



HM Prison &  
Probation Service

**Sarah Coccia**  
**Executive Director PSP South**  
80 Sir Evelyn Road  
Rochester  
Kent  
ME1 3NF

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

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023

Dear Charlie,

**HMIP report on an independent review of progress at HMP Aylesbury  
29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023.**

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress report at HMP Aylesbury, whereby you followed up five concerns and five Ofsted themes from your most recent inspection that took place October 2022.

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

- In the area of Leadership there had been progress in reviewing the staffing position to use available resources effectively to deliver more for prisoners.
- Leaders had implemented a new regime that had considerably improved time out of cell. Many prisoners commented positively on this change and were appreciative of the new routine.
- Leaders had implemented a plan and work had started to increase the number of prisoners who were meaningfully employed.
- Leaders and managers had begun to use and evaluate data to analyse the progress prisoners were making, enabling improved outcomes for those in education and training.
- In the area of rehabilitation and release planning, leaders had started to deliver some changes to meet the needs of a Category C population and staff and prisoners could describe differences they had already seen.
- There had been several changes which showed the prison-wide commitment to changing the culture to that of a Category C training prison including free flow, greater opportunities to eat together and to use exercise yards during association periods and the increasing use of peer mentors to support their community.

In respect of the one area of Ofsted themes where insufficient progress was being made, 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:

- Working with the newly appointed Careers Information, Advice and Guidance (CIAG) member of staff to ensure prisoners have a Planned Learning Pathway (PLP) that is sufficient to support them in preparing for their future on leaving prison.
- Working with CIAG to develop a credible plan to support the prisoners in achieving targets for release and employment, with outcomes monitored at the monthly contract review meeting, chaired by the Head of Reducing Reoffending.

The Governor with the support of the Prison Group Director will continue to progress the full Action Plan covering all the original concerns.

I remain committed to ensuring continued progress against HMP Aylesbury'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.

**Sarah Coccia**  
Executive Director

CC: Private Office  
Phil Cople, Director General Prisons