



HM Prison &  
Probation Service

Ian Barrow  
Area Executive Director HMPPS  
Wales  
Churchill House  
Cardiff  
Wales  
CF10 4HH

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

13 January 2025

Dear Charlie,

**HMIP report on an Independent Review of Progress at HMYOI Parc between 09 and 11 December 2024**

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress report at HMYOI Parc, whereby you followed up on three priority concerns and five Estyn Ofsted concerns from your most recent inspection in October 2023.

I am encouraged to note that you found good progress for one priority concern and reasonable progress across two further priority concerns and all five of Estyn's concerns, specifically recognising:

- **Partnership working** – the benefits that the weekly operational meeting and the strategic partnership board had brought to both the YPU staff and the learning and skills staff and ensuring all felt valued.
- **Separation** – improvements made through a reduction in the numbers of children being separated and the length of time they were separated.
- **Equality and diversity** – the benefits that a consistent staffing for diversity and inclusion brought including analysis of data, consultation forums and visibility of the staff.
- **Teachers** – improvements in staffing levels and the investment in continuous professional development of the teachers.
- **Curriculum** – the review of the curriculum that took into account both local and national employment market information. In addition, the inclusion of personal, health and social education and employability within the curriculum.

- **Reading strategy** – introducing a prison wide reading strategy which includes a wide range of approaches to support engagement in, and enjoyment of reading. It was pleasing to note that one child had read a book from cover to cover for the first time.
- **Quality assurance of teaching** – the new quality assurance approach introduced and the benefits that Gower College have brought to the teachers at HMYOI Parc, along with improvements in regular check ins that teachers have with learners.

The Director of HMP and YOI Parc, with the support of the Deputy Director of Strategic Support Administration and Assurance, will continue to drive improvements and strengthen the work that has already been undertaken, through continued evaluation and monitoring of the full Action Plan covering all the original priority and key concerns. Additionally, as the number of children on the unit increase, we will continue to ensure that the services being delivered meet the needs of all children.

I remain committed to ensuring continued progress against HMYOI Parc's agreed Action Plan and I can assure you that through my operational assurance functions and the support of the Performance, Assurance and Risk Group (PAR) we continue to closely monitor progress.

Whilst I acknowledge that there is further 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

Ian Barrow  
Area Executive Director HMPPS Wales

Cc:

Amy Rees - Director General CEO HMPPS  
Phil Copple – Director General of Operations HMPPS  
Ed Cornmell - Executive Director for Youth Custody Services  
Sian Hibbs – Deputy Director of Strategic Support Administration and Assurance for Wales  
Will Styles – Director, HMP Parc