



HM Prison & Probation Service

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Peter Clarke CVO, OBE, QPM
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Dear Peter,

**HMIP report on an independent review of progress at HMP Birmingham -
7-9 May 2019**

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress report at HMP Birmingham, whereby you followed up nine key recommendations and three Ofsted themes from your most recent inspection in July and August 2018.

I am encouraged to note that you have seen reasonable progress being made across some of the recommendations and Ofsted themes', specifically;

- **Understanding causes of Violence**

Consultation with the men has taken place using the Prison Reform Trust [PRT] and Midlands Psychology Team [MPT] to produce independent reports that analyse the causes of violence within a Thematic Review. Effective daily use of the Safety Diagnostic Tool has supported a downward trajectory of violence. To support this work the Challenge Support Intervention Plan (CSIP) has been introduced and is currently being embedded as part of our violence reduction strategy.

- **Drug Strategy**

Using the Drug Diagnostic Task Force [DDTF] Report a revised strategy has been implemented incorporating the key three stands: Supply Reduction, Demand Reduction and Treatment Recovery. A revised strategy approach, with embedded partnership central to delivery, will enable a clearer focus upon reducing demand through the provision of effective treatment and support programmes.

- **Living Conditions**

It is pleasing to note that progress has been recognised in this important area. Work will continue to embed the activities, basics and cleanliness (ABC) strategy. The decency tracker will form the basis of the refurbishment and maintenance approach for all certified accommodation and ancillary areas.

- **Managing men with learning difficulties**

Teachers will continue to receive training and support from the qualified special educational needs coordinator [SENCO] The new Prison Education Funding [PEF] The contract includes increased allocation for additional learner support.

In respect of the three key areas and Ofsted themes where you found insufficient or no meaningful progress I can confirm:

- **Violent & Antisocial Behaviour**

It is recognised that it will take some time to fully embed the revised incentives and earned privileges (IEP) policy. The new IEP policy has though introduced clarity to the adjudication system. Dedicated resourcing has been appointed to lead and manage the segregation unit. Partnership working with the Police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has been reinvigorated with the joint aim of appropriate referral with improved timelines to conclude cases. There will be a continued CSIP focus to ensure this process is central to our violence reduction strategy.

- **Self-harm**

Following the prison's resourcing focus and training there is now greater confidence within the prison that all incidents of self-harm are reported within agreed timescale. Supervision for case managers is proving to be effective. We recognise that we need to do more to embed single case management. This will be achieved by introducing an efficient and timely allocation process, this will be supported by a revised assurance tool. The work to further improve living conditions and regime attendance will continue as part of our ABC strategy.

- **Men Convicted of Sexual Offences (MCoSO) Strategy:**

In addition to the work underway to implement a strategy for this cohort, the Governor will also explore what support is available for the commissioning of a cognitive based programme. Closer links will also be forged with the national MCoSO strategy board and regional establishments to enable progression for this population. A further review on our approach to managing MCoSO will be undertaken, noting the concerns raised from the IRP.

- **Range of Curriculum and Quality Assurance**

We will continue to support the new PEF provider with the implementation of the new curriculum and hold regular reviews throughout the contract year to ensure it continues to meet the needs of the population. Further work is required to ensure this is replicated across all purposeful activities which will involve the introduction of a work based learning model across the establishment. At the time of the inspection the Head of Learning and Skills (HoLS) had only been in post a matter of weeks. There is evidence that effective quality assurance within Education has improved outcomes for students. Attendance has also improved and we will continue to prioritise this aspect through a strategy of partnership working between Residence, Learning and Skills and Education.

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

I remain committed to ensuring continued progress against HMP Birmingham's 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.

Neil Richards

Head of Custodial Contracts

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'NR', with a stylized flourish at the end.

CC: Private Office

Phil Copple, Director General Prisons