



HM Prison &
Probation Service



Official

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Sent by E-mail

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Dear Charlie,

HMIP report on an Independent Review of Progress at HMYOI Werrington between 7-15 May 2024

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress report at HMYOI Werrington, whereby you followed up on five concerns and four Ofsted themes from your most recent inspection in July/August 2023.

I am encouraged to note that you found good progress across one concern and five with reasonable progress against concerns.

- **Education:** Reasonable progress was noted in all four of the Ofsted themes specifically Theme 3 related to promoting reading and literacy. Some children had made significant progress in their reading, with a few who had arrived unable to read progressing to read with fluency and accuracy. The Governor with our central YCS team have made real strides forwards.
- **Safeguarding:** The site had made good progress, with safeguarding procedures having improved and most referrals forwarded swiftly where the threshold was met. There is now a child protection coordinator alongside three dedicated social workers.
- **Staffing:** The shortfalls of operational staff has been addressed, retention improved and appropriate support for new staff put in place.

In respect of the two concerns where you found insufficient progress and one no meaningful progress, I can confirm that all the IRP findings will be carefully considered to help improve delivery, where applicable. This will include the following:

- **Safety/Use of Force:** The restraint minimisation meeting (RMM) had been reviewed to ensure appropriate analysis of uses of force and trends. The site are now analysing injuries in order to establish any lessons learnt and devise a strategy to reduce these.
- **Safety/Managing Behaviour:** The local Incentives and Earned Privileges (IEP) policy has been re-written to make it simpler for children to understand what is expected at every level and how they progress. This review has also incorporated a review of the difference between levels and some additional privileges have been added. The policy is due for discussion and ratification at the next Senior Leadership Team meeting. The positive initiative of the community model which had been introduced on B wing will also be applied to A wing. The use of adjudications is under review to ensure they are only imposed where needed and staff have the confidence to address poor behaviour in a more restorative way.
- **Purposeful Activity/Time out of room:** We will continue to work on addressing some of the conflict to allow for more children to mix to enable better access to the regime as you saw on B wing, in other places, i.e.. A and C wing. We will look to review the purpose of B wing to establish if there are alternative regime groups which would provide consistency in regard to time out of room thus reducing the disparity. In relation to weekends the review will ensure that all boys have at least two hours a day out of their rooms.

The Governor with the support of the Deputy Director YCS Operations will continue to improve the performance at HMYOI Werrington and provide the necessary support to address the concerns raised with focus on behavioural management, time out of room and to reduce injuries sustained during use of force. I am incredibly pleased to read about the significant progress in reading. I am grateful for the strong leadership of the Governor and her team in prioritising education, which is reflected in Ofsted's findings.

Yours sincerely

Ed Cornmell
Youth Custody Service Executive Director

CC:

Amy Rees, HMPPS - Director General Chief Executive Officer
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