



INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21
MAGILLIGAN PRISON

Table of Contents

Chairpersons Introduction

Chairpersons Introduction	3
Overview.	6
Accommodation	8
Healthcare and Mental Health.....	10
Alcohol and Substance Abuse	12
Catering and Kitchens.....	13
Chaplaincy	13
Education/Purposeful Activity.....	14
Prisoner Development and Resettlement.....	16
Equality and Diversity.....	17
Reception and Induction	19
Dog Section.....	19
Safer Custody	20
Segregation – Care and Supervision Unit	22
Sport and Recreation	25
Tuck Shop.....	25
Visits.....	25

CHAIRPERSON'S INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to present the report for Magilligan IMB covering the year from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021. For the purposes of this report the Independent Monitoring Board shall be referred to as the IMB, and "the Board" shall refer to those members of the Magilligan Board.

At the beginning of this period there were six members on the Board. In April 2020 Christopher Ralph retired, and in June 2020 it was a matter of much regret that we learned of the death of Harry Montgomery. I wish to thank Christopher for his time as a member of the Board, and to convey our sympathy to the Montgomery family. To the three others who now remain, I wish to express my gratitude and appreciation to them for their commitment to their role on the IMB.

During the reporting year there were two deaths in custody, and to those families we extend our sympathy.

The reporting year saw the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. Such was the emergency that the prison, like others, was subject to periods of lock-down due in part to the lack of worldwide knowledge and medical/scientific information pertaining to the disease.

In-person family and legal visits stopped, education and most workshops ceased to operate, as did access to the gyms and library. General association was greatly reduced, but unlike other parts of the UK, prisoners were not confined to their cells for excessive periods of time. General footfall within the prison was kept to a bare minimum so as to reduce the risk of infection.

We note that the robust operation which took place, and is ongoing to a lesser degree within the prison, to reduce the risk and spread of infection, has been successful. Anxiety was understandable amongst both staff and prisoners as they worried about the spread of the disease both in and outside the prison, and within their families. Communication to the prisoners was very transparent, and this resulted in excellent compliance from them as they knew the reasons for the vigilance and restrictions being imposed on them. This was helped also by the fact that they were rewarded with extra money in recognition of the inconvenience which they were experiencing.

Communication to the IMB regarding the first case of Covid within the prison was less so, in that IMB members first learned of it through the BBC news app on our mobile phones in August 2020. This situation was far from ideal as it was felt that it was an important issue, and one that the Board should have been made aware of, especially as all members were in the establishment on the day it was known, albeit unofficially. Thanks to the intervention of the IMB Secretariat, members received an assurance that they would, in future be kept informed by NIPS Headquarters via the Secretariat.

As the year progressed and especially in recent weeks, prisoners are very much wanting to return to a more 'normal' regime and it is hoped that this will happen in due course. At the time of this report being completed, the Board has found that the prisoners are getting jaded and weary with the continued lock-down. The Board has tried to convey to them that life on the outside is very much not back to the 'normal' which they perceive, and it feels that, at this stage, information regarding continuing restrictions in the outside community could be conveyed.

Staff morale levels around the prison also appear to be low, and in need of a boost.

Overall, there appears to be a calmness within the Magilligan prison population, helped greatly by the fact that staff have risen to the challenges posed by the pandemic and the changes to the regimes, and the prisoners did likewise. The welcome absence of illegal drugs entering the prison played a huge part in the quieter atmosphere during the year, and thankfully to date there have been no Covid-related deaths in any of the three establishments.

Visitors and events within Magilligan were understandably few. A CIJINI Inspection of the CSU took place in January 2021, the report of which is awaited, and IMB members held separate meetings with both the Prisoner Ombudswoman Lesley Carroll, and Jacqui Durkin-Chief Inspector of Criminal Justice NI during the year. Virtual meetings also took place with Director General, Ronnie Armour, and Naomi Long, Justice Minister. These meetings all proved useful, and the IMB welcomes such opportunities.

The Board was unable to monitor within the prison as much as would have been liked due to the obvious circumstances, and weekly updates and communications

between members and the prison were sometimes sporadic, but on behalf of the Board I wish to acknowledge the work of Senior Management, and indeed all the staff, in what was a very challenging year which had many 'firsts' for everyone.

We look forward to normal life resuming sooner rather than later, and that the vaccination process which is well underway, continues to give a sense of confidence and conviction that there are better days ahead.

In addition, the Board is grateful to the Secretariat for their support- virtual and otherwise!

Margaret McCrory

OVERVIEW

HMP Magilligan is a low-to-medium security establishment on the site of a former army camp. Its regime focuses on maintaining a balance between appropriate levels of security and prisoner safety, respect, engagement in constructive activity, and addressing offending behaviour leading to resettlement and a reduction in reoffending.

The prisoner accommodation consists of:

- Halward House - a two storey modern building;
- 3 single storey H blocks which each house 100 prisoners
- Alpha - which houses 50 prisoners who are in the latter stage of their sentence
- Foyleview - the resettlement unit of Magilligan, where prisoners transfer from Alpha, having met the admission criteria, and is Phase 1 of pre-release testing.
- Runkerry - adjacent to Foyleview, and also outside the wall of the main prison and is Phase 2 of pre-release testing. It was introduced during Covid19 restrictions, and whilst it was envisaged that prisoners would go to outside work from there, this did not materialise.
- Kilcranny House - in nearby Coleraine where, in Phase 3 of pre-release testing, prisoners live and work in the community and are supervised periodically by prison staff.

The CSU (Care and Supervision Unit) is an 18-cell single storey building. The adjudication processes, and other aspects of the disciplinary process take place in an adjacent modular unit.

The PDU (Prisoner Development Unit) houses the many agencies, prison staff, and Governors involved in sentence management and resettlement.

The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (SEHSCT) are responsible for all aspects of prisoner's physical and mental healthcare.

AD:EPT (Alcohol and Drugs: Empowering People through Therapy) provide those prisoners in need of help with addiction issues.

Education and Training is provided by the North West Regional College, and library services by NI Libraries. The Prison Art Foundation runs therapeutic art and craft courses. Due to Covid restrictions however, no such courses, educational or otherwise took place in the prison.

Chaplaincy is provided by the various churches, and a newly built House of Worship is now completed and would have been open had Covid restrictions not been imposed. Further help for prisoners is provided by the Prison Fellowship, though not during the reporting period.

Other charitable and voluntary organisations within the prison include Barnardo's, who support prisoners with family issues, CRUSE Bereavement Care, NIACRO who support families in the Visitors Centre, and Housing Rights staff provide guidance with grants, benefits and housing. Input from all outside agencies was greatly reduced during the year, although virtual support to prisoners and their families continued where and when possible.

ACCOMMODATION

Magilligan has the capacity to accommodate 474 prisoners and at 31/03/2021 there was a population of 393 - a reduction of 52 on the previous year-end. This was primarily as a result of protective measures being taken to reduce virus transmission whereby single cell accommodation was introduced, and the upper - level landing in Halward House was initially used as an isolation unit.

H1 (Dunluce) - A Wing is the progression RISE (Regime Index Supervision Easement) landing for enhanced prisoners who have their own cell keys, and who also enjoy a longer period of association in the evenings.

H1-B Wing houses those who need extra support and are managed under Safer Custody.

H2 A&B Wing is for the older prisoners, and especially those who have health and/or mobility issues, while C&D Wing houses vulnerable prisoners.

H3 (Causeway) A&B Wing accommodates those in need of support with addiction issues, and C&D Wing houses general population.

Halward is a large modern bright unit-the most modern accommodation block on the prison site, and normally houses transfer prisoners from Maghaberry during the induction period. The upper floor has, during the reporting period, become the Covid/isolation landing where the transfer prisoners have been isolating before moving to another part of the jail, as did any prisoner who had to, perhaps leave the confines of the jail to go to an outside medical facility, or indeed who showed symptoms of Covid. There are no longer any double cells in use in Halward. Downstairs there are several safe cells for 'live' SPARS.

Alpha is a modular unit where the prisoners have larger rooms, and whilst most of the building is clean and bright, the shower area on both wings stand in need of a major refurbishment. A move to Alpha is granted through a process whereby an individual makes a request through landing staff, and is followed by an assessment and interview carried out by staff in the PDU. Alpha is a means of access to

Foyleview, a low-security unit which is outside the wall of the main prison complex, but still on the prison site.

Foyleview consists of two modular prefabricated buildings which can each accommodate 17 prisoners, and a communal unit for dining, and recreation. Much work, and a major refurbishment is needed in this area to update it, and to make it a decent environment in which to live. We appreciate that works may have been postponed due to the Covid restrictions whereby outside contractors were unable to access the site, but moving forward, we hope that the structural repairs commence expeditiously. A vermin problem had been identified in this area and was addressed promptly.

The refurbishment matters are of course not new, having already being highlighted in previous reports and inspections.

Recommendation: Repeated - Undertake the refurbishment of Foyleview

Runkerry is a new, small very modern and comfortable unit adjacent to the Foyleview accommodation blocks and has been constructed by prisoners who work in the joinery workshop daily. Those involved in the construction of it are to be highly commended and is certainly somewhere for the other prisoners to aim for and work towards.

Kilcranny House is in Coleraine and is phase 3 of pre-release testing, where a very small number of prisoners reside at any one time with a degree of independence from the prison but are monitored from there.

Healthcare and Mental Health

Magilligan Prison primary healthcare, mental healthcare, dental and optical care are provided under the auspices and management of the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust. (SEHSCT)

Healthcare staff at Magilligan are employed by the Trust and are subject to the employment practises and social care quality assurance systems of the Trust as well as to their own professional regulatory organisations for their own professional practise.

HM Inspectorate for Prisons and RQIA (Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority) for NI are responsible for monitoring standards of healthcare in prisons.

Primary Care Services for general practice and dental health are consistently under pressure to ensure timely intervention to prevent deterioration of health, and the IMB recognises that following a recruitment campaign in July- August 2020, all nursing vacancies have been filled. Throughout the Covid pandemic, and to date, nursing staff continue to provide a full although stretched service.

Although 35% of each GP clinic is retained for urgent patient appointments, telephone and video appointments are often available from Maghaberry Prison when no GP is on site in Magilligan. This means that no patient has to wait longer than 48 hours for an urgent access to a HIPs GP.

The routine waiting time to see the GP is 3.5 to 5 weeks, although a recent audit showed that during the wait patients will have seen another healthcare professional approximately five times.

When the IMB are contacted about waiting times to see a GP we often remind the prisoners that the situation is similar, if not worse outside the confines of the prison system.

External routine appointments were however stood down by the respective Trust during the initial COVID period, but urgent referrals were facilitated as far as possible. Given the present situation regarding OPD appointments, the Board is satisfied that patient needs are being met as well as can be expected during what is a complex, difficult and unique situation being faced by healthcare staff globally.

Primary Care or Mental Healthcare staff continued to present at all patient case reviews during the year.

The Board is encouraged to note that during the reporting period there were no positive Covid cases within Magilligan Prison. Starting in February 2021, vaccination was offered to all prisoners aged 50+ and to date 218 received the vaccination and 26 prisoners declined it. As we go to press moderately-at-risk prisoners under 50 are being offered their first vaccine and those who have previously declined will continue to be offered one.

ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

AD:EPT (Alcohol and Drugs: Empowering People through Therapy) is funded through SEHSCT, and work with prisoners delivering a range of interventions in relation to substance misuse and emotional wellbeing. Due to the COVID pandemic however, the team were diverted from their normal role, to supporting the OST (Opiate Substitute Therapy) staff.

Those who were heavily dependent on opiates were supported during the reporting period, but those who were using other non-opiate substances or alcohol for example, were not seen, and at this time remain on a waiting list for one-to-one support.

This situation is far from ideal, and at present the staff feel overworked, overwhelmed and very under-valued.

There were several finds of 'Hooch' (man-made alcohol) during the year.

Prisoners with alcohol issues are offered support from AA via Zoom meetings as footfall within the Prison is reduced. In due course we hope that face-to-face meetings can resume.

Due to the lock-down during the reporting period, the amount of illicit drugs entering the prison was greatly reduced. The misuse however of prescription drugs continued, having being got through coercion, threats of violence, bullying or repayment of debt.

500 prisoners in total were tested resulting in 1104 results. There were 267 fails, 736 passes and 94 refusals which are recorded as a fail. Buprenorphine continues to be the most common detection, followed by Tramadol and Novel Psychoactive Substance

CATERING AND KITCHENS

The kitchen managed to fulfil the cooking and delivery of food throughout the reporting period.

The kitchen caters for all prisoners regardless of religion, medical or cultural beliefs.

A few issues have been raised with the Board in relation to portion sizes but as explained to the prisoners, these are standard sizes within all the establishments and if required, further food items can be purchased from the tuck shop.

Catering courses were carried out before Christmas but had to be cancelled due to restrictions within the prison due to the pandemic. Hopefully these will resume soon.

The kitchen building itself is old and requires updating to bring it up to standard. Ideally a replacement be provided in the near future, which would be of much greater benefit.

CHAPLAINCY

Chaplains in Magilligan are appointed by their various churches, and pre-Covid they held regular Church services, spoke with prisoners when requested to do so, and met with the new transfers from Maghaberry. They were seen to be in and around the prison on a weekly basis.

Unfortunately, and as per Covid regulations, their presence within the prison was extremely limited like many of the other outside agencies, during the lockdowns. Prisoners were, however, able to avail of the Zoom facilities to make contact, and some had bible readings and Psalms delivered to them.

If and when restrictions ease, the Board looks forward to the prisoners being able to enjoy personal time with their Chaplains, avail of their weekly religious services, and more importantly, that the services can take place in the new House of Worship which has finally been completed. It is a beautifully finished building and is also a multi-purpose one.

EDUCATION/PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITY

Education within the prison is provided by the North West Regional College (NWRC), which is contracted to provide accredited courses ranging from Adult Literacy, Numeracy and ICT to qualifications in skills which will help prisoners to gain employment on their resettlement into the community.

From the end of March 2020 a reduced regime was introduced with prisoners remaining within their accommodation blocks and each landing being treated as a separate domestic unit. The immediate impact of this was that education classes ceased with courses being provided virtually where possible. Some students were able to complete workbooks and return them to their tutors for marking but all practical placements in workshops were suspended.

In order to provide some replacement activities additional Orderly roles were introduced to enhance cleaning on the landings and support the effort to control infection. Essential workers for areas such as kitchens, stores and laundry operated as normal with social distancing in place.

Elderly and vulnerable prisoners were accommodated on one landing with only designated staff working in this location. Using machines moved from the upholstery workshop they used the time to produce medical gowns and bags for the NHS. Residents of H1 built raised beds and erected two poly tunnels to grow their own fruit and vegetables. Meanwhile across the prison estate gardens were maintained, resident animals and poultry tended and the bee keepers established a number of new hives whilst continuing to study for the theory element of their qualification.

For those prisoners nearing the end of their sentences who had been “working out” the pandemic ended their placements in the community. The loss of this work was potentially damaging to their future resettlement but alternative employment was provided in the existing prison industries which continued to operate with two trainers.

Despite the disruption to education and work morale within the prison remained high.

Staff shortages were managed so that a Rule 7 was not required to be invoked. Core days were landing based, and all were unlocked by 0820, and afternoon locked periods were shorter. A calendar of both in-cell and external activities provided alternatives to watching TV. These were extended to prisoners in isolation with distraction packs available if required. Snooker and Pool competitions, curling, quiz sessions, bingo, and an art contest to design greeting cards were all well supported. Although the Gym was closed to reflect community restrictions, out of unit exercise was available on the football dust pitch.

As a fund raising event for the NHS, a run was undertaken by a relay team which completed 183 laps of the all-weather pitch, the equivalent of 8 marathons.

Throughout this time the Officer with responsibility for the Library provided a mobile service to the landings with readers being allowed to have as many books or DVDs as they liked. Each week 160 to 170 DVDs were exchanged with long waiting lists for box sets. Although the Northern Ireland Library Service had supplied books and DVDs it is to be deplored that the Library budget was cut from £5,000 to £500. Moreover there is a shortage of material for Foreign National prisoners especially Polish speakers and it is to be hoped that in the near future electronic devices can be provided to allow access to newspapers and books in translation.

All residents were able to avail of showers and exercise in the open air. Prisoners were let out into the yards in small groups and allowed to meet in the exercise yards. Closure of the gym was the major cause of discontent. Initially an all -purpose open air gym was rotated for each house and multi gyms were ordered for individual houses. As the lockdown continued much of the equipment required repair and it was not possible to allow the requisite technicians to enter the prison to undertake this. A partial easing of restrictions in September enabled the gym to be re-opened with areas individually marked and a piece of equipment located in each. Prisoners used a machine, cleaned it and moved on thus remaining socially distanced. This worked well but a spike in infections led to the Government imposing a further lockdown and prisoners being limited to exercising on the football pitch.

For much of this year the Board has been monitoring remotely. Members have

received regular updates from Governors and, when able to undertake limited in-person visits, have been able to speak to staff and enter the houses whilst prisoners were locked. The Freephone facility which was put in place to enable prisoners to contact members was little used. Undoubtedly the pandemic seriously disrupted sentence planning. Pre-release testing ceased but progression towards release was maintained as far as possible. From their relatively limited perspective the Board felt that any restrictions put in place were proportionate, the prevailing atmosphere in the prison was calm with both staff and prisoners working together to mitigate the impact of the situation.

Recommendation: Restated - improved computer access for prisoners remains a priority

PRISONER DEVELOPMENT AND RESETTLEMENT

The Prisoner Development Unit (PDU) is a multi-agency approach ensuring that those in custody will be supported, whilst recognising the need for prisoners' to be managed according to their individual needs and risks they may present before being released after time served for their return into the community.

Within PDU there are Personal Development Planning Co-ordinators who are responsible for preparing and co-ordinating interventions by supporting and preparing prisoners for resettlement and reintegration back into the community on their release.

During the COVID restrictions the PDU offered inmates of Magilligan the following:

- The "Cook it" programme providing inmates with cooking skills that would benefit them upon release or for their progression to Runkerry and Kilcranny where inmates live independently.
- "International men's day" whereby staff members of the PDU baked for the inmates in Foyleview.

- Christmas family zooms with Santa, where a number of inmates with young children took part in a zoom with their family. Santa was present at the zoom call with a special message for each child.
- Homework Club took place via zoom on evenings in the PDU so that fathers had the opportunity to help their child with their homework
- Barnardo's and LAC zoom calls to enable inmates to re-engage with their families. This included contact with the inmates child/children and where applicable social workers.
- Webex meetings were facilitated for inmates requiring 1 to 1 psychology work.

Prisoner development is offered to all prisoners remanded into custody for more than 30 days and sentenced prisoners with the aim of placing priority on the protection of the public from serious harm and supports reducing the likelihood of re-offending. The service is not determined by the sentence type or length of sentence but is according to the assessed needs, strengths and risks that each prisoner will have. An entry and exit procedure will again be recorded on PRISM.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

The Equality and Diversity committee monitors the prison's compliance with its obligations under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. Chaired by the Deputy Governor the monthly meeting examines statistics covering the areas of adjudications, segregation, control and restraint, Preps, home leave, drug testing, searches, work allocation and complaints. A member of the Board attends as an observer.

During the period of lockdown meetings were paused and did not resume until December 2020. Whilst in the 2019/20 reporting year attendance was poor and statistics were often delayed or missing, staff are now fully engaged and information is timely and provided in a format which enables disparities clearly to be identified. Key performance measures are presented under the headings of Religion, Racial and Age Group with anomalies in baseline percentages being further examined by taking a 10% dip sample. No evidence of discrimination was found in the reporting period. Moreover work has begun on a continuous improvement and action plan with

progress being reviewed at each meeting.

Prisoner forums are invited to raise concerns with the committee. This input is valuable and has been more closely focussed on Section 75 issues than was previously the case. In its last Annual Report the Board was pleased to report that a review of the complaints procedure had been implemented. This has now been further refined with the result that all complaints made by prisoners are subjected to close scrutiny. An average of 98.5 complaints were received in each of the 4 months of the period analysed, with accommodation and property and cash being the topics most recorded. A small number of individual prisoners accounted for multiple complaints often escalating them despite a resolution being offered at stage 1 of the process. Any complaints marked under staff, discrimination or harassment are thoroughly investigated and a detailed summary of the findings provided.

The allocation of work roles requires that a balance of religion be maintained as far as possible. Residential staff are requested to be aware of the breakdown of the religion of orderlies on the landing taking into consideration the background population of the area. Moreover the statistics relating to applications for Home/Resettlement Leave, CTR and ATR are examined closely to ensure that there is no unintentional bias regarding decisions given that some postcodes may pose a concern for the safety of accompanying staff.

In addition there has been a major improvement in the treatment of foreign national prisoners following the appointment of an officer with specific responsibility for them. This member of staff attends the monthly meetings in Magilligan and undertakes regular “check-ins” with each individual. A further fortnightly meeting with their residential Senior Officer is also scheduled and, in both cases the Big Word translating service is provided. Regular visits from the Home Office enables prisoners to be kept informed of the status of their date for deportation or application for settlement. This has helped to alleviate some of the anxiety experienced due to the uncertainty regarding their progression. As command of English is variable the Officer has designed and produced flash cards which allow prisoners to make requests by pointing to the relevant words. Moreover induction documents and general information is available in translation as are tuckshop lists and menus. Foreign national prisoners suggested that a range of foreign foods should be

available for them to purchase and an unintentional result of this has been a greater diversity in food purchases by the local population.

Whilst Covid restrictions have limited IMB visits to the prison, monitoring has continued remotely and, where possible, in person. Given the difficulties faced it is pleasing that the Board is able to present a positive report and will continue to monitor matters relating to Section 75 in order to safeguard the fair and equal treatment of all prisoners.

RECEPTION AND INDUCTION

It was not possible for the IMB members to monitor these areas of the prison due to Covid restrictions.

DOG SECTION

With the onset of the pandemic the dog section continued with searches throughout the prison. All areas were covered within the prison ranging from the outer wall, delivery vehicles, mail and parcels. The only searches that were not carried out were in-house searches as all houses had their own bubbles to keep down the risk of Covid.

The Senior Officer in charge retired in August which left the team down a staff member and also with a smaller number of trained dogs.

Due to searches still being carried out, this put the team under severe pressure and it is hoped that a replacement will be provided soon to bring them up to quota. With the increasing security threat level within the area it would be of great advantage for an explosive trained dog to be brought on to the team.

Recommendation: That the dog section be expanded to include an additional staff member and a dog trained in detecting explosives.

SAFER CUSTODY

The Safer Custody Forum is the principle means by which the management of vulnerable individuals, incidences of self-harm, bullying and poor mental health are monitored. Monthly meetings are Chaired by the Deputy Governor and attended by Senior Officers and members of the Safety and Support team, Primary Healthcare and Mental Health, PDU, Activities and Residential Governors.

During the period under review there has been disruption to the pattern of regular meetings due to Covid restrictions. Following a six month break meetings resumed in January 2021 with a member of the IMB acting as an observer.

At the outset of each meeting the group of prisoners, trained by the Samaritans as Listeners, are invited to present their activities to the Forum. However, as all movement around the prison estate had ceased they had been unable to offer assistance and instead a mobile phone had been made available in each house to allow contact to be made directly to the Samaritans. Currently four Listeners remain in post and there is a need for more volunteers to be recruited. A revised training programme is being finalised and it is intended to offer this remotely through Zoom.

Where there are concerns that a prisoner is distressed or in a personal crisis the Supporting Prisoners at Risk, (SPAR) process is invoked. SPAR Evolution has now replaced the Legacy process and is comprised of two parts:

- Part 1: Concern form and risk assessment; and
- Part 2: Individual Care Plan, regime and monitoring.

Following triaging one of three outcomes is agreed:

- No Apparent Risk, where no or few needs are identified;
- No Apparent Risk with Referral/Other Actions, where the main referrals tend to be to CRUSE, Mental health or Safety and Support teams; and
- At Risk where an individual care plan and a monitoring regime is implemented.

Over the reporting period, 596 Concern forms have been opened of which 87 were

deemed to be of No Apparent Risk of suicide or serious self-harm but other needs have been identified and 63 were assessed as being At Risk. Whereas the keep-safe care planning aspects of the SPAR Legacy process tended to be protective and often involved moving the prisoner to a Safer cell and the use of Special anti – ligature clothing, SPAR Evolution has reduced the use of both of these.

The Board had concerns regarding the SPAR Legacy recording procedure as it was largely a tick box exercise. SPAR Evolution has a greatly improved process resulting in a person-centred care plan that addresses the underlying issues that led the prisoner to the crisis, reduces the risks and provides ongoing support. This, coupled with the creation of a specific Safety and Support team led by two Senior Officers and accommodated in a designated office, has led to a considerable strengthening of Safer Custody across the prison. Weekly meetings of the team are held in association with representatives of primary healthcare, mental health, addictions and Residential Senior Officers to review individuals on the case load. Any member of staff can refer a prisoner to the team and forms are available on the landings for prisoners themselves to request help if they feel they need it. In addition a monthly SPAR audit is undertaken which provides quality assurance and enables staff to receive feedback and advice where necessary.

During the reporting period, 66 incidents of self-harm were recorded. These included poisoning/overdose and cutting and scratching, the majority requiring some level of medical treatment. It should be noted that a small number of individual prisoners were responsible for multiple incidents of self-harm. In the last three months of the reporting period, there were 13 incidents of self-harm against 39 in 2020. Early identification and closer monitoring of prolific self-harmers has been a major factor in this reduction. Relatively small changes have reduced risk, for example, as razor blades have been implicated in some of the incidents their issue is being managed better by staff and the Safety and Support team have provided electric razors.

The Board has repeatedly called for the Safer at Magilligan (SAM), anti-bullying process to be reviewed and welcomes the introduction of the Challenging Anti-Social Behaviour, (CAB) which came into force on 10 August. Staff have been provided

with descriptions of what constitutes anti-social behaviour and have been encouraged to be vigilant. Despite prisoners being encouraged to report bullying they remain unwilling to do so when requested to identify the alleged bully. By adopting a more flexible response it is possible to observe what is happening, keep the situation confidential and prevent incidents from arising. The process is evidence driven and is recorded by raising a concern, incident or victim form. In the whole of 2019 only 16 SAM booklets were opened whereas from August 2020 to March 2021 there were 48 CAB reports.

Tuckshop orders are monitored to identify any differences which could indicate demands being placed upon an individual prisoner. As incidents and actions taken subsequently are recorded it is possible now to monitor inappropriate behaviour and devise more effective strategies to deal with it.

The Board has been impressed by the work of the Safety and Support team. Their innovative approach has seen the introduction of a pilot programme “Change Course Self-Success for Rehabilitation”, which can be undertaken in the prisoner’s own time and has received very positive feedback. Information via the “Here2help” app, (which can be put on their phone if they have one), gives access to a wide variety of organisations providing help in the community whilst the production of discharge packs of toiletries is useful for individuals going out on Home Leave or facing a first night in an hostel. In addition the provision of a list of goods available to purchase from the Tuckshop in pictorial form is invaluable to prisoners who find reading difficult.

SEGREGATION – CARE AND SUPERVISION UNIT (CSU)

Segregation – the restriction of association, may be used as a deterrent for prisoners charged under Prison Rule 32 pertaining to the maintenance of good order and discipline, as a means of safeguarding a prisoner’s personal safety or as a result of being awarded a period of cellular confinement awarded through the adjudication process.

Despite the restrictions on Board members entering the prison, their statutory obligation to ensure that the Rule 32 procedures had been undertaken correctly

remained unchanged. During the first months of lockdown, the number of offences occurring were greatly reduced resulting in few instances requiring segregation. Members were informed of these through the weekly update communicated by a Governor but the information provided, often lacked detail and it was not possible for a judgement to be made as to whether the action taken was justified. Where an application for an extension to the period of segregation had been made, Board members were unable to attend the resulting case reviews. Once members were able to enter the CSU again all associated paperwork was reviewed, checked and signed.

During the reporting period, 40 prisoners were placed on a Rule 32; this compares with 175 in the previous year. Although the average time spent in segregation was 8.37 days, one prisoner with complex needs remained in the CSU for 37 days.

Individual prisoners may be detained in the CSU for their own safety and it should be noted that it is a place where individualised care can be administered. A concerted effort is made to ensure that no prisoner remains in solitary confinement for any longer than is strictly necessary. An exit strategy is discussed at all case meetings with input from the healthcare and mental health teams. The Board was satisfied that, from the evidence presented to them, the period of detention in this case was justified.

Adjudication is the formal process for dealing with instances of alleged misconduct. Initially paused for a short period, adjudications were continued as normal throughout the pandemic although minor offences were written off.

Possession of drugs is often the reason for a prisoner being charged and although as a result of the lockdown the presence of drugs in the prison was much reduced, a policy decision was made to continue drug testing mainly in order to monitor any abuse of prescription medication. In order to reduce the numbers of prisoners held in segregation, a prisoner failing a drug test for the first time was given the opportunity to engage in a programme designed to address substance abuse and the adjudication adjourned. A second failure resulted in the first being scrapped and the same governor engaging with the prisoner in order to build a bigger picture and make a more informed judgement as to an appropriate award.

Whilst Board members have established good working relationships with staff assigned to the CSU, there has been an ongoing difficulty in gaining access to records of incidents occasioning use of force. Staff have been unable to locate the documentation and, even when the relevant records can be found, are unsure as to whether Board members are allowed to see it. A similar problem has arisen when requesting access to video recordings and body camera footage. To ensure that prisoners are being treated humanely IMB members are accorded the right to see all documentation other than that involving national security. In the year under review, 53 uses of force were recorded. Many of these were of a routine nature nevertheless, it is essential that Board members are able to verify that the force employed was proportionate.

Prior to July 2020, the upper floor of Halward House had accommodated prisoners requiring to be isolated. From this point a landing in the CSU was designated as the quarantine area with specific staff assigned to it. The landing was gated and staffed around the clock. By March 2021, a relaxation of restrictions saw the introduction of regular weekly case conferences chaired by a governor and designed to consider exit strategies to reduce the number of prisoners who were long term on Rule 32.

In addition, the Board welcomes the monitoring of Oversight meetings which are intended to deliver consistency in outcomes and decisions made by governors attending adjudications and Rule 32s.

Recommendation: Restated - A consistent method of communicating R32 case reviews to IMB members be implemented and adhered to as a matter of urgency.

SPORT AND RECREATION

Due to the Covid Pandemic, the gym within Magilligan closed at the end of March 2020. It reopened at the end of August due to restrictions being lifted on the outside and stayed open for approximately 6 weeks. The prisoners enjoyed having the gym open again as a lot of them use it - whether it be for training purposes or just to help

their mental health. Sadly the gym closed again from October 2020 until March 2021.

Unlike the rest of the establishments Magilligan only has a hard pitch which is not suitable for circuits and various other exercise routines which can be carried out on a 4g pitch. This reduced what could be organised, due to the limited resources within the prison.

TUCK SHOP

The Tuck Shop continues to provide an invaluable service, making available to the prisoners a variety of food and confectionery, a choice of pre-approved electrical items and CDs and DVDs, stationery, craft items, and protein supplement drinks. Seasonal items are available at Easter and Christmas and specialised food items are procured to accommodate the requirements of the foreign national prisoners. ,

New items are often sourced if requested, and prices are consistent across the three establishments, and overall have apparently shown a decrease during this reporting period. Despite Brexit, all items are readily available to date.

The Tuck shop operates smoothly with the help of the prisoners who work there.

VISITS

In line with the first Covid-related regulations, all in-person visits to the prisoners ceased, and were replaced with a whole new concept in the form of virtual visits via Zoom. The success of this project cannot be understated, and the staff who undertook the launch of the scheme and maintained its operation during this difficult year are to be commended.

16605 virtual visits took place during this reporting year, inclusive of court and legal business for prisoners. In total there were 2127 and 573 legal and court visits respectively. Overall, an increase of 63% has been recorded compared to the previous year's visits figures.

Feedback from the prisoners has been extremely positive. Many connected with family members, friends and indeed pets with whom they had neither seen, nor had

contact with for a considerable period of time.

The visits hall has undergone a great refurbishment. A PA system has been installed, toilet facilities have had a makeover, the facilities for the disabled and vulnerable have been improved upon in both the visits complex and the NIACRO building which is used for pre-entry to the jail itself. Fabulous artwork has been created on the walls of the main hall by some of the prisoners, making it bright, cheerful and welcoming, especially for the younger visitors.

A sensory wall has been added to the Family Room, and more enhanced facilities are available for those with special requirements. The Visitor Centre has also had a revamp. New decking has been added, and extra carpark spaces have been made available. The Board is particularly pleased to note that the smoking shelter at the roadside has finally been given a major overhaul and is no longer the eyesore which it had been for so long.

The Board looks forward to a time, hopefully in the very near future, when prisoners can see their families in person, which is especially important for those fathers who have young children.