



## HM Prison & Probation Service

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10<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Dear Charlie,

### **HMIP report on an Independent Review of Progress at HMP Nottingham 24<sup>th</sup>- 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress report at HMP Nottingham, whereby you followed up on nine priority concerns and four Ofsted themes from the May 2024 full inspection.

At a time when the prison is still encountering sustained population pressures that have increased the churn of the prison to an average stay of just 6-8 weeks, I am encouraged to read that you have seen reasonable progress being made across some of the concerns and Ofsted themes, and note the following:

- There is an appropriate strategy in place to reduce self-harm, from which a multi-disciplinary action plan has been created. Using this strategy staff will continue efforts to motivate and encourage prisoners into activity to reduce boredom and improve wellbeing. 'Grab bags' containing activities, games and reading material for prisoners on constant supervision continue to be used. There is a commitment from leaders in the prison to ensure that prisoners who self-harm prolifically are further encouraged to engage with the regime.
- Two Custodial Managers have been appointed to provide appropriate leadership and oversight of the keywork provision, and this work will continue, to ensure improvements are made to the quality of sessions. The 2025/26 Regime Plan commits the prison to increasing the number of keywork sessions month on month whilst maintaining the current quality assurance process.

- There have been improvements in the management and transfer of prisoners under the Mental Health Act, and leaders are committed to ensuring that these improvements continue. The Mental Health team visit the care and separation unit (CSU) daily and assess whether a prisoner is fit to be segregated. Fortnightly multi-agency regional meetings chaired by NHS England (NHSE), Health and Justice Midlands Team are in place and continue to support prioritisation of patients and expedite transfers when possible, depending on bed availability.
- Prison leaders recognise that the short length of stay for many prisoners continues to pose challenges in finding suitable accommodation. Improvements have been made to the multi-agency release board meetings including better attendance from external agencies, and the introduction of a live tracker to monitor actions. It is positive that Commissioned Rehabilitative Services (CRS) contracts have extended their accommodation support service to all unsentenced prisoners. Initiatives in partnership with Nottingham City Council, provide intense support with bespoke funding to try and break the cycle of homelessness and recalls back to prison.
- Leaders understand the drivers of violence and there are plans in place to strategically combine the Violence Reduction Strategy, Debt Strategy, Drug Strategy and Self-harm Reduction Strategy. Responses to violent incidents continue to be data-driven, with performance regularly tracked at the strategic safety meeting. A key component in reducing violence at HMP Nottingham involves addressing boredom and community-based conflict. Leaders are committed to engaging more prisoners in education and employment opportunities as part of individual regime planning.
- Night-time observations are undertaken by healthcare staff for prisoners withdrawing from alcohol and drugs by utilising the larger medication type hatches. Leaders will work with the healthcare provider through the Local Delivery Board and Healthcare Commissioners to ensure that these cells are prioritised for prisoners requiring overnight observation who are detoxing from alcohol or drugs.
- HMP Nottingham will review the regime offer to identify opportunities for increasing the time out of cell for unemployed prisoners. Additionally, there are plans to increase the weekend regime offer and increase time out of cell for all prisoners. The evening association and gym sessions continue, and leaders are committed to increasing eligibility to more prisoners.
- The improved Inter Departmental Risk Management (IDRM) meeting and arrangements for the oversight of prisoners subject to child contact restrictions continues to take place. Leaders plan to review and improve the public protection communications monitoring systems to ensure that it is able to provide for the identified demand for its services.

In respect of the Ofsted concerns I can confirm that all the comments and findings from inspectors have been carefully considered, with steps taken to address concerns including:

- Increasing the number of prisoners allocated to work and education and ensuring that residential staff are sending prisoners to their off-wing areas. Planned changes to the sequencing meeting also includes the addition of Education Induction arrangements, improving the contract performance of the Careers Information, Advice and Guidance (CIAG) provider, and assurance that the Personal Learning Plan backlog is reduced as an immediate priority.
- Prison leaders are committed to working closely with the education provider to ensure that learners are allocated to the correct level of learning following initial and diagnostic assessments. There are also plans to ensure that absence cover is provided, that cover teachers are changed as infrequently as possible and that the quality of learning plans improves.
- HMP Nottingham will improve attendance at education, industries and vocational training sessions. To achieve this the prison will refresh and apply a range of balanced sanctions and incentives for learners to attend these areas. Leaders will continue the process of minimising the wasted productivity of competing appointments for prisoners during work time.

The Governor with the support of the Prison Group Director will continue to progress the full Action Plan following the May 2024 inspection covering all the original recommendations alongside the Independent Review of Progress observations.

I remain committed to ensuring continued progress against HMP Nottingham's agreed Action Plan and I can assure you that through my operational assurance functions and the support of the Performance, Assurance, Risk Group 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

**Sarah Chand**  
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cc:

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