



**INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT 2015 – 16
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).

LIST OF CONTENTS

	Page
Chairperson's Introduction	4
Overview of Establishment	6
Summary of Recommendations	7
1. Accommodation	10
2. Alcohol and Substance Abuse	12
3. Catering and Kitchens	12
4. Chaplaincy	13
5. Education and Training	13
6. Equality and Diversity	14
7. Healthcare and Mental Health	16
8. Library	18
9. Reception and Induction	19
10. Foyleview	21
11. Safer Custody	22
12. Segregation – Care and Supervision Unit (CSU)	24
13. Sport and Recreation	25
14. Tuck Shop	26
15. Visits	26
Board Members 2014-15	28

CHAIRPERSON'S INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to present the report for the period 01 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 for the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) for Magilligan.

Magilligan is a medium security prison with a semi/open annex, Foyleview. It holds adult men from across Northern Ireland serving sentences ranging from less than one year to life, all of whom have been transferred from Maghaberry. At the last inspection Magilligan was found to be performing well with significant strengths, comparing favourably with other prisons. Relationships between staff and prisoners are good. Levels of drug use are high, and the prison has tried to tackle 'trading' in prescribed medicines by having 'supervised swallow'. Some prisoners have been subjected to intimidation in relation to drugs. Real progress has been made in the past year due to the dedication of Governors and staff. There is new in-cell sanitation in H block and good use has been made of unused buildings to make a Coffee Cove, a hairdressing room, and a Holocaust exhibition. The exhibition is being visited by many school groups. Impressive practice meets and at times exceeds expectations. Free flow movement is well managed. Barnardos work in partnership with prison officers to deliver a range of programs for prisoners and their families. The recording of adjudication hearings provides reassurance about fairness. Staff were awarded the 'Valuing our People Award' which was quite an achievement, Listeners were also presented with their certificates during the year. Regime Index Supervision Movement in H1 allows prisoners there to have access to their own cells with their own keys, and they can have free association in the evenings up to 10.30 pm.

It is with much regret that the Chaplain's hours were drastically reduced. Following a meeting with Governor Eagleson the Gideons, who visit regularly, have agreed to increase their visits to help deal with the prisoners' pastoral care. Foyleview has been repaired to some standard but needs a lot of money spent on the buildings, however, consideration is being given to have independent living units in Foyleview. Sperrin prisoners have been moved to H3 and when refurbished the Sperrin building will be used for other groups.

The IMB were outraged at the murder of prison officer Adrian Ismay and totally condemn this action. The IMB wishes to thank Governor Eagleson and staff for their support, professionalism and dedication during the past year.

The board is losing four members at the end of March and their dedication over the past years will be greatly missed. Six new members have been appointed. I wish to thank all the members for their work and commitment to the IMB throughout the past year.

The continued support of the IMB secretariat, their diligence and patience, is greatly appreciated and the 'Team' owe them our sincere thanks.

The ethos in Magilligan prison is:

People change People

Environment influences behaviour

and

That's what they do in Magilligan.

Rae Morrison

Rae Morrison

Chairperson

OVERVIEW OF ESTABLISHMENT

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

The majority of prisoners are housed in the three old-style H-Blocks and 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).

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.

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.

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.

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

No recommendations

2. ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- a) An urgent review of drugs/substance strategy to minimise health risk, maximise wellbeing and intensify the rehabilitation opportunity for substance dependent individuals. (para 2.1)

3. CATERING AND KITCHEN

No recommendations

4. CHAPLAINCY

No recommendations

5. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

No recommendations

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

- a) Positive consideration is given to the reinstatement of chaplaincy hours for the Protestant denominations especially as there had been no reduction in the chaplaincy hours to the Roman Catholic prisoners.
- b) Careful monitoring of alleged discrimination in religious and racial issues should remain a high priority especially in relation to disciplinary matters and PREPS.

7. HEALTHCARE AND MENTAL HEALTH

The recommendations made in 2015 are herewith repeated once again.

- a) Increase in resources for the provision of targeted mental health programmes for treatment of ill health, the promotion of sound mental health and the prevention of deterioration of mental health in susceptible individuals.
- b) Increase in the provision of clinics for chronic disease management to improve or maintain the health of prisoners with conditions likely to lead to deterioration in health and wellbeing.

8. LIBRARY

No recommendations

9. RECEPTION AND INDUCTION

- a) The language used in induction presentations be reviewed and simplified. (para 9.6)
- b) New hardware capable of displaying all the induction presentations is implemented without further delay. (para 9.7)

10. FOYLEVIEW

- a) Mussendeen, Benone and Binevenagh should be replaced as soon as possible with more suitable accommodation. (para 10.3)
- b) The bathroom facilities need to be renovated and upgraded. (para 10.4)

11. SAFER CUSTODY

- a) An anti-bullying strategy be developed and implemented as a matter of urgency. (para 11.6)

12. SEGREGATION – CARE AND SUPERVISION UNIT (CSU)

- a) The CSU building is refurbished to an acceptable standard as a matter of PRIORITY. (para 12.2)
- b) That less cellular confinement awards are made and that other effective and appropriate awards are used more frequently. (para 12.4)

13. SPORT AND RECREATION

- a) An Astro Turf playing area should be provided as a priority. (para 13.1)
- b) A larger class-room should be provided. (para13.3)
- c) The existing rest room / staff room is totally unacceptable and should be replaced. (para13.3)
- d) The two members of staff who are retiring on 1 April 2016 should be replaced otherwise the quality and extent of gym programme will be drastically reduced. (para 13.5)

14. TUCK SHOP

No recommendations

15. VISITS

- a) The sides of the covered walkway at the entrance to the Visitors Centre are enclosed as a matter of urgency. (para 15.3)
- b) More Family Officers are trained and deployed in the Visitors Centre. (para 15.4)

Section 1 – ACCOMMODATION

Halward House

1.1 Constructed in 2008 and officially opened in 2009 Halward House is the most modern unit within the prison and consequently compares most favorably with all the other holding units in terms of appearance and facilities coupled with opportunities afforded to prisoners in terms of movement, recreation and association within the house.

1.2 Standing as a separate unit Halward was designed with two floors or landings with all cells having toilet facilities, supplemented with communal showers on each landing. The two story building is well designed with generous space on each floor for prisoner movement. Small pool tables are located on each floor and modest cooking facilities are also available.

1.3 Initially designed to provide single cell accommodation Halward has had to double up a number of cells as and when the prison population increases as happens from time to time. At present there are 32 prisoners on the ground floor with 28 on the first floor landing – as an absolute maximum Halward House could accommodate a total of 84 prisoners but in doing so the quality of the prisoner's life style would be adversely affected.

1.4 Halward House plays a particular valuable role in the overall work of Magilligan prison insofar as it offers a committal landing and specializes in safer custody. All prisoners coming to Magilligan will spend their first night in Halward House prior to going to the Prisoner Development Unit. Assessments also take place in Halward House prior to prisoners transferring to Alpha and Foyleview.

1.5 Great emphasis is placed on looking after vulnerable prisoners and the current Senior Officers are well motivated and experienced in carrying out their work. Safer Custody meetings are held on a regular basis and safer custody portfolios have been established for the prisoners concerned. Halward House also facilitates in-house education classes on different topics such as computer and language skills and recently Conservation Volunteers has been established and plans are advanced to introduce music therapy.

Sperrin House

1.6 Sperrin is now closed as accommodation and will be used for other activities.

1.7 The tiling and painting workshops are now open with North West Regional College instructors in post.

H1 H2 and H3 Blocks

1.8 H1 A, B, C, and D accommodates non-vulnerable prisoners.

1.9 H2 A and B is a unit for older prisoners, and operates a 'wooden door' policy, whereby prisoners have their own keys and are responsible for their own rooms. C and D accommodates non-vulnerable prisoners. H3 A, B, C and D accommodates non-vulnerable prisoners.

1.10 These three blocks comprise the main accommodation in Magilligan in 'old style' cells, with capacity to hold approximately 300 prisoners. The majority of cells remain single occupancy cells.

1.11 H1 has recently introduced the Regime Index Supervision Easement (RISE) for enhanced prisoners who can have access to their own cells with their own keys. They can also have free association in the evenings up to 10.30 pm. Recently one of the rooms has been transformed into a barber shop.

1.12 H2 A and B house aging prisoners who are over 50 years of age, have poor mobility, health care issues and some of whom use walking aids. There are four cells for immobile prisoners, one with a hospital bed. There are good shower facilities with alarm buttons to alert staff if a prisoner is in difficulty, a small gym and a fairly large dining room. 'BEAT THE BULLY' posters are evident in English and foreign languages.

1.13 In H3 A and B the cells have in-cell sanitation and will be refurbished, using furniture being made in the workshops. Following cleaning and decorating these cells will be usable. There is a large room, which when carpeted and decorated, will be used by the Red Cross for training purposes. It will also accommodate the Free Presbyterian Church for their services. At the beginning of April, 16 prisoners will be

presented with Red Cross Certificates and each prisoner can invite two family members to the presentation.

1.14 These three blocks are kept immaculately clean and there are excellent relationships between prisoners and staff.

Alpha

1.15 Alpha is the most sought after accommodation in the prison and as always there is a waiting list for entry thereto. There are a number of strict criteria for entry and it is notable that complaints from Alpha residents are scarce.

1.16 During the reporting year there was a death in custody. The IMB attended and spoke to those prisoners in Alpha who had been affected by this death. It was unfortunate that despite their presence for quite a period of time on that day, the IMB were not invited to participate in the “hot” or “cold” debrief.

Section 2 - ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

2.1 It still appears that the level of prescribed drugs may be greater among the prison population than that in the general population. The amount of drug substances illicitly available to prisoners does not seem to diminish. Whilst the past year has seen fewer incidents with a risk of loss of life, there seems to be no let-up in the availability and use of drugs in prison.

2.2 The IMB have written to the Minister and the Department highlighting the lengthy delay in producing a Drug Strategy.

Recommendation: An urgent review of drugs/substance strategy to minimise health risk, maximise wellbeing and intensify the rehabilitation opportunity for substance dependent individuals.

Section 3 – CATERING AND KITCHENS

3.1 The kitchen facilities continue to run to a high standard. The staff need to be recognised for their professionalism ensuring that the facility runs smoothly. The

recent opening of the new coffee shop has been a great success and has been well supported and supervised by the kitchen staff.

Section 4 – CHAPLAINCY

4.1 Those prisoners who participate in the provision of religious services also express their regard for the pastoral support made available by Chaplains.

4.2 The pro rata resourcing of the Chaplaincy has the potential to disadvantage some groups.

Section 5 - EDUCATION AND TRAINING

5.1 The education format at Magilligan prison is undergoing unique change, and evolving to benefit prisoners who have never had a proper education because of lack of opportunity. Now prisoners who want to engage in learning basic essential skills, have a first rate advantage as teachers from the North West Regional College (NWRC) have taken up teaching posts within the Prisoner Development Unit at Magilligan from 1 June 2015.

5.2 The NWRC have taken the lead in providing the range of subjects available to prisoners possibly for the first time. Prisoner's interviewed in a survey at Magilligan (Houses 1 & 3) feel education or the lack of it, means unemployment for many on release, and think it is a good idea and would hope to enrol. Six teachers from the NWRC will provide vocational courses whereas two will offer an educational program.

5.3 Staff who teach vocational subjects in the metal work shop and the joinery work shop have from June 2015 returned to prison duties.

5.4 The NWRC has a variety of courses on offer to the prison population inside Magilligan. These include basic essential skills, GCSE subjects with good variety of subjects and A Level choices.

5.5 It is envisaged that a percentage of prisoner's will sit examinations at degree level and the new teaching staff are excited that this should and will happen. The

outlook for prisoners who engage and study and sit exams is positive. The prospect of going to university after time served, and for job opportunities are greatly enhanced. Prisoners who are sent here through the courts, some from underprivileged backgrounds, can have a wonderful opportunity to learn and partake in education.

5.6 The main aim of the print shop in Magilligan is to supply NIPS with paper and print services and ultimately to save the prison added expenditure with outside business interests. The shop currently employs four prisoners and members of staff, with a Senior Officer who has overall responsibility. A civilian member of staff is also employed. To maintain the jobs of both staff and prisoners the shop relies on the prison for orders and supplies, and they supply printed and binded booklets, stationery and pamphlets for all prison business throughout Northern Ireland. This year the biggest orders came from Prison Healthcare where Maghaberry prison requested 1000 Healthcare Manuals to be printed and binded, with total savings to the Prison Service of £5000. Another order to the Prison print shop was to provide 5000 printed T-shirts for the Police and Fire Games. The print shop at Magilligan has in the last two years acquired a “state of the art” coloured printer for the production of posters, photographs, art demonstrations and other expensive printing at a very professional level but at substantially low cost to the prisons budget. The Senior Officer in charge stresses the print shop is not a training facility but it does encourage prisoners from Foyleview to gain valuable experience in printing technology and enhanced IT skills, framing and finishing skills, and can and does lead to permanent employment for prisoners on release.

5.7 Some progress on employment/activity has been made over the past year but there is still a substantial proportion of the prison population who lack the opportunity to participate in meaningful activity. Even for those who are engaged it is only five hours daily. The rehabilitative opportunities are necessarily limited.

Section 6 - EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

6.1 The NIPS promotes the equality of opportunity for all prisoners regardless of; their religion, age, political opinion, gender, racial group, disability, sexual orientation, those with dependants, those without and marital status.

6.2 In accordance with the above objective, Magilligan Prison has an Equality and Diversity Committee which meets on a regular basis, normally once each month with at least ten scheduled meetings each year. The work of the committee involves a number of different officers at various levels but is primarily coordinated by a designated Senior Officer. The monthly meetings are chaired by the Deputy Governor and membership can include representatives of the Human Rights Commission, Prison Headquarters, Probation Service, Criminal Justice Inspectorate, Healthcare and Mental Health, Chaplaincy and appropriate prison officers and governors. In addition, at each meeting representatives of the Prisoner's Forum attend and have an input. The IMB is also represented.

6.3 The Prison Population at January 2016 is 489, comprising 251 Roman Catholics, 177 Protestants and 61 others, giving a percentage breakdown as follows: 55.86% Roman Catholics, 36.19% Protestants and 12.41% others. Within the prison population there are 15 different nationalities drawn from a variety of European and Asian countries as well as from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland with a number of Irish Travellers. Given the diversity of the prison population the role of the Equality and Diversity Committee is a challenging one as it strives to deal with the complexity of issues which arise regularly – added to this is the fact that new arrivals come to Magilligan throughout the year and they need to be informed of rights and responsibilities pertaining to Equality and Diversity issues – ideally this should form part of the Induction process. In addition, at the suggestion of the Prisoner's Forum a notice is posted on all landings informing prisoners of the role of their Equality and Diversity representatives.

6.4 During the year on a number of occasions prisoners expressed their concern about the reduction of chaplaincy hours – especially those of the Protestant religion, and this concern is shared by the IMB and others, but to date there has been no success in having the lost hours reinstated. Each month the committee examines statistics relating to such matters as allegations of discrimination – religious and racial, bullying, searches, drug tests, complaints, access to Foyleview, home leave, internal transfers, education and work opportunities. There is a perception among some prisoners that Roman Catholics are treated less fairly than Protestants especially in adjudications and allocation of home visits. Such allegations when made are looked at very thoroughly by the Equality and Diversity Committee and appropriate action is taken to ensure fair and just treatment is afforded to all

prisoners. The Committee works to ensure that all prisoners are treated with respect for their human dignity, with particular concern for those deemed most vulnerable.

Recommendation: Positive consideration is given to the reinstatement of chaplaincy hours for the Protestant denominations especially as there had been no reduction in the chaplaincy hours to the Roman Catholic prisoners.

Recommendation: Careful monitoring of alleged discrimination in religious and racial issues should remain a high priority especially in relation to disciplinary matters and Prisoner Regime and Earned Privileges' Scheme (PREPS).

6.5 During the year there were three significant changes in the membership of the Committee in the offices of Chairman, Coordinator and the Equality and Diversity Head from Prison Headquarters. The three people concerned were most efficient and were extremely well motivated and early indications are that their successors are keen to continue such good work and in doing so make a valued contribution to the welfare of all prisoners.

Section 7 - HEALTHCARE AND MENTAL HEALTH

7.1 Primary health, including dental health care services are provided within the prison campus under the auspices and management of the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (SEHSCT). The strategic planning and resourcing for health care in prisons is the responsibility of a Partnership Board which is a tripartite arrangement with HM Prison Service, NI Regional Health and Social Care Board and the South Eastern HSC Trust.

7.2 Prisoners have reported that they are unhappy with the waiting time for appointments. It appears that the resources are stretched to meet the demands of a population which tends to have significant mental and physical health needs. The nurses in the Healthcare team triage the patients so that there is prioritisation for appointments which are more urgent for the General Medical Practitioner.

7.3 General Medical Practices in the community work in group practices, therefore patients in the general population have an opportunity to choose which doctor will treat them. Prisoners have limited choice.

7.4 The Patient and Client Council have provided leaflets to support prisoners who may wish to make a complaint about health or social care services.

7.5 There are shining examples of engagement in craft, art, joinery and other projects which are excellent for those involved. It is just a pity that the opportunity is not available for greater numbers.

7.6 Once again it must be commented that visiting the prison, and talking with and listening to the prisoners, the members of the IMB are frequently struck by expressions of poor self-worth and poor social value felt by prisoners. The incidence of self-harming behaviours does not seem to be decreasing and continues to present a persistent risk to individual prisoners.

7.7 The amount of drug substances illicitly available to prisoners does not seem to diminish. Whilst the past year has seen fewer incidents with a risk to life, there seems to be no let-up in the availability and use of drugs in prison.

7.8 More courses and activities for the promotion of physical and mental health would benefit the men in the prison and would contribute to their long term rehabilitation to support returning to the community.

7.9 The IMB notes with deep regret that little has been done to address the recommendations for health care which were made in the previous Annual Report.

7.10 The IMB notes the continuing cooperative and respectful relationships between the healthcare team, the prison staff and prisoners.

Recommendations:

The recommendations made in 2015 are herewith repeated once again that: Increase in resources for the provision of targeted mental health programmes for treatment of ill health, the promotion of sound mental health and the prevention of deterioration of mental health in susceptible individuals.

Increase in the provision of clinics for chronic disease management to improve or maintain the health of prisoners with conditions likely to lead to deterioration in health and wellbeing.

Section 8 – LIBRARY

8.1 The Library is an important service within the Education Department in Magilligan and is greatly appreciated by the prison population. The Library is a free standing building and quite centrally located, being close to Halward House and Houses 1, 2, and 3. Within the Library there is a series of units displaying a wide range of books and literature and there is a good number of DVD's and CD's. In addition to borrowing books, CD's, etc. prisoners may and do spend time in the library as there are comfortable chairs and work tables and the library really offers a warm and pleasant environment with good lighting.

8.2 At present the library has a stock of approximately 3000 books and approximately 300 CD's and a number of DVD's. The library is serviced by the Northern Ireland Library Service which is responsible for the supply of books, CD's and DVD's and computers and every so often the stock is exchanged and supplemented.

8.3 The library is available to all prisoners. Regrettably the library is not available at weekends because of security implications. It is recommended that consideration be given to the library being available at weekends, if not for a full weekend perhaps a session on either Saturday or Sunday.

8.4 The library is used by at least 50% of the prison population during the hours of 9.00 am to 12 noon and 2.00pm to 4.00pm from Monday to Friday each week.

8.5 Those who use the library may borrow up to six items at a time depending on the prisoner's status (i.e. enhanced, standard, basic) and books may be taken out for 28 days and CD's and DVD's for one week. Computers are popular and there are currently 14 available all of which are in regular use. A book club initiated by the officer in charge meets once weekly in a small adjoining building.

8.6 With the large number of foreign nationals in the prison they endeavour to ensure that there are books, literature, etc. in the language of each of the nationalities and at present there are eleven different languages available with the greatest demand in Chinese and Polish.

8.7 As Foyleview is somewhat distant from the library special arrangements have been put in place to convey prisoners to and from Foyleview by bus on a Monday evening, courtesy of officers at Foyleview.

8.8 In conclusion the Library Service continues to provide a valued contribution to the lives of prisoners and the officer in charge should be commended for the helpful service provided, supported by a full time orderly and a few part time orderlies.

Section 9 – RECEPTION AND INDUCTION

Reception

9.1 Prison Officers must have a caring disposition to carry out duties in the Reception area of Magilligan prison. Prison staff are informed by the internet of prisoners entering or exiting the prison. Reception area staff are chiefly engaged with meeting prisoners on transferrals from other prisons or the courts and are notified in advance of new arrivals into Magilligan prison.

9.2 The duties of staff include interviewing prisoners on arrival, finger printing, photographing and ensuring arrivals are showered before sending new arrivals to the Healthcare facility. Reception staff must check that the new arrivals do not dress in improper clothing such as “hoodies” or football tops and have on their person mobile phones. All such clothing and equipment is retained in locked compartments until the prisoner leaves the Magilligan facility.

9.3 Reception staff at Magilligan also handle “Travel Warrants” when a prisoner’s time is served. Reduction in staff levels and a reduced prison budget increases the workload on individual staff members who strive to ensure the facility is run in a smooth and professional manner at all times.

9.4 On arrival at Magilligan prisoners are taken to the Reception area for processing prior to being transferred to their residential accommodation. The administration of this process is carried out efficiently and prisoners do not have to

wait long before being moved into the prison estate. Belongings are checked and logged and a member of the medical staff provides a medical examination.

9.5 As the prison mainly houses prisoners coming to the end of their sentences, often with less than three months to serve, they are accustomed to prison regime. However the reception staff ensure that there is a positive first impression of Magilligan and that new arrivals are treated in a calm, caring and professional manner for which they should be commended.

Induction

9.6 In the course of the induction process prisoners are given structured and comprehensive information on prison rules and life including healthcare, visits, home leave, tuck shop, work opportunities and education. Although representatives of the Listeners, Chaplains, Prison Fellowship and the Peer Housing Officer attend, much of the information is contained in PowerPoint presentations and use language which is difficult for prisoners with limited literacy as well as those for whom English is a second language. Whilst it is recommended that these presentations be reviewed the Board understands that a booklet comprising all relevant information is currently in preparation with the intention of a copy being placed in all cells as well as distributed at induction sessions. Versions would also be produced in other languages as required.

Recommendation: The language used in induction presentations be reviewed and simplified.

9.7 In addition the laptop used for the sessions requires to be replaced as some presentations, including that of the IMB, cannot be loaded. This situation has been ongoing for a considerable time. The Board has been informed that new hardware is to be introduced and recommends that this be implemented as soon as possible.

Recommendation: New hardware capable of displaying all the induction presentations is implemented without further delay.

9.8 The Board was pleased to note that the expectation that prisoners will return to their **own** cells when an alarm is sounded is now made clear to them as this differs from the rule in operation in Maghaberry and had been a cause of confusion.

9.9 Whilst from a health and safety viewpoint it is important to continue to cover the procedure to be followed in “slopping out” the Board is pleased to report that in-cell sanitation is being installed in House 3 and modifications made to the doors in Houses 1 and 2 to facilitate access to toilets at night.

Section 10 – FOYLEVIEW

10.1 Foyleview is a low-security, semi-open unit, located outside the wall of the main prison. Selected prisoners nearing the end of their sentence are housed in Foyleview, which consists of five portacabin buildings with bedrooms, a small kitchen and a shower/toilet area.

10.2 Prisoners should live in a safe, clean and decent environment, which is in a good state of repair and fit for purpose. Three out of the five Foyleview buildings do not meet that standard.

10.3 The Board has consistently recommended that as soon as possible the three oldest units be replaced with more suitable accommodation. The Board is extremely disappointed that this has still not been implemented. While the newer portacabins (Slemish and Martello) are in acceptable condition, Mussendeen, Benone and Binevenagh are old and dilapidated. Prisoners have been trying to give the inside a facelift by painting corridor walls, but these buildings have been in use for over 30 years and are no longer fit for purpose.

Recommendation: Mussendeen, Benone and Binevenagh should be replaced as soon as possible with more suitable accommodation.

10.4 There are an insufficient number of showers, wash hand basins and toilets; a number of showers are not working properly and all the bathrooms look old and unsanitary even though prisoners are trying their best to keep the facilities clean. The Board considers the above unacceptable. And while we are aware of plans for a new facility to be built at Magilligan, we request that the oldest buildings are replaced as soon as possible and that in the meantime improvements are made as a matter of urgency.

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

Section 11 - SAFER CUSTODY

11.1 The Safer Custody Forum comprising members of the Safer Custody Team and representatives of the Samaritans, CRUSE Bereavement Care, Probation, Alcohol and Drugs: Empowering People through Therapy (Ad:ept) and Healthcare has met regularly on a bi-monthly basis. This is the principle means by which data relating to the number of SPARS (Supporting Prisoners At Risk) opened, incidences of self-harm, bullying and suicide attempts are presented and shared. The Board is pleased to report that these meetings have been re-established.

11.2 Between 1st January and 31st December 2015 a total of 71 SPARS were opened and closed. The reasons for opening a SPAR were predominantly self-harm (38), low mood (31) and thoughts of suicide (29). The average time spent on a SPAR was 3.2 days. Between January 1st and 13th March 2016, following the introduction of multi-agency meetings to discuss all prisoners being managed under Safer Custody and new referrals, 11 SPARS were recorded, six due to self-harm, four drug or alcohol related and two as a result of low mood/suicide attempt or thoughts of suicide. The average time spent on a SPAR was 2.5 days.

11.3 Whilst the Safer Custody booklet documents referrals and interventions it is process driven and is largely a tick box exercise. On occasion it would be possible to avoid placing a prisoner on a SPAR if staff were able to sit down and talk through the issues troubling the prisoner.

11.4 Regular fortnightly meetings have been established to monitor all prisoners managed under Safer Custody. These meetings are multi-agency and include the Halward House Senior Officer, Residential Staff, Mental Health, AD:EPT and addictions staff. The Senior Officer has developed Initial Referral Assessment Criteria guidelines to determine if an immediate move to Halward is required and a 'keep safe' plan implemented, or if the individual concerned can be placed on the referral list for discussion. Each prisoner's case is discussed and the work required is mapped out. A discharge plan is also identified so that individuals can be considered for a return to normal residential locations. Since the introduction of this initiative the number of

SPARS has decreased. The Board recommends that this Safer Custody initiative continues to be developed.

11.5 The Listeners continue to provide a valuable service to prisoners through both the twice weekly wing walks and response to individual call-outs. In October 2015 a most successful Certificate Day was held at which Listeners received public acknowledgement of their success in completing their training. The Board commends the Samaritans Staff who devoted time and energy to this programme.

11.6 Currently there is no service-wide policy on bullying and the Safer At Magilligan (SAM) process is considered to be ineffective. In the last year 15 SAMS have been raised, of which only one has been completed to SAM 3 level. Despite there being notices throughout the prison encouraging prisoners to report bullying most victims are reluctant to name the perpetrator so the report fails for lack of evidence. On occasion members of the Board have been in a position to bring prisoner's concerns to the attention of staff who are then able to monitor behaviour and defuse the situation. However the whole ethos of protecting victims and assisting bullies to break their behavioural patterns is difficult to achieve in prison. Where drug intimidation poses a serious threat, prisoners may have to be located in the Care and Support Unit (CSU) for their own safety. This accommodation is not suitable for long term use. The Board recommends that an anti-bullying strategy be developed as a matter of urgency.

Recommendation: An anti-bullying strategy be developed and implemented as a matter of urgency.

11.7 Throughout the period of this report there have been a number of initiatives introduced to complement Safer Custody.

- **Conservation Volunteers** were introduced to the prison and have been working alongside individuals managed under Safer Custody. This has allowed them the opportunity to become involved in a number of projects including designing and building a sensory garden.
- **Positive Steps**, which is a 10 week programme designed to enhance mental health and well-being.

- **Music Therapy and Cook It** are to be introduced to provide further practical opportunities for prisoners to develop skills and promote good mental health.

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, and 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 CSU staff and sometimes in very difficult conditions. Once again, 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 Yet again it has to be stressed that the building used for the CSU is clearly totally unfit for purpose and while the Board is cognisant of the fact that a new prison has been proposed for the Magilligan site and therefore finance is unlikely to be available for refurbishment purposes in the interim, the Board strongly 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 Adjudications are also held in the CSU and are conducted by Governors. These proceedings are conducted to the highest professional standards and in accordance with the rules of natural justice, should any doubts arise, the matter is always resolved in favour of the prisoner. Despite this, there is a very high rate of guilty verdicts, the majority of which attract cellular confinement awards. However, it should be mentioned that at one adjudication where members of the IMB were present, the Governor, having found the prisoner not guilty, directed that the

adjudication recording device be switched off as he wished to make some further comments to the prisoner. Switching off a recording device for these purposes is inappropriate and unacceptable. This matter was drawn to the attention of the Governing Governor by the IMB.

12.4 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: That less cellular confinement awards are made and that other effective and appropriate awards are used more frequently.

Section 13 - SPORT AND RECREATION

13.1 A business plan has been submitted to Estates Management for a new 4G Astro-Turf surface to replace the old all-weather surface. It is due for consideration in April 2016.

Recommendation: An Astro Turf playing area should be provided as a priority.

13.2 The all-weather pitch is now in use for football matches on Thursday mornings.

13.3 The old and dangerous gym equipment was replaced during 2015–16, however, the job of replacing out of date equipment is an ongoing job. The classroom is small and restricts class numbers to 6-8 people, depending on the type of class. The staff have no recognised rest area, they use part of the main office as their rest room. On 1 April 2016, the gym staff will lose 2 more staff due to retirement. This will leave them with 1 Senior Officer and 4 Instructors, and 3 staff short. This is going to have a major impact on delivering a quality programme to the inmates.

Recommendation: A larger class-room should be provided.

Recommendation: The existing rest room / staff room is totally unacceptable and should be replaced.

13.4 Gym operating hours are Mon-Fri 08.30 – 19.00 and Sat–Sun 08.30 – 17.00. Foyleview have access on Wed, Thurs, Sat and Sun. The PE Department delivers courses in Level 1 & 2 Gym Instructing, Manual Handling, Headstart / First Aid, Nutritional Awareness, Obesity and Diabetes Awareness.

13.5 In 2015, 7 inmates completed their bronze Duke of Edinburgh award, and there are 12 currently going through the training. The only problem may be the shortage of staff which may have a negative impact on the completion of this year's award. In January 2016 the PE Department started a pilot scheme for over 45's to take them out of jail for rambles. Outdoor gym equipment has been purchased in partnership with the Public Health Agency for inmates who are older adults and for those dealing with mental health issues.

Recommendation: The two members of staff who are retiring on 1 April 2016 should be replaced otherwise the quality and extent of gym programme will be drastically reduced.

Section 14 - TUCK SHOP

14.1 The system of ordering and delivery of Tuck Shop works efficiently. No complaints have been received this year.

Section 15 – VISITS

15.1 Maintenance of family relationships is vitally important to successful rehabilitation and visits are central to supporting and sustaining this contact. Many families have to make long journeys to reach Magilligan prison so the Visitors Centre needs to provide a positive experience. During the year April 2015 to February 2016 11,180 visits were booked and 10,194 visitors attended. Of these 5,976 were children. Although entry procedures are well managed the introduction of new staff rotas has had the effect of delaying the starting time of morning visits until 10.15. Given that it takes a considerable time to pass visitors through security and process any parcels and money, this has had the effect of considerably reducing contact time with the prisoner, especially at weekends and holiday periods.

15.2 From 1 December 2015 the contract for managing the Visitors Centre has been held by PeoplePlus. Initial difficulties with regard to catering and transport have been

resolved and the Board is pleased to be able to report that all the staff, formerly employed by NIACRO, have retained their posts.

15.3 It is disappointing that the Board's recommendation that the sides of the covered walkway at the entrance to the Visitors Centre be enclosed has been disregarded. The current structure provides minimum protection from the elements and the Board asks that this is rectified as a matter of urgency.

Recommendation: The sides of the covered walkway at the entrance to the Visitors Centre are enclosed as a matter of urgency.

15.4 During this year a total of 271 children took part in highly successful child centred visits. There are a number of staff who are trained as Family Officers but have been deployed elsewhere leaving only one full time and one part time Officer in this area. Prisoners' families often seek information, help and advice and appreciate being able to refer to someone they know and who has specialist knowledge and expertise. The Board recommends that more Family Officers be trained and deployed in the Visitor Centre.

Recommendation: More Family Officers are trained and deployed in the Visitors Centre.

15.5 The Board commends the helpfulness and professionalism of Visitor Centre staff and recognises the excellent work undertaken by staff from Barnardos in developing parenting skills.

MAGILLIGAN BOARD MEMBERS 2014-2015

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