

Independent Monitoring Board (IMB)
Report January 2023

Cronk Sollysh, Secure Care Home, Douglas, IoM

IMB Membership as at 11/01/2023

Lizzie Kinvig (LK)

Celia Morgan (CM)

Rachel Singer (RS - Chair)

Adrian Christian (AC) resigned in December 2022 having agreed to remain on the board for an additional year from January 2022 to help induct the three new members.

SCIMB Duties

This report has been written by the Chair of the board, with input from fellow board members, just over twelve months into the current SCIMB's operation. The report captures the past twelve months of practice, development and overall direction of travel as the IMB develops over time.

SCIMB duties are defined in the Secure Care Home Custody Rules 2002, Sections 45-52.

The main function of the board is to monitor the secure care home for adolescents such that the board "shall satisfy itself as to the state of the premises of the home, the administration of the home and the treatment of the detainees."

The legislation notes that members of the board shall:-

- have access to the records of the home;
- visit the home frequently;
- have access at any time to every part of the home and to every detainee and may meet with any detainee out of the sight and hearing of care workers; and
- arrange a rota whereby at least one of its members visit home between meetings of the board.

Members of the board participate in monitoring visits – to visit those in regular custody at the home as well as new admissions. The visits allow dialogue between staff and IMB members to ensure all aspects of the care provided are covered such that the young person/people are safe and cared for appropriately.

Context

At the start of January 2022, the newly instated board's aspiration was to visit the home monthly, in pairs. This aspiration was met in part but equally it was hampered because of covid (affecting board members) and there only being four, now three, members of the board to undertake visits.

Visits undertaken during the year

21/01/22 (RS and AC)

18/03/22 (RS and CM)

22/04/22 (RS and CM)

23/06/22 (RS)

27/07/22 (RS)

09/08/22 (RS)

13/11/22 (AC and LK)

In keeping with agreed procedures, board members also attempted to ensure a visit was made to the home within 48 hours of a new reception. However there have been issues with the software between CS and DHA resulting in the alert of a new reception not being received via DHA. As a result, it has often been longer than 48 hours before a member of the board was able to make a visit to CS. This matter has been discussed by IMB members with staff at CS, but it is unknown if the problem persists until a new reception is received.

To ensure common operational procedures develop and embed over time, board members have met informally on several occasions and where this has not been possible, they have shared voice calls to discuss matters relating to the role. All members remain mindful that the board remains relatively new and the role of SCIMB member is gradually developing over time.

Membership has remained the same since the board's re-inception in November 2022. One member of the previous IMB was retained (AC) but he has now resigned from the SCIMB and the members are very grateful to Mr Christian for his help and support during this transition. The remaining members of the board believe it would be helpful add to their number to ensure availability of members to attend CS as required, for both new receptions and to ensure more regular visits are not single-handed.

The board believes all items on the Action Log 2022, in relation to re-formation of the board, have all been addressed.

Any ongoing items relate to building and maintenance issues which are raised weekly by CS employees on the weekly sheets received by IMB members.

There remains the outstanding issue of the ministerial visit which was cancelled at the end of March 2022 – this has yet to be rescheduled.

Admission/Reception to CS

In January 2022 there was one young person in CS and he has was due for release in January 2023. It was noted through the year that preparation for his release was being planned for carefully by the team at CS and included close work with IOM College to help prepare him for life outside the institution.

In total there have been three new receptions since August 2022:

One young person has been resident since 5th August 2022. This young person's next court appearance is scheduled for January 2023, following continuous remand.

One young person has been resident since 4th November 2022 with the next court appearance scheduled for January 2023.

One young person has been resident since 24th December 2022 with the next court appearance scheduled for January 2023. This December reception has not yet been visited by the IMB because of member availability over the holiday period and sickness. Members are meeting for the first time in 2023 on 11th January to plan subsequent visits/actions.

Education

During this reporting year, Cronk Sollysh have developed strong links with University College Isle of Man. This supported a young person in custody to attend college to undertake the pre-apprenticeship course. The young person was due to be released from custody in January 2023 and would have had to wait until September 2023 to apply for college. Through discussion, planning and risk assessing with a multi-agency approach, the young person was able to start the course in September 2022 on a programme of temporary release. This gave the young man some structure to his day on release from custody.

Board Matters

Training

The IMB met for a training session on child protection and data protection in the summer 2022.

The Chair undertook the Chairing Effective Meetings training in August 2022.

Members, as unpaid volunteers, are committed to undertake other training during the year as their schedules allow.

IT

IT issues remain a challenge. The government issue iPads do not allow users to re-set their own passwords. As such, IMB members must ask the Clerk to the board to raise a ticket with GTS every 40 days to ensure e mail communications are maintained. This is onerous for all concerned and does not allow for ease of access to information. In addition, the shared area is not accessible through the iPad route so all reports must be sent by e mail to members. The Chair would like to know if this situation can be improved perhaps through the issue of government laptops.

Membership

There are now only three members of the board which makes arranging visits more challenging. If recruitment could be bolstered this would likely improve the board's ability to make regular visits to CS.

CS Matters

Staffing

Since early November there have been 4 vacancies at CS. This is an increase of 2 since January 2022. Staff turnover has been a constant thing through the year, with leavers as well as new recruits, a number of whom have worked at CS in the past.

Estate

The state of the building remains a concern as the building is old and likely inefficient in terms of fuel and maintenance. Requests have been made for a condition survey of the building.

The weekly sheets from CS alert IMB members to any ongoing issues with the repairs and maintenance of the building. Common issues relate to lights and/or locks which may be faulty. The issues with CCTV and alarm system would appear to have been resolved.

SECURE CARE HOME INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

Rachel Singer - Chair

15th January 2023