



HM Prison & Probation Service

Charlie Taylor,
HM Chief Inspector of Prisons
3rd floor, 10 South Colonnade
Canary Wharf
London
E14 4PU

Alan Scott
Executive Director, Public
Sector Prisons (North)
Her Majesty's Prison and
Probation Service,
PO Box 368, Leyland
PR25 9EJ
EDPSPNorth@justice.gov.uk

30 March 2022

Dear Charlie,

HMIP report on an independent review of progress at HMP/YOI Swinfen Hall - 21-23 February 2022

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress report at HMP/YOI Swinfen Hall, whereby you followed up ten key recommendations and four Ofsted themes from your most recent inspection that took place 28 June – 9 July 2021.

I am encouraged to note that you have seen good or reasonable progress being made across six of the recommendations and Ofsted themes, and note the following;

- **Self-harm**

Improving rates of recorded self-harm which had reduced by over a third since the July 2021 inspection and were now lower in comparison to similar prisons. The prison will continue to support prisoners in crisis with the initiatives such as social prescribing, therapy dogs and enhanced distraction material. Prisoner forums and the use of data will continue to aid the understanding of the causes of self-harm.

- **Offending Behaviour Programmes (OBPs)**

Good progress of Offending Behaviour Programmes (OBPs) and the prioritisation of high-risk prisoners will continue at HMP YOI Swinfen Hall in line with the plan to resume full programme delivery to meet the treatment needs of the population.

- **Violence**

Reasonable progress to reduce violence levels and improve safety through the 'Keep the Peace' strategy and violence reduction initiatives. HMP/YOI Swinfen Hall will continue to engage and consult with prisoners to understand factors of violence and promote positive behaviour.

In respect of the eight key areas and Ofsted themes where you found insufficient 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;

- **Use of Force**

The Governor will, through the new Head of Safety and Equalities, work at a local and national level in consultation with the Operational Security Group, Head of Operational Response and Resilience Unit and prisoners to better understand the drivers for use of force and any disproportionality concerns relating to use of force and PAVA.

All staff involved in use of force including PAVA usage receive a hot debrief. This is then followed up a week later by the Head of Safety to identify learning points and supportive measures if required. Meetings to monitor the use of force are held weekly to review all incidents where force has been used, and an additional monthly meeting is held to review a comprehensive range of data to inform actions aimed at reducing the use of force.

- **Education, skills and employment**

The Governor is committed to making the necessary improvements to ensure the education and skills curriculum supports the learning needs of long-term prisoners in consultation with the Regional Head of Learning, Skills, and Employment, contract management lead and Novus senior management.

The Governor will also work with the new Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) provider to ensure that careers advice is available to prisoners serving longer sentences with the intention of developing an employment hub and resettlement passports in line with the 2021 White Paper.

As HMP/YOI Swinfen Hall progress towards COVID-19 recovery, the prison has plans to improve the use of IT to support the wider learning of prisoners including the introduction of laptops to support learning and more effective use of the Virtual Campus 2 alongside better use of interactive learning aids and Way Out TV to support learning.

- **Staff/Prisoner Relationships**

The key worker scheme was re-launched at the end of January 2022. The number of sessions delivered doubled between January and February, and as the prison progresses on the National Recovery Framework towards COVID-19 recovery, additional staff resources will be allocated to improving delivery further.

Responsibility for improving key work is led jointly by the offender management unit (OMU), which prioritises prisoners for allocation and provides key workers with ongoing training and support, and senior residential leaders, who oversee key work delivery.

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 YOI Swinfen Hall'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.

Alan Scott

Executive Director, Public Sector Prisons (North)

CC: Private Office

Phil Copple, Director General Prisons