



HM Prison & Probation Service

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Dear Charlie,

HMIP report on an Independent Review of Progress at HMP & YOI Foston Hall 15 - 17 August 2022

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress report at HMP & YOI Foston Hall, whereby you followed up 12 key recommendations and three Ofsted themes from your most recent inspection in October and November 2021.

I am encouraged to note that you have seen good and reasonable progress being made across eight of the recommendations, and note the following:

Early Days

It was pleasing to see support for new arrivals had improved with a more thorough consideration of the risks and vulnerabilities of those arriving at the prison and initial interviews now conducted in privacy. The support provided to women had also been enhanced with positive interactions with staff and peer mentors.

Segregation

The use of segregation had reduced, including for women being supported via an Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) process. The data being used had improved and enabled more appropriate oversight by leaders. Reintegration planning had also been enriched and the average time prisoners spent on the Care and Separation Unit (CSU) had reduced.

Contact with Children, Family and Significant Others

The number of social visits had increased. Family visits and the high-quality visits which take place in the Family Bonding Unit had resumed with clear plans for developing the provision further.

In respect of the areas 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:

Supporting Womens Positive Behaviour

HMPPS acknowledge that levels of violence remain too high at HMP & YOI Foston Hall and there is still a need to use the available data better to look at actions which can be taken to address this. It remains the case that a comprehensive strategy is needed based on an analysis of the data. It is pleasing that you acknowledge the progress made in the use of the incentives scheme. Further work is now planned, both to formulate a detailed violence reduction action plan and to embed the Challenge, Support, and Intervention Plans (CSIP) system and ensure it is supporting a reduction in violence.

Accommodation on Release

HMPPS temporary accommodation service was launched in July 2021, initially in five probation regions and is expanding to cover all of England and Wales by the end of 2022. It provides up to twelve weeks temporary housing to prison leavers with support to move to settled accommodation. The prison Governor and Head of Reducing Re-offending are working with Derby Women's Work (the CRS Accommodation Supplier) to improve service delivery and collaboration. HMPPS are working to extend the CRS Women's Services provision to all unsentenced women and immediate releases this year.

Reducing Self-Harm and preventing Suicide

Whilst some progress on reducing levels of self-harm has been made and there have been some improvements in the quality of ACCT case management, I acknowledge the levels of self-harm remain high. Further work will now be done to create a more targeted self-harm reduction action plan and find new ways to support those who self-harm.

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

I remain committed to ensuring continued progress against HMP & YOI Foston Hall 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

Alan Scott
Executive Director, Public Sector Prisons (North)

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