



MAGILLIGAN PRISON

Independent Monitoring Board's Annual Report for 2008/09

2020

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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 for Magilligan Prison are appointed by the Secretary of State under Section 3 of the Treatment of Offenders Act (NI) 1968 and under the Prison Act (NI) 1953. The Board is required to:

- visit Magilligan regularly and report to the Secretary of State 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 Secretary of State; and
- Exercise certain powers that are given under the Prison and Young Offender Centre 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.

1 | Chairperson's Introduction

The IMB in Magilligan comprises of 18 members from all walks of life. The Board is completely independent of the Prison Service and members are appointed by the Secretary of State. Currently the maximum term of office is under review and I await the outcome.

The Board continues to meet monthly and operate a weekly rota where members visit the prison. Members respond to prisoner's applications, visit their specific area of responsibility and take forward any issues which arise. The role of the IMB is outlined in the Induction programme for new committals.

IMB members have a roving brief enabling them to visit all areas of the prison infrastructure and answering applications from prisoners. Members give freely of their time and expertise. Training is provided and there are opportunities for members to visit other prisons.

The IMB extends its sincere sympathy to the family circle of the inmates who died during the past year.

During the past year we had one member resigned due to health reasons, and I pay tribute to him for the dedicated service he gave. During the past year the Secretary's quick action possibly saved a distressed inmates life and I pay tribute to the Secretary and believes this deserves a special recognition. I also wish to record my sincere and grateful thanks to our hard working secretary for the contribution he has made to the smooth running of our work. As IMB members are volunteers it is vitally important that we continue to have dedicated and sufficient staff to support us in all aspects of our work. The Head of IMB Secretariat (Mr David McCall) died tragically during the past year and to his family we extend our deepest sympathy. He played an important role in both the provision for the three boards and the Council of IMB's and his contribution was very much appreciated by all who worked with him.

I also wish to pay tribute to the vice-chair and training officer for their hard work and assistance during the past year. A very big thank you to Board members for their commitment and diligence. In addition, I wish to record my thanks to the editorial team for their assistance in preparing this report. The efficient, purposeful and sensitive management by the Governing Governor and his senior staff team, along with positive input from staff at all levels has moved Magilligan forward and I personally thank them for this.

During my term of office (2006-2009) I note that 31 reports from various inspections and reviews (eg.HMCI, Ombudsman, ECPT, CJINI, NI Affairs Committee Reports) have been written about the three prison establishments in Northern Ireland. This has resulted in 1338 recommendations. I am concerned that Prison Governors and Managers will spend their time devising and implementing Action Plans in response to the recommendations in these reports. I ask the question, "Are Our Prisons Over-Inspected?"

I believe that we should focus on implementation of these plans and look strategically at the Service provided. A period of status quo is urgently required.

2 | Overview

Accommodation

- 2.1** HMP Magilligan is an expanding establishment with Alpha and Halward House opening during the past year. Alpha accommodation has provided an additional 50 rooms and Halward House has provided an additional 60 rooms. Prisoners in these areas are issued with keys to individual rooms/cells as a means of encouraging a sense of trust and responsibility. Staff retain an override key for access in emergencies and during lock-up periods. The CNA (Certified Normal Accommodation) has consequently increased from 462 to 562. Other buildings have been refurbished and the prison estate redecorated. Currently there is an average of 460 inmates in Magilligan.

Prisoner Development Unit (PDU)

- 2.2** There is a strong Resettlement Programme looking to assist inmates to work in the community and where possible take up full time employment prior to release. The Sentence Plan is needs driven and also subject to risk management. The prison is a purposeful establishment which encourages prisoners to take responsibility for their own actions and progress through the privilege levels. During the year the staff committed to the PDU has increased to 14 in post with 3 staff being deployed from accommodation areas each day as part of this total figure. In this way it is intended to introduce Resettlement/Programmes direct into the accommodation areas through the use of prison staff. Construction of poppies by vulnerable prisoners on behalf of the Royal British Legion has been introduced. Ministerial approval was obtained and all prisoners work on this project on a voluntary basis and are fully aware of the ethos of and background of the Royal British Legion. 20,000 poppies per week are being made on behalf of this charitable cause.

Education/Vocational Training Programme Places

- 2.3** Increase in prisoner numbers requires an increase in the number of prisoner places available in Education/Vocational Training places. IMB recognize management are in the process of identifying prisoner needs and an increase in the range of literacy and numeracy classes available, and would support this initiative.

Special Supervision Unit (SSU)

- 2.4** The SSU has recently been totally refurbished, with in-cell sanitation and 'safer' cells introduced. The SSU houses prisoners who have been segregated for reasons such as their own protection, the good order of the prison, those serving a period of punishment (cellular confinement), and for holding violent or control problem prisoners. SSU is a short term measure with the emphasis firmly geared towards a return to normal location. The IMB welcomes this refurbishment initiative, which has been a recurring item on their agenda

2 | Overview

- 2.5** Adjudications are carried out where the Governor deems an offence to be serious but not sufficiently serious as to warrant a police investigation and court involvement. Sanctions can range from loss of earnings and tuck shop privileges to loss of association or cellular confinement in the respective Special Supervision Unit. The Governor, deputy Governor and other Governor grades preside at adjudications. IMB members can also attend.

Staff Sick Absence

- 2.6** Management have been very pro-active in ensuring those who are on long term sick absence have the care and support necessary to help them work towards a return to work. The new sick absence procedures which have been agreed between management and staff associations have been implemented and as result staff sick absence has reached a new record low of 1.4% (5 staff actually absent has been achieved). IMB support this initiative and feel it is to be commended.

Waste Recycling/Working and Living Environment

- 2.7** A waste recycling initiative has been introduced, not only to provide work for prisoners, but also to make staff and prisoners aware of the necessity to be environmentally aware. The ambience of the prison estate has greatly improved with litter bins being provided and used, fences painted, various staff facilities upgraded and a new office facility for Chaplains, PRISM staff, IMB, etc. The IMB greatly appreciated their new office and it has proved extremely beneficial for us as we now have easy access to the Chaplains should the need arise. PRISM staff are also available and have provided assistance when requested. They have also provided training on PRISM for IMB members.

The Governor and his staff have continued to be very co-operative and helpful throughout this past year. Staff are friendly and polite using discipline and strictness when necessary. Staff are highly motivated and are empowered to lead and develop their various areas of responsibility. Resulting from deaths in custody and Prisoner Ombudsman reports, Action plans are drawn up by the prison to respond to the issues identified. The IMB monitor the implementation of these.

Magilligan Print Unit

- 2.8** A Print Unit employing up to 10 prisoners has been opened, with the output to a very high professional standard. Magilligan Print Unit now delivers all printing for the Northern Ireland Prison Service and has taken forward projects for other public agencies. This unit has proved to make considerable financial savings for the Service overall and prisoners have received high quality training, with a few obtaining jobs in the printing industry on release.

2 | Overview

External Work Parties

- 2.9** Each day 2 minibuses, each containing up to 8 prisoners, leave the prison to transport prisoners to specific community projects within the North West. Staff drivers have been removed as an efficiency saving, a tracking device has been fitted to each vehicle and a qualified prisoner driver drives the prisoners to work. Although staff carry out random checks, this placed an increased level of trust and responsibility on those involved in this project and has proved to be very successful.

H-Block Night Time Sanitation Access

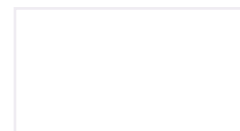
- 2.10** The 3 H-Blocks do not have in-cell sanitation but have an electronic night time unlock system whereby a prisoner can have access to sanitation facilities as required. The IMB have concerns in regard to prisoners not having access to modern in-cell sanitation facilities but are aware and support plans for a new prison establishment on the site with modern in-cell facilities.

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3 | Recommendations

3.1 The IMB recommend the following:

- Foyleview buildings require replacing
- A purpose built House of worship to be included in the new build
- Self- locking medicines cabinets are to be provided for all prisoners
- A covered walkway is to provided for visitors waiting to access the prison
- Post boxes for prisoner applications to be situated in each residential area of the prison
- No reduction in our secretarial support, if we are to continue to function at the level we currently work at
- The Well Mens programme be re-established
- Facilities in Resettlement for those with disabilities be provided
- More block and area searches need to be carried out to reduce the drug culture
- The IMB strongly advocate the provision of a secure therapeutic facility outside of prison to house and treat those prisoners with severe mental health problems
- Dog kennels are moved away from residential accommodation
- A reduction in the number of inspections in the coming year to give time to embed the recommendations



4 | Accommodation

- 4.1** As the SSU has returned to its original position, H2 can be restored to its full capacity. Prisoners and staff have a good rapport with each other and IMB members are received courteously by staff and prisoners, Posters informing prisoners of the presence of IMB members has been circulated.
- 4.2** After the Christmas period some prisoners in H2 had been disruptive and some damage was caused to the facilities.
- 4.3** Other accommodation has been refurbished in a rolling cycle. The Governor has been very innovative, and creative as well as saving the authorities money. In cell sanitation has been planned and it is hoped that the work will commence shortly.

Foyleview

- 4.4** Foyleview is semi open and is the resettlement unit of Magilligan Prison. Prisoners in Foyleview are nearing the end of their sentence and here they are prepared for release. They are engaged in a variety of work some of which is in the community or in the prison workshops. These workshops include sign making; printing; embroidery, picture framing, making computer designed badges, logos and recycling. Other employment includes gardening, grounds maintenance, orderlies` work, kitchen and catering work. The Print Unit has made a major contribution to the establishment and has saved the Prison Authorities considerable money as all printing is carried out in Magilligan.
- 4.5** Foyleview comprises of 5 “portacabin” style buildings which contain bedrooms, small kitchen, and shower/toilet area. Three of these buildings are in use for 30 years and are in urgent need of replacement. The 2 newer buildings are in acceptable condition. There is also the larger communal Cunningham building which has the canteen, games room and television lounge. This is particularly in need of replacement. The condition and style of accommodation impacts on all the work and activities of the unit. The need for refurbishment is clear.
- 4.6** However, in spite of these drawbacks, much valuable work is continuing in Foyleview. There are proposals to provide 3 new classrooms, a new canteen, reception and visits area. The staff of Alpha, Sperrin and Foyleview work as a “pool” and are interchangeable thus insuring continuity of supervision and approach.
- 4.7** Currently selection criteria for Foyleview are being updated. There is a relaxed regime in Foyleview with prisoners and officers on first-name terms.
- 4.8** Foyleview has made a valuable and important contribution to the rehabilitation of prisoners. Officers are highly motivated and give total commitment to their work.

4 | Accommodation

Halward House and Alpha

- 4.9** The first two storey building at Magilligan, Halward House was officially opened by Mr Robin Masefield, Director for Prisons in Northern Ireland on 9th March 2009. Robin Halward was a previous Director General of NIPS and his widow attended the ceremony.
- 4.10** This state of the art accommodation has in cell sanitation, will be a drug free unit and houses 60 inmates who are within three years of their release. Halward House is intended to be a stepping stone for prisoners who wish to go to the semi - open Foyleview Resettlement Unit.
- 4.11** Alpha Compound was opened in 2008 and houses 50 prisoners. Strict criteria must be met for admission to both these units and a level of conduct must be maintained while there. It is hoped that this long awaited improved accommodation will result in greater motivation of prisoners towards successful resettlement.

5 | Dog Handlers

- 5.1** There are still 7 dog handlers in the Prison for the passive and patrol dogs. All dogs are trained at the Prison College in Millisle. The dog area and kennels are kept very clean. The handlers thought their dog area would be increased, but this has not happened due to budget restraints. There have been complaints from prisoners in Foyleview about the dogs barking at night, however we recommend that the kennels are moved to another location away from residential accommodation. In general this area is well maintained.

6 | Resettlement

- 6.1** Magilligan has a dedicated resettlement team based in PDU. The team involves prison staff, probation, psychology, education and training, healthcare, NIACRO, gym and representatives from organisations dealing with substance abuse.
- 6.2** Each prisoner has a Resettlement Plan developed during Induction and based on the assessment of a prisoners needs. This plan will address factors associated with the offending behaviour in order to reduce the likelihood of re-offending on release. The resettlement unit aims to have at least 87% of prisoners working to a resettlement plan. This applies only to those prisoners serving six months or more in Magilligan.
- 6.3** Working with his allocated Case and Sentence Manager, the prisoner is assessed by the various agencies mentioned above. The most important assessment initially is education as a level of basic literacy is required to access the programmes. Those with a literacy level below 2 are not suitable for these programmes.
- 6.4** Magilligan has a wide range of programmes available, all intended to enable the prisoner to address his offending behaviour and to equip him with the skills to re-integrate into society and to make a positive contribution. The prison has a Programme Prospectus which not only lists the programmes on offer but also contains a detailed timetable of delivery for the year 2009, but there are some gaps.
- 6.5** There is a lack of facilities for those with disabilities, including those with learning difficulties; Sex offenders who refuse to accept their guilt will not participate in Sex Offenders Treatment Programme (SOTP); those who are socially inadequate eg, they have been in care, come from dysfunctional families and have no social support network find difficulty in coping with resettlement plans; and consideration needs to be given to effective provision for foreign nationals, who have particular problems, eg, language, culture, lack of family/social network, etc.
- 6.6** The introduction of the Criminal Justice Order (CJO) on April 1st 2009 poses a significant challenge for the resettlement team, as major changes in sentencing and post-custody supervision are implemented. The heads of the groups involved in resettlement form a CJO implementation unit which has carried out detailed work in planning for these changes. This group is headed by the Resettlement Governor and is currently meeting on a weekly basis. The challenges presented by CJO are being met and used by Magilligan staff as an opportunity to sharpen focus and expand the provision of resettlement programmes in order to reduce re-offending and to protect the public which is the ultimate aim of resettlement.

7 | Criminal Justice Order

- 7.1** The CJO can be seen as a strait jacket or as an opportunity for change. A new range of sentences has been introduced:
1. Indeterminate - minimum two year tariff up to and beyond life sentence
 2. Extended custody - minimum one year custody
 3. Determinate sentences - minimum six months and licence
 4. Licences will be issued for almost all offenders leaving custody
 5. The range of all sentences will continue.
- 7.2** The Offender Management model which has been adopted is based on the principles of:
- Partnership
 - Integrated case management
 - Co-Location of interventions and case management staff
 - Risk assessment
 - Consistent delivery of appropriate interventions
- 7.3** In the past all these bodies eg, probation, psychology, education, etc, worked in isolation, however these are now working together for the implementation of CJO.
- 7.4** A new grade of staff has been introduced: in Magilligan there are two new psychology assistants. This has caused concern that psychology is now “bottom heavy” and that assistants will not be trained/mentored properly.
- 7.5** To facilitate the implementation of CJO, staff have been moved, this has created vacancies however there are no financial resources to fill these posts.
- 7.6** The CJO presents opportunities to significantly enhance resettlement and to make it more effective. Magilligan is a Cat B/C prison. Perhaps this is an opportunity to examine the balance of emphasis and move the focus more on to resettlement from security.

8 | Reception

- 8.1** Reception is responsible for processing all prisoners on arrival at the prison. Reception staff are also responsible for processing all prisoners' belongings which accompany them. Reception carries a wide selection of clothes which prisoners may have if they so require.
- 8.2** The building which houses reception is pleasant and the staff are efficient and friendly. The reception area and staff are the prisoner's first contact with Magilligan and their attitude and manner is therefore important. The IMB is pleased that the duties of reception staff are carried out in a caring and sensitive way, particularly for those prisoners who are coming into prison for the first time.

9 | Induction

- 9.1** Induction takes place in the week following the prisoners' arrival in Magilligan. Trained staff deliver the programme along with staff from probation, education and other agencies. This takes place in H3.
- 9.2** Information is given on work, training, skills, behavioural programmes and support services. Prisoners are given booklets detailing the programmes and at the end they are individually assessed to ascertain their resettlement needs. The new Criminal Justice Order has had a significant effect on the induction and resettlement programmes. The Induction and Resettlement staff worked very hard to prepare staff and prisoners for the changes involved and are to be commended for their efforts.
- 9.3** Prisoners are encouraged to actively participate in drawing up their resettlement programme, to ask questions and to evaluate their decisions.

10 | Special Supervision Unit (SSU)

- 10.1** The SSU was closed for refurbishment which afforded an opportunity to improve and update this area. The cells in SSU have in-cell sanitation and have been completely refurbished.
- 10.2** The SSU can accommodate 18 prisoners. Some are there under Rule 32, others for punishment, and some for their own safety.
- 10.3** There is a large exercise yard and prisoners are offered outside exercise daily.
- 10.4** There is a sprinkler system which has been damaged several times by prisoners in SSU. This disrupts the routine and costs money to repair.
- 10.5** Staff accommodation has also been improved including the kitchen.
- 10.6** There are adequate storage facilities for prisoner's property. Prisoners awaiting adjudication are held in SSU and while the adjudications are going on, this can be a very busy area of the prison.

11 | Laundry

- 11.1** The effective running of the laundry is a key role in the prison system. It is fully utilised and always extremely busy. High standards have been maintained during the past twelve months.

12 | Tuck Shop

- 12.1** The Tuck Shop continues to be run very capably by the team. They must be commended for their dedication to duty, particularly when prices were increased at the end of 2008. This could have resulted in problems; however the staff need to be congratulated in how they avoided any issues.

13 | Canteen and Kitchen

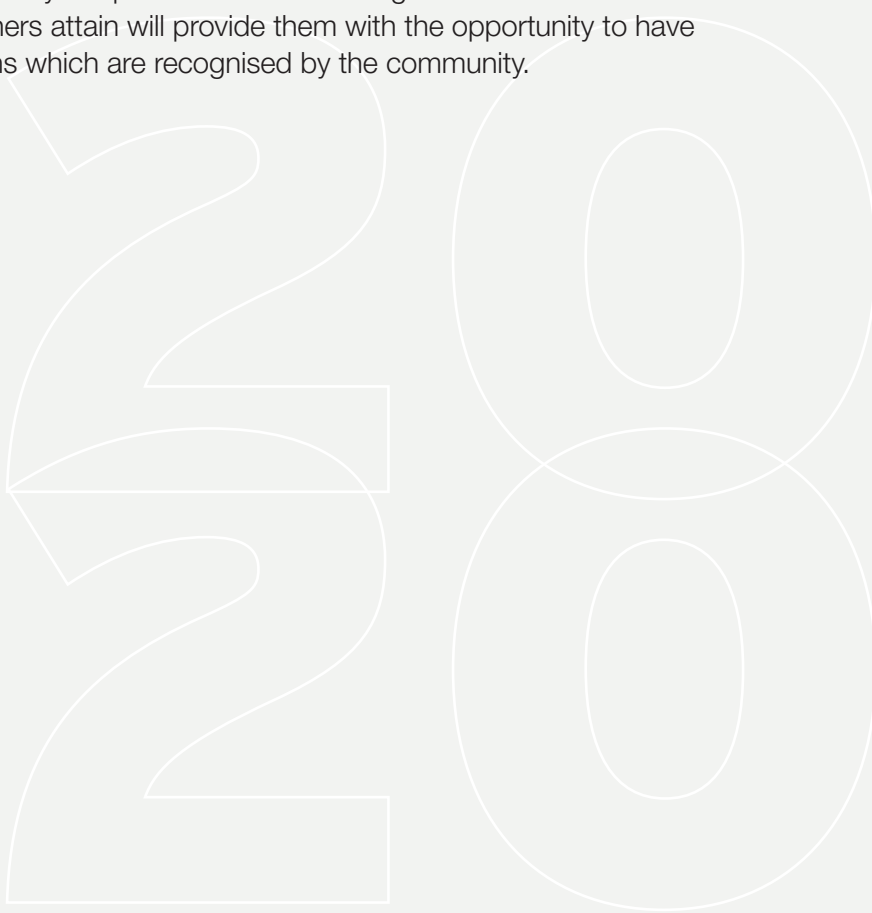
- 13.1** The kitchen and canteen facilities continue to be run to a very high standard. The kitchen staff needs to be recognised for their professionalism in ensuring the smooth running of the facility.

14 | Industries

- 14.1** The Joinery and Metalwork section is in full production with all of the products being sold, this is a very successful section of the prison and the quality of the products is excellent. The facilities for these activities are up to date and the prisoners like the work.

15 | Workshops

- 15.1** The workshops continue to provide the opportunity for prisoners to receive excellent training in Painting & Decorating, Plastering, Woodwork, Industrial Cleaning, Tiling, and Computer Build. The workshops are of the Nissan hut design and have become antiquated, some requiring maintenance but in general they are adequate and well run by qualified staff.
- 15.2** Outstanding results last year were the building of walled areas for flowers, the painting of Office areas and Prisoner Blocks along with maintenance of the Grounds areas and cleaning, all these services were carried out by the prisoners thus reducing maintenance costs on the system. The skills that the prisoners attain will provide them with the opportunity to have meaningful jobs and qualifications which are recognised by the community.



16 | Education and Library

- 16.1** The Education Department at Magilligan Prison continues to make an extremely valuable contribution to the wellbeing of inmates by the increasing provision of relevant courses for the prison population. The total staff complement of the Department consists of thirteen members of staff including the Chief Education Officer, a part time Writer in Residence, four teachers from the North West Regional College and full and part time teachers based at Magilligan.
- 16.2** The objectives of education provision for the diverse range of clients is to enable them to attain certain levels of academic achievement, to ensure that they successfully complete Resettlement programmes and to update and/or learn new skills. The emphasis of the programmes available is to equip clients with sufficient skills and knowledge to assist them in undertaking gainful employment post release.
- 16.3** As the majority of the prison population are short term sentenced prisoners, the policy of the Department is to teach Essential Skills modules over a five week period to ensure that the complete module is available to the prisoner during his term in prison. Clients are assessed in Literacy and Numeracy at their Committal stage and those who are below Entry Level One are encouraged to access education. The Essential Skills modules are funded through the Department of Employment and Learning and teaching delivered by four teachers from the North West Regional College. The Literacy and Numeracy modules have been academically accredited and inmates are encouraged to attempt to achieve accreditation at a level higher than their initial assessment level. Currently the five week mode of teaching allows 95% of inmates to avail of education and achieve accreditation. Those students that attain Entry Level 3 are eligible to participate in Offending Behaviour programmes and students are encouraged and facilitated to attain the requisite academic criterion.
- 16.4** The popular computer studies CLAIT course provides a basis for the CLAIT Plus programme offering inmates a range of skills and qualifications which will be particularly helpful in seeking employment in the IT job market. It is also possible for students who complete the CLAIT Plus programme to enrol for the Computer Technician Course.
- 16.5** Creative writing classes are held on two days per week and are delivered by the writer in residence. Currently a number of clients are working on projects in the areas of poetry, prose writing and drama. One prisoner is in the process of writing his third horror book.
- 16.6** A range of business studies and related programmes are provided for inmates including, for example, Business Studies, Sage Accounts and Profile of Achievement. Classes are also provided for students wishing to study for GCSE English and Mathematics and Art can be taught to GCSE "A" level. A full range of Open University courses are available.
- 16.7** Classes in Essential Skills, Information Technology and Driving Theory are delivered to clients in Block H2 who because of security and a variety of other reasons are precluded from attending formal classes.

16 | Education and Library

- 16.8** The Department also provides a Toe by Toe programme, funded by the Shannon Trust, which is intended to help non-readers and is delivered on a one to one basis using a mentor and a mentee. During the past year the average use of Toe by Toe would amount to 6-10 mentors/mentees. The IMB would like to commend the Shannon Trust for this generous funding and strongly recommends the continuance of this most beneficial programme.
- 16.9** The Library has serious limitations in terms of serving the overall prison population. The Sunday opening is the only formal access and prisoners are only entitled to use the library facilities informally if they are attending education. This is further limited to those inmates who attend education in the Education Centre reflecting about 10% of the prison population. The recent acquisition of a Mobile Library - donated by the Library Board - was gratefully accepted and every prisoner now has access to the mobile library at least once a week. The IMB considers this facility to be most beneficial and commends the prison authorities on its acquisition.
- 16.10** The IMB would like to thank all those involved both internally and externally in education provision for Magilligan inmates and commends the partnerships and links that the prison has established with local colleges, community groups and various organisations.

17 | Chaplains

- 17.1** The role of a Chaplain is of vital importance to any Prison establishment and in H.M.P. Magilligan. Chaplains contribute greatly to the well being and spiritual needs of the prisoners. A review of Chaplaincy in Northern Ireland Prisons was carried out in the previous year and a new system is now in place. Each Prison has a Lead Chaplain with other Chaplains of various denominations assisting. One of the most important aspects of the new system is that the Ministry of a Chaplain is available for Spiritual and practical guidance every day, and that Chaplains have a presence throughout the prison on a daily basis. Under the new system Chaplains report to a Governor and there is more "joined up thinking and working". They also visit prisoners in SSU daily as well as those on Par1. Chaplains respond to requests from prisoners and have visited prisoners at the request of the IMB.
- 17.2** Regular Services are held each Sunday with new services being held on Monday evenings. Mid week services also include a Thursday Mass in H2; a Thursday Mass in Foyleview and a Free Presbyterian Service on Friday in Foyleview. Other Ecumenical Services are held according to the Christian Calendar. A Mission is held annually and various religious literature is available for prisoners.
- 17.3** Chaplains have moved into new accommodation which has worked well as the IMB are also based in the same building.
- 17.4** The IMB greatly value the assistance and role of the Chaplain. IMB also have monitored the implementation of their new role and have found it to be much more beneficial to both prisoner and establishment. We look forward to having a purpose built house of worship in our new prison.

18 | Sport and Recreation

- 18.1** In October 2008 a new programme was introduced at HMP Magilligan to facilitate the increase in population. This is constantly reviewed to monitor its success, as the programme has to incorporate equality and fairness through distribution.
- 18.2** The programme varies from week to week taking into consideration seasonal sporting activities and the rotation attendance of the Inmates. Outdoor activity is now an integral part of the Sport and Recreation programme.
- 18.3** This year Inmates achieved accreditations in First Aid at Work, Boxercise and Canoeing. Statistics for the period April 2008-March 2009 confirm that the Sport and Recreation Complex have had approximately 25,000 Inmates attending during the year, while 52,000 Constructive Activity Hours have been recorded within the Regime. Additional to this is the time spent on Staff's Wellbeing at the Staff Wellness Centre and the introduction of Circuit Training.
- 18.4** The Physical Education Department operates a 6.5 day week, with an approximate weekly attendance of 450-550 Inmates recording 1050 hours of Constructive Activity each week.
- 18.5** The IMB are pleased to note that the HMP Magilligan Redevelopment Programme is currently underway and within the design a new purpose built Sport and recreation Complex will be incorporated.



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19 | Healthcare

- 19.1** The IMB fully support the transfer for the delivery of healthcare within the Prison to the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust in April 2008. They have however concerns regarding requests, complaints and the monitoring of provision. The healthcare staff already in place did not transfer to the National Health Service. This may cause the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust a problem in exercising normal line management responsibility.
- 19.2** There is at present training underway to ensure that all Healthcare staff have appropriate skills in attending to the needs of the prisoners. The Trust is to be congratulated on this initiative.
- 19.3** The IMB wish to ensure that the prisoners within Magilligan receive treatment commensurate with that in the general population. There is however a shortfall in staff - currently 13 nurses supported by a Senior Officer and a Principal Officer. Out of this complement there are only two mental health nurses. This is to be measured by the fact that 70% of prisoners exhibit two or more of the five major mental health disorders and 20% have four of the five. The staff shortage is apparently exacerbated by the increase of the general population and the addition of two additional blocks, Halward House and Alpha compound.
- 19.4** The new Healthcare Centre is well appointed with ample provision for opticians, doctors and treatment facilities. There are also toilets and shower facilities for both sexes to a very high standard. It functions as a day care centre with no inpatient beds, security is provided by an Operational Support Grade (OSG) officer with CCTV provision in the waiting room to provide oversight. It is hoped to relocate dental provision.
- 19.5** The IMB is cognizant of the fact that the general health of the prisoners is lower than that in the outside population. Healthcare staff attempt to address the problems of addiction of drugs, alcohol and tobacco. Addiction services in all prisons are currently out to tender, and it is hoped that a comprehensive and accountable service be rolled out in all three establishments.

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- 19.6** The Hepatitis programme is ongoing, and the provision of auricular acupuncture is still available for the relief of stress.
- 19.7** The IMB believe that the well man programme should be re-established with agreed targets as soon as possible.
- 19.8** Ninety percent of Foyleview residents are responsible for their own medication and have self-care packs. Since even prescribed medication can be bartered within the prison, care must be taken to ensure that the patient is the only one accessing it. To this end self locking medicine cabinets have been provided with number locks in Sperrin. In Halward House and in Alpha compound the inmates can lock their doors, which provide some security. There does not appear to be any such protection in the other blocks.
- 19.9** The IMB strongly advocate the provision of a secure therapeutic facility outside of prison to house and treat those prisoners with severe mental health problems.
- 19.10** A new Dental chair has been purchased and IMB note the intention to relocate the Dental Unit to a position beside the new Healthcare Unit within the Phase. This will allow prisoners access to a complete primary healthcare / dental unit in the one location.

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20 | Visits and NIACRO

- 20.1** There have been changes in the Staffing of the Visits Area. The new Prison Staff has settled in well, showing good team work which is vital to the successful running of such an important area of prison life.
- 20.2** Saturday is still proving to be the most popular day for visits. Approximately 50% of visits take place on a weekly basis, with other visits being booked fortnightly or monthly.
- 20.3** Bookings for visits can be done at Magilligan Prison while visiting, and this face to face approach is welcomed by the families. Other bookings are made by phone.
- 20.4** Observations of this face to face booking system indicate that every effort is made to meet the request for a particular date and time, which suits the visitor. Prison Staff deal with all requests for information or help in a most respectful professional manner.
- 20.5** A recent Survey indicates that 90% of those who have completed the survey in Magilligan prison rated the general visiting arrangements as very good, or good.
- 20.6** The provision of a covered walkway for visitors waiting to access the Prison, would be a welcome facility.
- 20.7** The IMB are aware that the plans are already in place to provide this walkway. It is hoped that financial constraints will not delay the work.



21 | Child Centred Visits

- 21.1** The Child Centred Visits have continued all year. IMB members have attended some of these visits and in Magilligan Prison there is a team headed by Family Officer and composed of Prison Staff, and NIACRO, dedicated to the successful organisation and running of these essential visits. This is a praise worthy example of good practice.
- 21.2** The IMB welcomes the extension of Child Centred Visits to Foyleview. These visits take place on a Sunday so that eligible prisoners can avail of the opportunity to spend valuable time with their children.
- 21.3** The highlight of the year was the re-launching of the Big Book Share which had lapsed for a period of time. This very essential scheme is so successful due to the enthusiasm and hard work of the Family Officer. A member of staff from Education is now involved in the recording process. The IMB would welcome a granting of even one more hour to facilitate this process, as it is a time consuming process. Observation of this task showed how difficult it is. However, the enthusiasm displayed in order to make the finished article personalised to the child, was impressive.
- 21.4** The family Officer must be congratulated for undertaking further study to enhance his skills in counselling. These skills are vital, if the role of Family Officer is to be successful and beneficial to all.
- 21.5** NIACRO carry out a very important role in providing advice, planning and supervising play activities and Family days. The quality of food and drinks provided is excellent. Healthy Eating is always a consideration, especially at Child Centred Visits.
- 21.6** The IMB welcome the opportunity to develop closer links with NIACRO and will meet on a more regular basis for the exchange of information.
- 21.7** It is hoped that the IMB and NIACRO will be consulted on the Play area and facilities for the children and teenagers to be made available in any new build.

22 | Safer Custody Forum

- 22.1** These meetings are held bi-monthly with one member of the IMB attending.
- 22.2** During the year, April 2008 to March 2009, 58 Par1 documents were opened, which indicates an increase in the numbers of PAR1s on the previous year.
- 22.3** The extensive training programme has increased awareness of the signs of prisoners at risk, and a recent Audit indicates that these PAR1 documents provide more detailed data.
- 22.4** Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (A.S.I.S.T.) continues to be delivered and around 135 Officers have been trained to date. In addition all newly appointed prison Officers have received this training at the Prison Training College.
- 22.5** The IMB continues to monitor prisoners on PAR1 documents, prisoners on Rule 32 and in SSU.

23 | Drug Strategy Meetings

- 23.1** These meetings are convened bi monthly and are attended by a multidisciplinary group of people chaired by a governor.
- 23.2** The multidisciplinary team consists of healthcare, an officer from PDU (prisoner development unit), a governor from inmate services, a residential PO, a security officer, a senior officer from the dog section, probation, and a representative from Northlands drug addiction services and IMB.
- 23.3** Meetings focus on recent drug finds, type of drugs, best methods of finding these drugs and preventative measures of these entering the establishment.
- 23.4** Drug testing procedures have been discussed with the concept of using mouth swabs to streamline these procedures, however swab testing is currently out to tender.
- 23.5** Courses are provided by PDU with various staff trained to deliver the following; alcohol programmes, drug misuse education, acupuncture, Northlands substance abuse, heart matters.
- 23.6** The meeting recommends that more block and area searches need to be carried out to reduce the drug culture.

24 | Members List

24.1 Members of Board

Mrs Joan Doherty **(Chair)**

Mrs Frances Symington **(Vice Chair)**

Mr Robert Armitage **(service completed 14/05/08)**

Mr John Richardson **(resigned 28/08/08)**

Mrs Margaret Campbell

Mrs Rosemary Craig

Miss Jodi Harte

Mrs Irene Johnston

Mr Samuel M^cGregor

Mr Michael M^cIvor

Mr Clarke Mc Laughlin **(service completed 14/05/08)**

Mr Joseph Mitchell

Mr Thomas Kerrigan

Mrs Valerie Von Hof

Mr Brian Collins

Mrs Rae Morrison

Mr Cormac Wilson

Mr Gordon Ramsey

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