



# HM Prison & Probation Service

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Dear Charlie,

## **HMIP report on an independent review of progress at HMP Woodhill 29 – 31 July 2024**

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress report at HMP Woodhill, whereby you followed up ten priority/key concerns, four Ofsted themes and 2 CQC regulatory concerns from your most recent inspection in August 2023.

I am encouraged to note that you have seen good or reasonable progress being made across nine priority/key concerns, two Ofsted themes and that both CQC concerns have been addressed, and note the following:

- That the average rate of violence has reduced over the last six months and the number of prisoners being supported through CSIP has appropriately increased, alongside the introduction of 'peace promoters' as a positive initiative that is helping de-escalate situations of potential conflict. In depth Use of Force scrutiny meetings are now held weekly, with 100% of incidents being reviewed that identify learning and good practice.
- Improvements in healthcare with revised policies and practices that provide more effective evidenced based support for prisoners who are found unwell or under the influence of illicit substances. Medication queues are now correctly supervised, where a notable positive practice was highlighted, in that routine local auditing of in-possession risk assessments, covering all patient prescriptions is in place.
- Opportunities for prisoners to complete English and Maths has increased with available spaces doubled since the start of the year, who can now combine English and Maths with part time working. The consistent regime and incentive opportunities available for education skills and work has improved attendance and punctuality. The recruitment of specialist support staff and improved assessments of prisoners with additional learning needs or disabilities has provided them with increased opportunity to achieve qualifications.

In respect of the one key concern and two Ofsted themes where you found no meaningful and insufficient meaningful progress respectively, 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:

- Improving the management of prisoners segregated through accurate recording of data, monitored at the Segregation Monitoring and Review Group meeting, including an agenda item to discuss prisoners segregated for longer than 28 days. Reviewing the segregation unit regime, which will consider an increase in the amount of time prisoners are allocated for exercise and the opportunity for prisoners to collect their own meals.
- Identifying and improving the standards of the segregation unit through regular management checks to monitor cleanliness. The condition of the unit has been discussed at the Urgent Notification estates action plan meeting; the showers will be refurbished as part of the prison wide shower refurbishment programme commencing next year. Work has been identified to improve the standard of cellular accommodation which will be monitored via the monthly tripartite meeting.
- The prison will work with the education and Careers advice and Guidance providers to identify actions that address and improve the quality of the information advice and guidance service, so it meets the needs of the population and helps prisoners understand the newly introduced career pathways. The prison will work with the education provider (Milton Keynes College) to further review the curriculum and address the actions identified by Ofsted inspectors.

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

I remain committed to ensuring continued progress against HMP Woodhill agreed Action Plan and I can assure you that through my operational assurance functions and the support of PAR 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.

**Richard Vince**

Executive Director – Directorate of Security



CC: Amy Rees, Director General CEO, HMPPS  
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