the success in this area will not lose momentum. The value of such detainee engagement was evident during the pandemic.*
- *The attendance of Senior Officers from all areas of the Prison at 'Jurby Advocates' meetings is encouraged to give detainees a greater understanding of decisions made by the Prison Team. More regular attendance or a written submission if unable to attend would be helpful.*

Response:

These points have been addressed and all areas will be represented where practicable.

- *The Board would continue to urge the Governor to encourage the attendance of a Community Probation Officer at the monthly Safer Custody Meeting to assist with continuity for detainees following their release.*

Response:

This point has been addressed. However, in respect of absence from meetings, a comprehensive report will be available ahead of the meetings.

- *The Board remains concerned about the increase in the number of Folder 5 files being opened.*

Response:

In the current ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and mental health issues related climate, there are similar levels of concern and anxiety within the Prison population as are found to be effecting the wider community.

With reference to the specific comment around the number of Folder 5s, in practice the high level is a reflection of the high population during the year, almost maximum capacity.

Most of these Folder 5s were opened as a precautionary measure in connection with low moods and self-harm.

- *Whilst acknowledging that the delays are due to the pandemic and its impact upon UK Prisons, the Board would urge the Governor to expedite the transfer of those detainees awaiting a move to a UK Prison as soon as the COVID-19 restrictions are eased.*

Response:

We are restricted by the UK's Border Control.

Prisoners cannot be transferred without their authority but due to partnership working we have managed to secure the recent transfer of two females who have young children.

- *The Board would hope to see continued support and encouragement for the Officers involved in the Assessor Training project.*

Response:

To move this forward, there are now new Managers in post in the key areas.

- *As mentioned in previous Annual Reports, the Library is not being fully utilised and is closed for most of the week. If the Library could be developed as a research and study facility, this would be particularly useful to detainees undertaking Distance Learning courses.*

Response:

This lack of utilisation is related to the repeated lockdowns. Prisoners have had to experience five lockdowns, unlike the community who have had only three. Despite that, books were made available on the wings and also Education Department supplied work books and in-cell activities.

- *As ever, the Board remains of the opinion that the introduction of Voluntary Drug Testing would be beneficial.*

Response:

This is not feasible given the cost implication and the constraints of the Prison budget. However, it is noted that there has been success with intelligence led testing.

- *As reported in previous years, there remains a need for a more suitable area for private discussions with detainees held on CSU.*

Response:

We are obtaining costings for sound-proofing the Adjudication Room.

- *Whilst understanding the pandemic demands have restricted opportunities to offer agreed Resettlement functions, the need for maintaining KPI's to assess progress on long term goals, is essential.*

The need to almost constantly re-assign members of the Resettlement Team to general duties is a very serious concern. The Board would urge the Governor to rectify this as soon as possible.

The Board would continue to encourage the Governor to ensure Interventions Officers are given protected times so they are able to achieve both timely and high quality interventions with detainees. The return of personnel to their ring-fenced roles is imperative to ensure the safe release into the community of detainees who have completed the required number of interventions and where necessary, completed modules to support their parole applications in a timely manner.

Response:

The above point has not been feasible. Due to the pandemic, the operational requirements of the Prison have taken priority.

- *The Board welcomes the greatly increased use of the "Live Link" to the Courts and would urge the Governor to continue to press for the facility to be used more frequently to reduce the need for detainee escorts to Court.*

Response:

The Prison can offer the live link facility, however it is a matter for the Courts to determine its use when in the Courts opinion it is in the interests of justice.

- *The Board thanks the Governor and his staff for their support and hard work to bring about a change in the conditions in the Court Custody Suite. The Board is encouraged by the improved communication between all the parties involved and hopes that this will continue and develop in the coming months.*
- *The Board is concerned that the Juvenile Suite at the Court Custody Suite is not being used and would urge all parties to bring a swift resolution to this. The main Court Custody Suite is not a suitable environment for young, vulnerable people and use of it breaches the Custody Rules.*

Response:

We do not monitor this facility but continue to advise appropriate use of that facility and will continue to work with all parties to address issues as they arise.