



HM Prison & Probation Service

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Peter Clarke CVO, OBE, QPM
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Dear Peter,

14th November 2019

HMIP report on an independent review of progress at HMP Guys Marsh between 14-16 October 2019

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress report at HMP Guys Marsh, whereby you followed up 10 key recommendations and 3 Ofsted themes from your most recent inspection in Dec – Jan 2018/19.

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

- **Security**
There has been a substantial reduction in positive Mandatory Drug Test rates, reducing from 27% in January 2019 to 8% in October 2019. The intelligence report backlog has been cleared, and work remains ongoing to ensure intelligence reports are processed during the weekends. The analysis of data gathered was adequate, and the prison have a reasonable understanding of its issues, with appropriate action taken where necessary. Target searching is not always taking place, although the prison is prioritising those posing the highest risk.
- **Improving Safety in the Prison that is linked to drug misuse and debt**
Since the last inspection levels of violence has reduced by over a third (39%). There is clear evidence of effective working relationships between safer custody and the security department. Drug strategy work is well developed, and management is proactive. Work to assist prisoners avoiding getting into debt is developing reasonably well.
- **Paid Carer Scheme**
The prison has recently introduced a paid role known locally as an Activity Support Buddy (ASB). This role has a clear job description, eligibility requirement, training schedule and is subject to monthly supervision provided by the Healthcare Team. The prisons acknowledge that this is a new role and will need to ensure the scheme is sustainable.

- **Family ties**

The prison has been recognised for the good progress that it has made in improving family ties within the prison. The introduction of the 'Dad's Shack', monthly creative workshops and story writing is seen as a positive step forward. The 'family link' parenting course has run twice in 2019, and the introduction of 'Inside Talking', an eight week programme for prisoners has also been developed and rolled out to prisoners due for release.

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

- **Equalities and Diversity**

We accept that improvement is required in this area to meet the needs of, and ensure support for all those with protected characteristics. The Governor will prioritise the oversight of the Equality and Diversity strand to ensure whole prison ownership to improve outcomes.

- **Use of Force**

The Governor acknowledges that improvement is required around the governance process, to ensure that it is systematic, consistent and a quality monitoring tool is in place. It is encouraging to note, that the use of force incidents have decreased by a third since the previous inspection. This will remain a priority for the Senior Management Team to monitor.

- **Time out of cell**

Additional work and training opportunities will be implemented, to ensure that prisoners are not locked in their cells during the main work periods. The management of men who refuse to engage in education or work, will be improved, through updated work place incentives, appropriate use of the IEP scheme and revised regimes for those men that choose to isolate from the main population.

- **OFSTED**

The prison acknowledges that the appointment of key managers had only recently taken place and new initiatives were either new or developing. It is encouraging to note that sound foundations for more effective management and direction of the prison have been established, with a renewed focus on the Quality Improvement Plan to oversee prison and provider delivery. The prison will continue to secure good outcomes for learners, provide an effective Induction and an improved teaching and learning assessments process, whilst prioritising prisoners punctuality and attendance.

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 Guys Marsh 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.

Yours sincerely



Michelle Jarman-Howe
Executive Director, PSP South

CC: Private Office
Phil Copple, Director General Prison