



HM Prison & Probation Service

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Peter Clarke CVO, OBE, QPM
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05 August 2019

Dear Peter,

HMIP report on an independent review of progress at HMP Channings Wood,
1-3rd July 2019

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress report at HMP Channings Wood, where you followed up 13 key recommendations and 3 Ofsted themes from your most recent inspection in September 2018.

I am encouraged to note that you have seen good or reasonable progress against 11 of the 13 recommendations which you have reviewed as well as reasonable progress against the 3 Ofsted themes. You have specifically identified improvement in the following key areas:

- **Living Conditions**

Living conditions across all wings had improved with the introduction of standardised expectations, reinforced by visible and effective leadership. Communal areas were clean and many areas had benefited from a painting programme. Improved staff and prisoner relationships were evident, underpinned by an effective communication strategy based on a strategy of choices.

- **Violent Incident Reporting**

An effective and robust management process to record and monitor violence had been introduced which enables the establishment to maintain an accurate assessment of drug misuse and violence.

- **Risk Management**

Management of men posing a high risk of harm had improved and a well-coordinated Inter-Departmental Risk Management Team Meeting (IRMT) and case management team is overseen by the Senior Probation Officer. A comprehensive tracking system has been introduced to ensure referrals to Multi-Agency Public Protection arrangements (MAPPA) are completed in a timely manner and case management improved through effective staff supervision.

- **Clinical Governance**

All 4 requirement notices issued by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) had been addressed and governance of Healthcare improved through an active action plan and audit schedule. The new regional governance arrangements are overseeing delivery and addressing legacy risks from historical management failings. Healthcare complaints provision are much improved and clinical supervision and increased staffing resources evident.

In respect of the 2 key recommendations where you found insufficient progress, I can confirm:

- **Physical Conditions**

I accept that residential buildings require further investment to improve overall conditions and capital funding will be required to address these concerns. It was encouraging that the IRP recognised that improvements had been made in some residential areas e.g. showers on LB5. An improved repairs system has been introduced and painting and cleaning parties continue to make local improvements to physical living conditions where possible.

- **Drug Testing Programmes**

I accept that the establishment has yet to address drug testing resourcing and the suspicion testing frequency is unsatisfactory. The establishment has, to date, directed resources to reduce the overt supply of drugs. The prison will develop their Drug Strategy in line with the new national framework, to meet the evidence based testing needs of the prison and improve outcomes.

The Governor, with the support of the Prison Group Director, 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 encouraged that it has been noted there was good leadership, staff presence, improved culture, improved relationships, good prioritisation and broad resilience. I am also encouraged by the lead inspector's conclusion that the performance against recommendations represents as much progress as HMIP has seen so far at any prison under the IRP process.

I remain committed to ensuring continued progress against HMP Channings Wood 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', with a stylized, cursive script.

Michelle Jarman-Howe

Executive Director (PSP South)

CC: Private Office

Phil Copple, Director General Prisons