



HM Prison &
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11 April 2022

Dear Charlie,

**HMIP report on an independent review of progress at HMP & YOI Deerbolt
7 - 9 March 2022**

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress report at HMP & YOI Deerbolt, whereby you followed up 11 key recommendations, one recommendation and three Ofsted themes from your most recent inspection in July 2021.

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

- **Segregation**

Work will continue to redefine the purpose of the segregation unit including the regime and environment that supports it. This will include refurbishment of the worst cells, improvements to the exercise yard as well as the installation of in-cell electricity. These will supplement renovations already made including the addition of new showers, the refurbishment of a library room and an improved keyworker office.

- **Violence**

Managers had made reasonable progress and prioritised violence reduction work with all incidents of violence now investigated, with improved oversight of the Safety Intervention Meeting (SIM). Perpetrators were no longer routinely locked behind their doors and received some regime while staff managed their ongoing conflicts. Some interventions designed to reduce violence had been recently introduced and showed promise.

- **Children and families and contact with the outside world**

In cell telephony had been installed across most of the prison, and availability had been increased for other areas' phones in the evenings. This ensured prisoners had access to telephones for a suitable duration and at a time when their families were most accessible.

In respect of the seven key areas and 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;

- **Purposeful activity/Time out of cell**

The Governor is committed to developing a reliable core day that optimises full time working and purposeful activity opportunities in the prison. Improvements will be delivered to ensure that access to education and the skills curriculum supports the needs of our cohort of young adult prisoners.

- **Staff-prisoner relationships**

The prison re-launched the keyworker scheme at the start of February 2022. As staffing improves during the year, increased resources will be allocated to expand key work delivery further. This will support constructive, motivational relationships with prisoners, through which staff will encourage work towards positive rehabilitative goals.

- **Encouraging positive behaviour**

As the prison regime and purposeful activity opportunities improve as the prison progresses on the National Recovery Framework, a further review of the prison's reward and recognition strategy will utilise additional rewards and incentives that are more meaningful to this young adult population. The prison will use them to support those who engage well and display appropriate behaviour.

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 Deerbolt's agreed Action Plan and I can assure you that through my operational assurance functions and with 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

Alan Scott
Executive Director, Public Sector Prisons (North)

CC: Private Office
Phil Copple, Director General Prisons