



HM Prison & Probation Service

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Charlie Taylor,
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5th April 2023

Dear Charlie,

HMIP report on an independent review of progress at HMP Lewes - 20th – 22nd February 2023

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress report at HMP Lewes, whereby you followed up five priority concerns, one key concern and four Ofsted themes from your most recent inspection in May 2022.

I note that you have seen some progress made since the inspection, and note the following;

- The improved strategic and operational partnership working between the prison and Healthcare provider, which had resulted in improved outcomes for prisoners. Most notably this included improved attendance at healthcare appointments.
- Recognition of the positive impact of the New Colleague Mentor in offering practical support to newly recruited staff.
- Utilising the Safety Analyst to better understand the causes of violence within the prison.
- Recognition of determined efforts to improve recruitment of Operational Support Grade (OSGs), administration staff and healthcare staff.

In respect of the nine key areas and four Ofsted themes where you found insufficient or no meaningful progress, I can confirm that all the IRP findings have been carefully considered and steps will be taken to address them as appropriate. This will include the following;

- A full review of the prison's retention strategy, including full engagement with the Retention Oversight Process and a comprehensive analysis of non-effective staffing issues.

- A review of Challenge Support and Intervention Plan (CSIP) and Violence Reduction processes to ensure that plans are developed to effectively and realistically manage perpetrators of violence and that violent incidents are appropriately investigated.
- Leaders will drive improvements in the use of Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) to support the most vulnerable, including enhanced quality assurance of the documents and training for staff on how to appropriately support and care for prisoners in crisis. The threshold for investigations into incidents of self-harm will be revisited, with support from the Group Safety Lead, to ensure that lessons are learned when incidents occur.
- Recently revised cleaning schedules for the prison will be adhered to, and the recruitment, training and supervision of prisoner cleaners will be strengthened, to ensure that standards of cleanliness on residential areas are improved. The Prison Group Director will meet with Government Facility Services Limited (GFSL) and MoJ Property Directorate colleagues to agree an improvement plan for the delivery of facilities management at the prison.
- The current regime will be reassessed to maximise time out of cell and minimise activity clashes. A review of the Activities processes will be completed, to identify how allocation and attendance at work and education can be improved. Recruiting of the newly created Head of Education, Skills and Work post will be prioritised to drive improvements in the curriculum, quality of provision, and education induction offered to prisoners.

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

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 progress.

Whilst I acknowledge that there is still much work to be carried out at the prison I am encouraged that progress is being made and that our monitoring of the prison is in line with your findings.

Sarah Coccia

Executive Director, PSP South

CC: Private Office

Phil Cople, Director General of Operations