



HM Prison &
Probation Service

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Peter Clarke CVO, OBE, QPM
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20th December 2019

Dear Peter,

HMIP report on an independent review of progress at HMP Lewes

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress report at HMP Lewes, whereby you followed up 12 key recommendations and three Ofsted themes, from your most recent inspection in January 2019.

I am encouraged to note that you have seen progress being made in all of the recommendations and that in two-thirds of them the progress was good or reasonably good. You have identified improvement in the key areas of Safety and Decency such as:

- **Living Standards**
Overall standards of cleanliness had improved, the rodent problem had been tackled successfully, the level of graffiti had reduced significantly and offensive displays were no longer evident. Senior managers gave cleanliness and hygiene a higher priority and cleaning processes had been refined and improved.
- **Violence and Self-Harm Reduction**
A comprehensive violence reduction action plan had been implemented based on good consultation with staff and prisoners; it was robustly reviewed, monitored and managed. The number of self-harm incidents in the previous six months had declined by over a third compared to a similar period before your inspection in January. The Safety Team was better resourced than at the inspection.
- **Identifying and Controlling Drug Supply**
The positive MDT rate had fallen from 22% in the six months before the inspection in January to 16% in the last six months. X-ray machines, an itemiser, drugs dogs and corruption prevention measures were having a positive impact.

- **Use of Force**
There had been a substantial reduction in outstanding use of force paperwork (from 121 at the time of the inspection to 36), rigorous and effective governance was now in place and almost all planned use of force incidents were now recorded and reviewed by the use of force committee.
- **Offender Management**
Interdepartmental work to reduce reoffending had improved and a strategy for offender management had been implemented. A helpful reducing reoffending needs analysis had been completed and there was a sensible strategy in place for the management of sex offenders.

In respect of the key recommendations and Ofsted themes where you deemed that the progress had been insufficient, I can confirm:

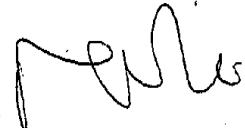
- **Supporting and challenging prisoners**
I accept that there is further work to do in relation to challenging low level poor behaviour by prisoners from officers and to understand those staff who do not feel they receive help from managers to support and challenge prisoners. The Governor will continue to deliver local training to support staff and the implementation of the new Incentives Policy Framework in line with the national programme will support this work.
- **OASys assessment and proactive engagement with prisoners**
The Governor will ensure that the prison is properly sighted on how many OASys reviews are late and will implement a plan to ensure they are completed in time. It is noted that OMU staff were not meeting their minimum requirements for contact with prisoners and that this was not always face-to-face or in private.
- **Long-Term Health conditions**
We will ensure the deficit in care plans and reviews for prisoners with long-term health conditions is addressed by the healthcare provider and the issue of access to healthcare for these patients will be reviewed and actioned to ensure further improvements are made.
- **Provision of good quality education, skills and work**
Too few prisoners are engaging in work and attending education and there had been slow progress in increasing the range of vocational work and training, and the number of activity spaces remains insufficient. The prison will escalate plans to improve attendance across all activities and will open both the waste management and industrial cleaning workshops soon into 2020.

The Governor, with the support of the Prison Group Director and the resources of the group, will continue to progress the full Action Plan covering all the original recommendations.

Whilst I acknowledge that there is still work to be carried out at the prison, I am pleased that that you found a renewed sense of purpose and direction at HMP Lewes and that this was a promising IRP. I am also encouraged by your conclusion that the Governor and her senior managers are taking the prison in the right direction and that they should be congratulated on what they have achieved so far.

I remain committed to ensuring continued progress against HMP Lewes agreed Action Plan and I can assure you that through my operational assurance functions and the support of OSAG we continue to closely monitor the progress.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Jarman-Howe', written in a cursive style.

Michelle Jarman-Howe
Executive Director (PSP South)

CC: Phil Cople, Director General Prisons