



**INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD  
ANNUAL REPORT 2014 – 15  
MAGILLIGAN PRISON**

## **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 Justice Minister 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 Prison regularly and report to the Justice Minister 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 Justice Minister; 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;
- the cleanliness and adequacy of prison premises.

To enable the Board to carry out these duties effectively its members have free access at any time to all prisoners and to all parts of the prison to which they are appointed. The Board shall also have reasonable access to any of the records of the prison.

## **UK NATIONAL PREVENTATIVE MECHANISM**

The Independent Monitoring Board is part of the United Kingdom National Preventative Mechanism (UK NPM) as required by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment(OPCAT).

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## **CHAIRPERSON'S INTRODUCTION**

I am pleased to present the report covering the period April 2014 - March 2015 for the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB/The Board) for HMP Magilligan.

Once again, I wish to thank all the members of the Board in Magilligan Prison for their continued hard work and dedication and for their support of the Chair throughout the year. Board members give their services voluntarily so their commitment and generous giving of their time must be acknowledged.

As with previous years, this report contains a number of repeat recommendations which have not been implemented by the Northern Ireland Prison Service, despite some of them being repeated for some years. The Board would like its disappointment noted.

The Board continues to hold monthly meetings during which the Governor presents his report, answers any questions and addresses any concerns of the members. The Board wishes to thank the Governor - and those Governors who represent him at these meetings. The Board understands that the Governor has a very busy schedule and would like to pass on its appreciation to him and his colleagues. The IMB's job is made much easier when the work it does is valued by a Governor.

Finally, the Board and I wish to thank the staff of the IMB Secretariat for continuing to facilitate and support the work of the IMB. Their assistance proves invaluable once again.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Andrew Kerrigan".

**Thomas Kerrigan**

**Chairperson**

## **OVERVIEW OF ESTABLISHMENT**

1 HMP Magilligan is a medium to low security prison which houses around 500 male prisoners serving nine years or less and a small number of life sentence prisoners. The regime focuses on addressing offending behaviour and reducing reoffending.

2 The majority of prisoners are housed in the three old-style H-Blocks and the dormitory-style facility of Sperrin. Alpha and Halward House are newer additions which have more modern provisions including in-cell sanitation. There is also a separate Care and Supervision Unit (CSU).

3 Outside the main prison wall is Foyleview which is a low security semi-open unit for selected prisoners who are nearing the end of their sentence. This accommodation comprises of portacabin living quarters and the larger communal Cunningham building.

4 Responsibility for the healthcare for all prisoners lies with the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (The Trust). On-site drug and alcohol services for prisoners with addiction problems are provided by Alcohol and Drugs: Empowering People through Therapy (Ad:ept) working in partnership with the Trust.

5 Various charitable and voluntary organisations maintain a presence on the site – NIACRO provide guidance through the Jobtrack scheme for those trying to obtain a job on discharge; CRUSE Bereavement Care provides invaluable support in dealing with bereavement issues; Barnardo's support prisoners over family issues; and Housing Rights staff brief prisoners on the complexities of obtaining housing, housing benefits and associated grants.

6 Spiritual and religious matters are the remit of the prison Chaplaincy team which aims to facilitate the practice of all faiths within the prison community. Additional spiritual help is provided by Prison Fellowship.

## **SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Board recommends that:

### **1. ACCOMMODATION**

- a) There should be a maximum of four people per room in Sperrin House. We recommend that further walls, and possibly doors, are installed to create 4-bed rooms. (Paragraph 1.4)
- b) Prisoners should be provided with additional gym/fitness equipment and other recreational facilities like pool tables, both inside the house and in the outside areas. (Paragraph 1.6)
- c) An alarm and possibly a camera should be installed in the recreation room. (Paragraph 1.7)
- d) A second telephone should be installed on each wing. (Paragraph 1.7)
- e) The electricity supply in the kitchen should be upgraded so that multiple small appliances, like toasters, can be used simultaneously. (Paragraph 1.8)
- f) The bathroom facilities in Foyleview need to be renovated and upgraded. (Paragraph 1.11)
- g) The leaking roofs in Foyleview need to be fixed. (Paragraph 1.11)
- h) The issue of mice in the buildings of Foyleview needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency. (Paragraph 1.11)

### **2. ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

- a) Meetings of the multi-disciplinary drug strategy are resumed as soon as possible. (Paragraph 2.2)

### **3. CATERING AND KITCHEN**

- a) Greater efforts are made to ensure meals are served hot. (Paragraph 3.2)

### **4. CHAPLAINCY**

No recommendations

### **5. EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

- a) The uncertainty of the delivery of education is brought to an end, and that the proposed new structures are put in place without further delay. (Paragraph 5.2)

- b) Prisoners and the prison itself would benefit greatly if a market garden could be established as has been recommended in the last three Annual Reports. (Paragraph 5.5)

## **6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY**

- a) The Equality and Diversity Committee should continue to examine thoroughly all reports of discrimination, bullying, unfair treatment of prisoners and ensure that appropriate action is taken at the earliest with victims being kept fully informed of process and outcome. (Paragraph 6.9)
- b) Action should also be taken by the Equality and Diversity Department to provide informative leaflets for distribution to incoming prisoners at Induction and to involve existing prisoners in the Induction process. (Paragraph 6.9)

## **7. HEALTHCARE AND MENTAL HEALTH**

- a) Given the unlikelihood of financial resources becoming available to provide targeted mental health programmes, the current services should be reviewed so as to ensure they are as effective as possible. (Paragraph 7.3)
- b) There is an urgent review of drugs/substance strategy to minimise health risk, maximise well-being and intensify the rehabilitation opportunity for substance dependent individuals. ( Paragraph 7.8)
- c) There are more clinics available for chronic disease management to improve or maintain the health of prisoners with conditions likely to lead to deterioration in health and wellbeing. (Paragraph 7.10)

## **8. LIBRARY**

- a) The library computers and IT equipment are updated. (Paragraph 8.1)
- b) The library is open at weekends. (Paragraph 8.2)
- c) The library facilities at Foyleview are improved upon. (Paragraph 8.5)

## **9. RECEPTION AND INDUCTION**

- a) Prison management organise its resources more effectively and terminate the need for the use of chamber pots. (Paragraph 9.2)

## **10. RESETTLEMENT**

- a) There is an increase in the number and range of opportunities for self-fulfilment through meaningful engagement and employment. (Paragraph 10.3)

## **11. SAFER CUSTODY**

- a) Re-establish regular Meetings of the Safer Custody Forum. (Paragraph 11.1)
- b) Consider inviting members of prisoners' families to attend the Forum meetings. (Paragraph 11.1)
- c) Television sets in safer cells be upgraded to receive a digital signal. (Paragraph 11.2)
- d) Implement the Coping Skills Programme throughout the prison as soon as possible. (Paragraph 11.3)
- e) Establish designated accommodation for prisoners on drugs detoxification programmes. (Paragraph 11.5)

## **12. SEGREGATION – CARE AND SUPERVISION UNIT (CSU)**

- a) The CSU building is refurbished to an acceptable standard as a matter of priority. (Paragraph 12.2)
- b) CSU staff should receive further specialist training to help them tend to the needs of the prisoners in the unit. (Paragraph 12.3)
- c) The Board therefore recommends once again that less cellular confinement awards be made and that other effective and appropriate awards are used more frequently. (Paragraph 12.6)

## **13. SPORT AND RECREATION**

- a) Proper consideration is given to the provision of an astro turf pitch and that facilities at the Foyleview gym be improved. (Paragraph 13.1)
- b) There is a need to replace items of equipment in the main sports complex and in the houses. It would also be of benefit to have the two staff vacancies filled and better facilities afforded so that the inadequate staff accommodation can be improved. (Paragraph 13.3)

## **14. TUCK SHOP**

No recommendations

## **15. VISITS**

- a) Family Officers should be re-instated. (Paragraph 15.2)
- b) Child-centred visits should be offered on a regular basis. (Paragraph 15.2)

## **Section 1 – ACCOMODATION**

### **Halward House**

1.1 Halward House is the most attractive accommodation building within Magilligan and is located separately from the other prison units. All cells have toilet facilities and there are communal showers on each landing. The building is bright and spacious and offers a good environment for prisoner association and recreation. It is the freedom to move around, to associate with others and use the pool tables, that prisoners always mention as the best aspect of Halward. We have also received positive feedback about the relationship between staff in Halward House and prisoners.

1.2 Halward House was originally designed as single cell accommodation. However, due to an increase in prisoner population, doubling-up on the ground floor has increased. No serious difficulties have arisen yet, but the situation has the potential to cause problems in the long term. Furthermore, while some seem happy enough to share a cell, the prospect of having to share a cell has discouraged some prisoners from applying for accommodation in Halward, and thus benefitting from the positive environment.

### **Sperrin House**

1.3 Sperrin is a 64-bedded dormitory-style house, which is divided into two wings of four units. Each unit accommodates eight people. Wooden screening has been installed between the bunk beds but the accommodation offers no privacy. Each wing accommodates 32 people, but only has four showers, four toilets, three urinals and five sinks. These facilities are located outside the sleeping quarters.

1.4 Prisoners appreciate the fact that they have the freedom to walk about at night and have unrestricted access to the communal bathroom facilities and the kitchen. This, however, was the only positive aspect of Sperrin reported to us. The biggest issue for everyone we spoke to, was the fact that the accommodation itself is cramped and oppressive, and offers no privacy at all. There was general agreement that there should be a maximum of 4 people per room.

**Recommendation: There should be a maximum of four people per room in Sperrin House. We recommend that further walls, and possibly doors, are installed to create 4-bedrooms.**

1.5 With only dorm-style accommodation and communal areas, ‘you never have a minute to yourself’, was how one prisoner put it. Not only do many feel stressed and under pressure because of this, it can leave individuals vulnerable to bullying and harassment, as well as tampering with their personal belongings. We have spoken to prisoners to whom this has happened and who have been very distressed as a result.

1.6 Prisoners also complained to us about the lack of proper recreation facilities on the wings. The gym equipment is extremely sparse, forcing prisoners to try and make up their own equipment, for example, using broom sticks and water canisters for weights, which is neither particularly practical nor safe. Prisoners have described using the outside area, a fenced concrete yard, like “walking around in a bird cage”, without even a football or a pool table for entertainment.

**Recommendation:** **Prisoners should be provided with additional gym/fitness equipment and other recreational facilities like pool tables, both inside the house and in the outside areas.**

1.7 There is only one recreation room for the entire house, and everyone is required to go there while the wings are being cleaned in the morning. It has no alarm or camera. Some prisoners felt that this was unsafe in situations where individuals who have fallen out with each other - and have therefore been accommodated on separate wings - have to be together again in the same small space. Each wing only has one telephone and as most people want to use it in the evening, it can often be difficult or even impossible to access it.

**Recommendation:** **An alarm and possibly a camera should be installed in the recreation room.**

**Recommendation:** **A second telephone should be installed on each wing.**

1.8 Electric wiring in Sperrin House is weak and the use of multiple devices frequently causes fuses to blow. Fuse boxes are locked, which can result in long periods without electricity in parts of the house. The electricity supply in the kitchen seems able to only accommodate one toaster.

**Recommendation:** **The electricity supply in the kitchen should be upgraded so that multiple small appliances, like toasters, can be used simultaneously.**

1.9 The Board considers the above inadequate and unacceptable. And while we are aware of plans for a new facility to be built at Magilligan, we request that in the meantime improvements are made to the existing buildings.

### **Foyleview**

1.10 Foyleview is a low-security, semi-open unit, that consists of five sectional buildings which are located outside the wall of the main prison. Selected prisoners nearing the end of their sentence are housed in the Foyleview buildings.

1.11 Prisoners should live in a safe, clean and decent environment, which is in a good state of repair and fit for purpose. The buildings of Foyleview currently do not meet that standard. Board members were appalled by the dilapidated state of the buildings, in particular Musendeen. There are an insufficient number of showers, wash hand basins and toilets; a number of showers are not working and those that do look old and unsanitary, even though prisoners are trying their best to keep the facilities clean. The bathroom floors are not suitable for showering facilities and hold too much water. The roofs in some of the buildings are leaking, and prisoners reported having to place buckets not only in communal areas like corridors, but also in their cells. We were particularly disturbed to hear that mice have been found in the buildings including kitchen areas, which causes a serious health and safety risk. The Board considers all the above unacceptable, and while we are aware of plans for a new facility to be built at Magilligan, we recommend that improvements are made to the existing buildings as a matter of urgency.

**Recommendation: The bathroom facilities need to be renovated and upgraded.**

**Recommendation: The leaking roofs need to be fixed.**

**Recommendation: The issue of mice in the buildings needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency.**

### **Section 2 - ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

2.1 Yet again there is very little change to this year's content. Drug and alcohol abuse continues to create problems in Magilligan – as with many other prisons. The Board recognises the efforts made by prison management in trying to prevent the supply line making its way into Magilligan. There has been an increase in drugs finds in the prison, and the Board pays tribute to the observational skills and vigilance of the staff, and the skill of the passive drug dogs, all of which contribute to making Magilligan a safer environment.

2.2 It is with concern that the IMB notes an increase in the amount of legal highs and prescriptive drugs making their way into Magilligan. The passive drug dogs are unable to detect these drugs which obviously cause prison personnel further problems. Prisoners with addiction problems can avail of the services of Alcohol and Drugs; Empowering People through Therapy (Ad:dept) - who provide courses such as the 'Drug Education Alcohol Management and Combined Substances' programme. The Board recommends that meetings of the multi-disciplinary drug strategy are resumed as soon as possible.

**Recommendation: Meetings of the multi-disciplinary drug strategy are resumed as soon as possible.**

### **Section 3 – CATERING AND KITCHENS**

3.1 The prison kitchen is essential to the smooth operation of the prison, given that it is required to prepare over 500 meals per day. The whole unit is spotless and all those working there are appropriately dressed for kitchen work. The prisoners in the kitchen work very well alongside the Catering Manager and his team, and despite staff shortages continuing to be a problem, the kitchen is managed to a high standard. Credit should be given to the staff for their dedication and commitment.

3.2 The kitchen provides a varied menu which includes low fat, healthy option and vegetarian choices, as well as catering to the growing number of prisoners with special dietary requirements either for medical, religious, or cultural reasons. In general the Board hears few complaints about the food provided except that it is sometimes cold at point of service.

**Recommendation: The Board recommends that greater efforts are made to ensure meals are served hot.**

### **Section 4 – CHAPLAINCY**

4.1 At present there are four chaplains in Magilligan. The coordination chaplain is Fr. O'Hagan who has over 275 prisoners on his caseload out of a total of 538. He is in the prison every day and holds a Mass every Sunday and two on Thursday. The Methodist population is smaller in number and as such, the Methodist chaplain provides pastoral care for the other Christian denominations i.e. Baptist, Elim etc. Although the Chaplaincy is made up mainly of Christian denominations, when needed, representatives of any other faiths can be called upon to meet the spiritual needs of prisoners of other religions.

4.2 The IMB note that the Chaplaincy hours have been drastically reduced; this gives cause for great concern amongst prisoners, staff and the IMB who feel that that this underestimates the importance of the Chaplaincy's role within Magilligan. They are involved in all aspects of prison life, and provide pastoral care and support in any way they can. The Board commends the Chaplains for the vital role they play in ministering to prisoners, and the commitment they give to all those detained in Magilligan. The assistance they give to prisoners which helps them cope with their confinement is paramount.

4.3 It is also commendable that Chaplains continue to give assistance to inmates with the transition from imprisonment to becoming resettled in the community. This helps enhance the family and community ties which the prisoner will become involved and the area in which they will hopefully resettle.

## **Section 5 - EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

5.1 Education and training available to prisoners should be deemed a priority by the Prison Service, yet there has been a lack of direction regarding the delivery of an overall policy, particularly over the last 3 - 4 years. However, it is understood that a decision has now been taken to proceed with the outsourcing of education, and it remains to be seen how effective this approach will be.

5.2 The key to the success of the delivery of any education, would be the staff, and it is to be hoped that the three existing staff vacancies will be filled. Currently the staffing comprises an Acting Head, two full-time teachers, two part-time teachers, augmented with five teachers from the North West College. A valuable addition has been a Writer in Residence for 10 ½ hours each week. The Arts Council have also funded a music teacher. The curriculum offered has also benefitted by an input from the Playhouse Theatre and the Verbal Arts Group, but there is concern that financial cuts may mean that this valuable input may be no longer available.

**Recommendation: That the uncertainty of the delivery of education is brought to an end and that the proposed new structures are put in place without further delay. It is assumed that the new arrangements will include the filling of the three staff vacancies.**

5.3 The main thrust within the curriculum is focused on literacy, numeracy, Information & Communications Technology (ICT) and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) with a high number of accreditation awards being achieved. Vocational training is popular with those prisoners who participate, and it would be beneficial if more prisoners could reach level 2 in essential skills. At present prisoners have the opportunity to engage in carpentry, joinery, plastering, wall and floor tiling, painting and decorating, metal fabrication and computing.

5.4 There is a waiting list for entry to most of the trades, but availability of staff determines how many prisoners can be catered for in the workshops. It is good to note that the workshops are well attended, with the prisoners being interested in their work and pleased with their attainments. Finished products are generally of a very high standard, and the training and guidance gained during their confinement should be of benefit to prisoners on their release as they look for employment.

5.5 As per the last three Annual Reports, the Board thinks there would be enormous benefits for both the prisoners and the prison if a market garden - yielding seasonal fruit and vegetables - could be established in the grounds of Magilligan. Produce could be grown, used and sold - in-house or locally - which could offer prisoners a real sense of achievement.

**Recommendation: Prisoners and the prison itself would benefit greatly if a market garden could be established.**

## **Section 6 - EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY**

6.1 The four tests of a healthy prison introduced in Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prison's (HMIP) thematic review in 1999 are:

- Safety – prisoners, particularly the most vulnerable are held safely;
- Respect – prisoners are treated with respect for their human dignity;
- Purposeful Activity – prisoners are able and expected to engage in activity that is likely to benefit them; and
- Resettlement - prisoners are prepared for their release into the community and effectively helped to reduce the likelihood of reoffending.

All of the above are treated very seriously by the Equality and Diversity Committee, as well of course by other departments and committees of the prison.

6.2 The prison population at 31 March 2015 is 540. This number is comprised of 276 Roman Catholics, 182 Protestants and 82 other. In terms of percentages, the figures are 51.11% Roman Catholic, 33.70% Protestant and 15.19% other. A further breakdown of the figures shows a range of religions and denominations, with one Hindu and one Elim, to 276 Roman Catholics. The next highest group is Presbyterian with a prison population of 95.

6.3 There are currently 15 different nationalities within the total prison population of 540. These include Algerian, Indian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, South African and Vietnamese as well as Northern Irish (361) and Irish (68). When classified as racial groups, the numbers are Black African - 1, black other - 1, Chinese - 4, Indian - 2, Irish Traveller - 3, mixed ethnic group - 2, other ethnic group white - 524.

6.4 With such a cosmopolitan population, it is not surprising that the Equality and Diversity Committee has a key and challenging role to play in dealing with the needs and concerns of such a diverse group. The Committee meets once a month with at least ten meetings in a year. The membership of the Committee embraces representatives of the Probation Service and Human Rights Commission, Prison Headquarters, the Criminal Justice Inspectorate, Chaplaincy, Health Care and Mental Health, IMB, Prisoner's representatives, relevant prison officers and Governors. The meetings are chaired by the Deputy Governor and the Committee is serviced by a Senior Officer with responsibility for Equality and Diversity issues.

6.5 Matters relating to religious discrimination, any form of bullying, use of force, and complaints, are a part of each monthly agenda, and all of these are examined in detail with appropriate documentation and evidence.

6.6 A key performance report is made available for each month covering key elements of the regime including adjudications, use of force, home leave decisions, searches, drug tests, complaints, access to Foyleview and other internal transfers, education and work opportunities.

6.7 Health matters and concerns of foreign nationals and ageing prisoners are also discussed at monthly meetings. An ongoing issue is the high percentage of Roman Catholic prisoners, who are subjected to adjudications as opposed to Protestants and

others, but great care is taken to ensure that all allegations of discrimination are thoroughly examined and reported on.

6.8 A pleasing feature of the committee is the role played by the prisoner's representatives. They are given every opportunity to raise concerns and issues and receive assurances that follow up action will be taken where appropriate.

6.9 In conclusion, it is important to note that the Equality and Diversity Committee realises that there are genuine concerns on the part of prisoners about such issues as, discrimination, religious or otherwise, bullying, access or lack of opportunities to education, gym, Foyleview, and home leave. However, when concerns are identified and investigated, the Committee is not afraid to admit to shortcomings or failures, but is also keen to undertake making right any such wrongs.

**Recommendation:** The Equality and Diversity Committee should continue to examine thoroughly all reports of discrimination, bullying, unfair treatment of prisoners, and ensure that appropriate action is taken at the earliest with victims being kept fully informed of process and outcome.

**Recommendation:** Action should also be taken by the Equality and Diversity Department to provide informative leaflets for distribution to incoming prisoners at Induction.

## **Section 7 - HEALTHCARE AND MENTAL HEALTH**

7.1 Healthcare services are provided to prisoners through the South Eastern Health and Social Trust (the Trust) which is commissioned to provide these services to all prison establishments in Northern Ireland. The healthcare staff at Magilligan Prison are employed by the Trust and are subject to the employment practices and clinical and social care quality assurance systems of the Trust as well as to their own professional regulatory organisations for their own professional practice.

7.2 The strategic planning and resourcing for health care in prisons is the responsibility of a Partnership Board which is a tripartite arrangement with Northern Ireland Prison Service, NI Regional Health and Social Care Board and the Trust. The Partnership Board sets standards, determines resources and monitors the effectiveness and quality of the services for prisoners in Northern Ireland. The Trust has established structures for the setting, monitoring and improvement of clinical and standards through its Clinical and Social Care Governance system and through its

reporting to and monitoring by the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority for Northern Ireland (RQIA). HM Inspectorate for Prisons and RQIA are responsible for monitoring standards of health care in prisons.

7.3 Within Magilligan, programmes of health education on mental and physical health to empower the men to make healthier choices have been less frequent than is desirable. Much more activity is needed in this area of health promotion to help the reduction in risky behaviours which lead to poor mental and physical health as well as an addictive and dependent abuse of substances whether drugs, alcohol or tobacco.

**Recommendation:** Given the unlikelihood of financial resources becoming available to provide targeted mental health programmes, the current services should be reviewed so as to ensure they are as effective as possible.

7.4 The primary care services for dental health and general practice are consistently under pressure to ensure timely interventions and prevent deterioration of health. The level of provision is stretched to meet the demands of a population which tends to have significant mental and physical health needs. The healthcare team will see prisoners and triage so that there is prioritisation for appointments which are more urgent for the General Medical Practitioner.

7.5 The anecdotal evidence suggests that the level of prescribed drugs is greater among the prison population than that in the general population. However prisoners, unlike the general population, cannot purchase common painkillers, cold and flu remedies and general forms of medication which are available on the High Street, and require these to be prescribed. Because prescription is the only legitimate source, it may not be a reliable assumption when the difference in the availability of common medicines is considered. The consequence of the medications which are prescribed is that it is very labour intensive for the healthcare team to ensure adequate safety of medicines administration with supervised swallow of medicines being required for many prisoners.

7.6 Visiting the prison and talking with and listening to the men who are prisoners, the members of the IMB are frequently struck by expressions of poor self-worth and social value of individual prisoners. The incidence of self-harming behaviour is not uncommon and presents a persistent risk to individual prisoners.

7.7 There is an increasing preponderance of drug substances being illicitly available to prisoners. There have been instances when lives appear to have been seriously at risk from the effects of these substances.

**Recommendation: There is an urgent review of drugs/substance strategy to minimise health risk, maximise well-being and intensify the rehabilitation opportunity for substance dependent individuals.**

7.8 Conversations with prisoners reveal a consistent level of satisfaction with the delivery of the health services within the prison albeit that there is a desire for more services. The IMB has not received significant complaints regarding health services in the past year. The IMB has been briefed on the role of the Patient and Client Council and has distributed posters to the accommodation blocks ensuring that prisoners have access to the formal Complaints Procedures for Health and Social Services in Northern Ireland.

7.9 The proportion of older men in the prison population seems to have brought about an increase in the number of people with chronic illness and disabling conditions. The management of these prisoners has been improved through the residential arrangements and the attention of healthcare staff in that location.

**Recommendation: There are more clinics available for chronic disease management to improve or maintain the health of prisoners with conditions likely to lead to deterioration in health and wellbeing.**

7.10 The IMB has positively noted the helpful and respectful relationships between the healthcare team, the prison staff and prisoners and commends all parties for it.

## **Section 8 – LIBRARY**

8.1 The library fulfils a very important role for prisoners and is greatly appreciated by all who use its services. Within the main prison, the library is located close to Halward House and to Houses 1, 2 and 3, and consequently is within easy access of the prison population. Within the building, the library services are well laid out with good display units and tables and chairs enable users to have pleasant and relaxed visits. The availability of computers is attractive and regular use is made of the fourteen computers installed - not least by those prisoners doing Open University courses.

**Recommendation: The library computers and IT equipment are updated.**

8.2 The library operates from Mondays to Fridays, 9am to 12 noon and 2pm to 4pm. Each week there are at least 150 visits by prisoners. The library is administered by an officer supported by a deputy. Further support is provided by one full time orderly and a few part-time orderlies.

**Recommendation: The library to be open at weekends.**

8.3 The Northern Ireland Library Service supplies a wide range of books, CD's and DVD's together with computers and from time to time the stock is replaced. Attendance records would indicate that at least 50% of the prison population use the library services. Foreign nationals are catered for with a selection of books and magazines available in 11 languages.

8.4 Depending on their status prisoners may borrow up to six items at a time, two of which can be DVD's. Normally CD's and DVD's can be taken out for one week and books may be taken out for 28 days. All prisoners are expected to abide by the library rules.

8.5 In addition to the main library, there is also a small library in Foyleview overseen by prison officers.

**Recommendation: The library facilities at Foyleview are improved upon.**

8.6 The officer in charge of the library service is to be commended on establishing a Book Club which operates once weekly, and she is keen to initiate a Hobbies Club to function in the evening.

## **Section 9 – RECEPTION AND INDUCTION**

9.1 Induction continues to be a comprehensive, structured and well-run process in which prisoners are provided with information about prison life, healthcare, visits, home leave and pastoral care. The Board is pleased to note that an interpreter service is provided when necessary for the increasing number of prisoners for whom English is a second Language.

9.2 During the reporting year, the Board has participated in induction sessions to explain to new prisoners how to avail of its services. During the latter part of the year the Board became concerned about the information being given to prisoners which seemed to emphasise the importance, from a health and safety viewpoint of

“slopping out”, and whilst this information is clearly important, the Board must once again express its dismay that this process has to be undertaken by a number of prisoners. The process is totally archaic and has no place in a 21<sup>st</sup> century prison. The Board therefore recommends that prison management organise its resources to ensure that those prisoners who wish to use the bathroom at night time are able to do so, and that the use of chamber pots – which offend against the dignity of and respect for individuals – be terminated as soon as possible. (At the time of writing Magilligan prison is undertaking a comprehensive review of the induction process and the IMB is looking forward to participating therein.)

**Recommendation: Prison management organise its resources more effectively and terminate the need for the use of chamber pots.**

## **Section 10 – RESETTLEMENT / FOYLEVIEW**

10.1 Rehabilitation and resettlement is the ultimate goal of incarceration and reinforces the work of the whole establishment. It is supported by strategic partnerships in the community, and informed by the assessment of each prisoner's risk and needs, to minimise the likelihood of reoffending on release. Magilligan has a multi-disciplinary offender management team, located in the Prisoner Development Unit (PDU) and this shared location helps promote information sharing and collaborative working. As part of the resettlement team, the Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI) provides in-house staff, who deliver a high quality probation service to prisoners during their sentence, in preparation for release and post sentence.

10.2 Those prisoners nearing the end of their sentence can apply to be housed in the low-security, semi-open unit known as Foyleview buildings. As of March 2015, there were approximately 75 prisoners in Foyleview, plus three prisoners placed in The Priory in Benburb. Foyleview is managed by 16 officers and supervised by a senior officer.

The criteria to gain admission to Foyleview is restricted to prisoners who;

- have had a complete risk assessment;
- have no more than 24 months of their sentence left to serve;
- are on an enhanced regime - and have maintained it for four months;
- have no outstanding court appearances and/or warrants; and
- agree to every drug/alcohol test.

Although it can be difficult for all of the prisoners to obtain work, those that do not go out to work, remain gainfully employed in the prison workshops.

10.3 The lack of employment and/or constructive activities leaves a large proportion of the men in prison without meaningful and challenging engagement for many hours of the day and is quoted by prisoners as a contributory factor to their sense of a lack of general well-being.

**Recommendation:** There is an increase in the number and range of opportunities for self-fulfilment through meaningful engagement and employment.

## **Section 11 - SAFER CUSTODY**

11.1 During the period covered by this report, there have been a number of staff changes to the Safer Custody Team, which has led to some difficulties in organising regular bi-monthly meetings of the Safer Custody Forum. This body comprises of representatives from outside agencies, in addition to prison personnel. It is the principle means whereby information and concerns can be shared, i.e., data on the number of SPARS (Supporting Prisoners at Risk) opened, suicide attempts, incidences of self-harm and bullying, as well as ensuring Rule 32s are implemented, presented and reviewed appropriately. In order for there to be adequate monitoring of procedures, policies and strategies, regular meetings need to be established and members' attendance a requirement. The Board would suggest that consideration be given to inviting the families of prisoners to attend the Safer Custody Forum on occasion, since family support has been shown to be an important contributor to successful rehabilitation.

**Recommendation:** Re-establish regular Meetings of the Safer Custody Forum.

**Recommendation:** Consider inviting members of prisoners' families to attend the Forum meetings.

11.2 66 prisoners have been involved in the 101 SPARS that have been opened in the reporting year 2014-15. This is an increase of 33 prisoners over the same period in 2013-14. There are no discernible trends and the average time on which a prisoner remained on a SPAR reduced from 5 days to 4. An analysis of the reasons for placing a prisoner on a SPAR show that low mood (54) and thoughts of suicide (34) or self-harm (40) were most often cited. In 70 cases, there were additional drug or alcohol related issues. There were four suicide attempts and one death in custody

during the reporting period. Members of the Board attended the prison following the death in custody and were satisfied that the situation was handled most appropriately. Throughout the year Board members have both visited prisoners and attended Case Conferences at which staff consistently acted in the best interests of the prisoner. It is disappointing that the safer cells have still not been equipped with television sets capable of receiving a digital signal. The ability to view a wider selection of programmes could contribute to improving prisoner well-being, and the Board reiterates its request for this upgrade to be made. The Board welcomes the review of safety custody procedures currently taking place, and looks forward to the publication of the new SPAR policy. This should provide the basis for a less process driven treatment of prisoners at risk and a consequent reduction in the number placed on SPARS.

**Recommendation: Television sets in safer cells are upgraded to receive a digital signal.**

11.3 The Listener Scheme continues to be most successful, with new members having completed their training in March 2015 ready to replace those listeners who are time served. Rotas are being well managed and the Listeners' Support Group meets on a weekly basis with the Samaritans. Wing walks take place twice a week and have raised the Listeners' profile with both prisoners and staff. Call outs have been reduced due to the wing walks and information about the scheme is provided to new inmates at reception/induction. CRUSE has provided bereavement training, and a Coping Skills programme designed to provide support to those who have been on a SPAR, has been piloted with listeners as participants. The feedback from the pilots was excellent, which in turn has benefited further development of the programme. The Board commends the excellent work of staff involved with this scheme, which makes an invaluable contribution to safer custody, and recommends that the Coping Skills Programme is implemented as soon as possible.

**Recommendation: Implement the Coping Skills Programme throughout the prison as soon as possible.**

11.4 Although reported cases of bullying remain low, as do incidences of violence, formal Safer at Magilligan (SAM) procedures remain under utilised by both staff and prisoners. The procedure has been instigated on six occasions and anti-bullying monitoring booklets raised on three occasions. Despite there being posters and notices throughout the prison encouraging prisoners to report instances of bullying,

most are reluctant to make a formal accusation. Members of the Board are able to bring prisoners' concerns to the attention of staff who in turn, monitor behaviour and are often able to challenge individuals. On occasion, prisoners have been relocated and, where drug related intimidation poses a serious threat, they may be housed in the Care and Support Unit (CSU) - sometimes for lengthy periods - while awaiting transfer or release. The accommodation in the CSU is inappropriate for this purpose. Currently the Anti-Bullying Strategy for Magilligan is being reviewed and updated and the Board looks forward to the development of a process that commands more confidence from staff and prisoners alike.

11.5 A drugs strategy for Magilligan is under development. Prisoners who express a desire to undertake a period of drugs detoxification are well supported by both Healthcare and Discipline staff. However, the lack of suitable accommodation often impacts negatively on outcomes.

**Recommendation: Establish designated accommodation for prisoners on drugs detoxification programmes.**

## **Section 12 – SEGREGATION – CARE AND SUPERVISION UNIT (CSU)**

12.1 The CSU houses a number of categories of prisoners i.e. those detained under Prison Rule 32; those offending against good order and discipline; those undergoing cellular confinement; those awaiting adjudication; violent and refractory prisoners as well as vulnerable prisoners, who are accommodated there for their own protection. Board members visit the CSU at least once a week and speak to all the prisoners housed there but rarely receive any complaints. This is largely due to the sterling work performed by the CSU staff and sometimes in very difficult conditions. The Board has been very impressed by the relationship between prisoners and staff in the CSU, and wishes to express its gratitude to the staff in the CSU for all their assistance during IMB weekly visits.

12.2 It is unacceptable that the building used for the CSU is clearly totally unfit for purpose, and whilst the Board is cognisant of the facts that a new prison is proposed for the Magilligan site and therefore finance is unlikely to be available for refurbishment purposes in the interim, the Board recommends that the CSU building be refurbished to an acceptable standard and that this be dealt with as a matter of priority.

**Recommendation: The CSU building is refurbished to an acceptable standard as a matter of priority.**

12.3 A large number of prisoners in the CSU can be disruptive and/or display behavioural difficulties; some may also have personality disorders. The Board is of the opinion that specialist training is required to handle such individuals properly, and it therefore recommends that staff should receive further specialist training in coping with and understanding their needs. Despite this the unit is well run and the Board commends the staff for their care and patience.

**Recommendation: CSU staff should receive further specialist training to help them tend to the needs of the prisoners in the unit.**

12.4 The Board has a statutory duty to attend all Rule 32 case conferences if practicable, and to apply critical scrutiny to all the relevant paper work as soon as possible thereafter. The Board is facilitated in the discharge of this duty by the CSU staff.

12.5 Adjudications are also held in the CSU and are conducted by Governors. Toward the end of the reporting year the Board noted a significant increase in the number of adjudications, but further noted that this was due to increased instances of drug test failure by a number of prisoners. Adjudication proceedings are conducted to the highest professional standards and in accordance with the rules of natural justice, and should any doubt arise, the matter is always resolved in favour of the prisoner.

12.6 The Board remains concerned at the high rate of cellular confinement awards although it is the case that the rates fluctuate from month to month. Despite this factor - and the welcome increase in the number of cases where the prisoner receives a caution - the Board still considers that cellular confinement is not a productive process for the prisoner.

**Recommendation: The Board therefore recommends once again that less cellular confinement awards be made and that other effective and appropriate awards are used more frequently.**

### **Section 13 - SPORT AND RECREATION**

13.1 For a great many prisoners in Magilligan, sport and recreation represents a most worthwhile and enjoyable element within their period of confinement. Facilities

available for sport and recreation are at best adequate, but could be greatly enhanced if finance could be forthcoming for capital works, especially with the provision of an all-weather playing field and improved facilities at Foyleview.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that proper consideration is given to the provision of an astro turf pitch and that facilities at the Foyleview gym be improved.

13.2 Current provision includes a large indoor sports complex in the main prison with a much smaller hall at Foyleview. In addition there is a portacabin classroom and a grass pitch which is not available for safety reasons, and an all-weather pitch, unused because of ongoing maintenance problems. There are also modest facilities within the blocks and Halward House where small numbers of prisoners may have access to fairly basic equipment for fitness training.

13.3 Whilst the main sports complex is well equipped, much of the equipment and apparatus has been in place for several years and should really be replaced and updated. Likewise the portacabin is not ideal for classroom activities. The accommodation for staff is also limited and should be upgraded.

**Recommendation:** There is a need to replace items of equipment in the main sports complex and in the houses. It would also be of benefit to have the two staff vacancies filled and better facilities afforded so that the inadequate staff accommodation can be improved.

13.4 There is constant demand on the Physical Education Department which is open seven days each week from 9am – 5pm, and caters for a maximum of 45 prisoners per session. Attendance is not compulsory and all prisoners have access, with Basic prisoners having one session per week, Standard prisoners two sessions and Enhanced prisoners five sessions. Prisoners based in Foyleview can access sports facilities on Tuesdays and Fridays each week from 4.30pm to 6.30pm, and may also have access to a small outdoor pitch for 5 a side football. A key element of the success of the Physical Education Department lies with the enthusiastic and dedicated staff that are all qualified holding at least a Level III in Gymnastic Instruction Awards. To their credit, staff encourage prisoners to become involved in coaching, and a number are currently attempting Levels I and II in Gymnastic Awards, which if successful could be of benefit in job placements on their release.

13.5 It is pleasing to note that the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme has been re-introduced, and a number of prisoners have enrolled and have already undertaken expedition training.

## **Section 14 - TUCK SHOP**

14.1 The Tuck Shop is a very well-managed and well-maintained facility. It is amply stocked to provide for the many varied demands of prisoners, and can now cater from those prisoners who suffer from diabetic or coeliac conditions.

14.2 The Board recognises that it is good for the morale of those enhanced prisoners to be placed in a position of trust within the Tuck Shop.

## **Section 15 – VISITS**

15.1 The maintenance of family relationships during a prisoner's sentence is recognised as being a contributory factor to successful rehabilitation. Visits are central to sustaining and supporting this contact and should provide a positive experience. A total of 13,289 bookings resulted in 12,227 visits involving 32,924 visitors to Magilligan 6,927 of which were children. Entry procedures are well managed and the facilities provided are welcoming and allow for informal interaction. Currently there is subsidised transport to Magilligan and NIACRO provides refreshments for visitors to purchase and crèche facilities in the Visitors Centre. Major cuts to the charity's funding, coupled with a reduced prison budget, threaten the continuance of these services. The Board has been made aware of the concern which this has caused to prisoners and their families, and whilst recognising that finance is limited would ask that consideration be given to minimising their impact on visits.

15.2 Although a number of staff have been trained as Family Officers, staff shortages have meant that they are otherwise deployed and have been unable to utilise their specialist skills. The Board was pleased to learn that 66 children have been involved in child-centred visits but reiterate its recommendation that these be offered on a regular basis.

**Recommendation: Family Officers should be re-instated.**

**Recommendation: Child-centred visits should be offered on a regular basis.**

**MAGILLIGAN BOARD MEMBERS 2014-2015**

			<b>Appointed</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Mr Thomas Kerrigan</b>	<b>Chair – No change</b>	<b>22/11/05</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Jack Walls</b>	<b>Vice Chair – No change</b>	<b>18/12/06</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Mrs Rae Morrison</b>	<b>No change</b>	<b>18/12/06</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Mr Brian Collins</b>	<b>No change</b>	<b>18/12/06</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Mr Paul Devlin</b>	<b>No change</b>	<b>29/06/10</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Ms Christine Stoll</b>	<b>No change</b>	<b>14/06/10</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Ms Diane Mackey</b>	<b>No change</b>	<b>20/05/13</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Mrs Anne Rowe</b>	<b>No change</b>	<b>10/06/13</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Mrs Stella Burnside</b>	<b>No change</b>	<b>10/06/13</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Mr Keith Acheson</b>	<b>No change</b>	<b>10/05/13</b>