



HM Prison &
Probation Service

HMP & YOI New Hall

A response to the HMIP inspection: 20 to 30 April 2026

HMIP report published: 27 July 2026

Submitted: 17 August 2026



Introduction

HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) and HM Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) for England and Wales are independent inspectorates which provide scrutiny of the conditions for, and treatment of prisoners and offenders.

They report their findings for prisons, young offender institutions, and effectiveness of the work of probation, and youth offending services across England and Wales to Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS).

In response to the report HMPPS / MoJ are required to draft a robust and timely action plan to address the priority and key concerns.

Action plans provide specific steps and actions to address these concerns, that are clear, outcome focussed, measurable, achievable, with clear accountability and appropriate timescales for completion.

Action plans are sent to the respective HMIP and published on the GOV.UK website. Progress will be monitored regularly through local, regional, and national governance structures.

Priority concerns and actions

No.	Concerns	Response: Action taken / Planned	Responsible owner	Target date
1	Some mentally unwell women had been sent to prison due to the lack of services in the community, including places in secure mental health hospitals. Those requiring hospital treatment under the Mental Health Act waited far too long to be transferred.	The Mental Health Act 2025 introduced a new statutory time limit of 28 days for transfers from prison and other places of detention to hospital. This reform is due to commence 18-24 months post Royal Assent, which was received on 18 December 2025. The NHSE-led National Mental Health & Justice Strategic Advisory Group (MHJSAG) has been established to oversee and monitor the transfer process from prison to hospital and seeks to ensure all transfers are completed within 28-days of referral for individuals who have been assessed as requiring detention under the Mental Health Act. The use of remand for own protection solely on mental health grounds will be removed under reforms to the Bail Act in the Mental Health Bill 2025. The Bill will also end the use of prison as a place of safety where an individual who meets the threshold for inpatient care is remanded to custody while their allocated bed becomes available.	Ministry of Justice / NHS England	Legislation fully implemented by December 2027
	As above	In addition, NHS England and HMPPS are working closely with healthcare providers and have established a working group to conduct a pilot at HMP Leeds. The pilot aims to identify ongoing challenges in transferring individuals from prison to secure care and	NHS England Health & Justice	December 2026

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		develop a seamless and timely patient pathway. The pilot complements wider regional and national efforts to improve data quality, standardise reporting, and enhance the efficiency of transfers and remissions across the secure care pathway. The learning from this pilot will be utilised to inform learning across all North- East & Yorkshire Prisons including HMP & YOI New Hall.	(Regional)/ Healthcare Providers	
2	The average positive (MDT) rate over the last 12 months was the highest among all women's prisons. There was no enhanced searching of staff and visitors, and permission to use the x-ray body scanner on prisoners had been delayed for far too long.	A comprehensive review of the X-Ray Body Scanner Policy Framework is currently in progress to support the planned extension of use within the women's estate. This work includes careful consideration of a range of factors that need to be fully addressed prior to implementation.	HMPPS	December 2026
	As above	A bid to secure funding for enhanced gate security will be submitted by the prison.	The Governor	December 2026
	As above	Staffing pressures have impacted on intelligence led searching, the head of function will now attend weekly regime management planning meetings to discuss and highlight identified work including searching.	The Governor	Complete

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	As above	Amnesty boxes have been introduced in areas of known conveyance routes and awareness of the scheme will be raised through staff and prisoner briefings. This will offer the opportunity for prisoners to dispose of items in a safe and appropriate way to drive down demand and availability.	The Governor	September 2026
	As above	Rehabilitation adjudications have been introduced and embedded. They serve to avoid an over-reliance on punitive measures by allowing individuals time to engage meaningfully with the substance misuse service provider. The aim is to incentivise positive engagement and support recovery rather than reinforce cycles of punishment and relapse.	The Governor	Complete
3	Leaders did not offer a sufficiently broad education, training and work curriculum. Instructors did not support women to develop their English and mathematics skills.	The prison will complete a needs analysis to ensure effective curriculum planning and develop a broad curriculum within budget.	The Governor	January 2027
	As above	A waste management workshop will be opened to deliver specialist skills and vocational qualifications.	The Governor	October 2026
	As above	The establishment is re-opening an upcycling workshop with a key partner agency to deliver practical based learning and support English and maths skills.	The Governor	November 2026

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	As above	Dedicated reading spaces will be created in all workshops and gardens. There will be targeted staff training for instructors to develop English and mathematics support for prisoners.	The Governor	January 2027
4	Leaders did not offer women the opportunity to accredit their learning in most workshops.	Accredited qualifications will be introduced in Gardens and Waste Management workshops.	The Governor	February 2027
	As above	The establishment will review and further develop unaccredited qualifications in the textile workshop led by instructors in partnership with a specialist training provider to recognise employer standard skills.	The Governor	February 2027
	As above	The provision available in the Gymnasium will be expanded to offer accredited qualifications at a variety of levels.	The Governor	December 2026

Key concerns and actions

No.	Concerns	Response: action taken / planned	Responsible owner	Target date
5	Officers did not always challenge poor behaviour by prisoners. Victims of discrimination, bullying or violence did not feel fully supported.	Weekly supervising officer and custodial manager meetings will be utilised to encourage regular discussions with all their staff to check knowledge and understanding on how and when to challenge poor behaviour. Staff identified as lacking confidence will be offered support through managers, mentors and guidance. Those staff who subsequently regularly fail to challenge poor behaviour will be handled through performance management measures. Any identifiable trends will also be addressed to reinforce that the prison is a safe and positive environment for all.	The Governor	December 2026
	As above	Prison Council meetings are now scheduled to take place monthly again following a short spell of disruption. These will be used as a forum to encourage reporting of points of concern for prisoners, the challenging of poor behaviour and prisoner's perceptions is now a standalone agenda. Prisoner representatives will be encouraged to discuss this topic with prisoners on their units.	The Governor	December 2026
	As above	The wider use, knowledge and understanding of challenge, support and intervention plans will be developed with support sessions from safety leads. This will include reminders on ensuring appropriate timely challenge on any discriminatory behaviour witnessed by staff.	The Governor	December 2026

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6	Patients waited too long to receive dental care.	NHSE has approved additional funding to increase dental sessions at HMP & YOI New Hall and waiting times have decreased following the inspection. The dental provider (Time for Teeth) is working in partnership with the healthcare provider (Practice Plus Group) and the prison to agree when these additional sessions can be delivered. There is also a targeted action plan in place to address waiting times, with progress being monitored through quarterly contract meetings and quality assurance prison visits.	HMPPS/ Time for Teeth & Practice Plus Group	December 2026
7	Staff shortages in the chaplaincy team limited the amount of support offered.	To increase the amount of support on offer, all vacancies within the chaplaincy team have now been filled subject to vetting.	The Governor	September 2026
8	Education, training and work staff did not consistently support women to develop their understanding of British values or the dangers of radicalisation and extremism.	A British values monthly working group has been created to drive momentum, resource creation and collaboration chaired by a dedicated prison lead.	The Governor	September 2026
	As above	The prison will develop a package of British values resources for prisoner laptops via podcasts and competitions to develop understanding, using feedback to develop further resources.	The Governor	March 2027

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	As above	Good practice will be shared with the experienced education provider to standardise information to learners on how to protect themselves from radicalisation and extremism.	The Governor	November 2026
	As above	HMP & YOI New Hall will proactively promote displays and content for prisoner laptops, wings and workshops to highlight the dangers of radicalisation and extremism.	The Governor	December 2026
	As above	Targeted staff training will be introduced to address radicalisation and extremism in the classroom and workshops.	The Governor	March 2027
9	Some women who posed a high or very high risk of harm to others were refused a place in an approved probation hostel, which left them homeless on release.	A dedicated Female Central Referral Unit (CRU) now manages all women's Approved Premises (AP) referrals, except for those from Psychologically Informed Planned Environment, creating greater consistency in decision-making, oversight and allocation processes. Considerable work has been undertaken to improve referral quality and placement outcomes, with ongoing engagement with probation practitioners to ensure referrals contain the information needed to support timely and informed decisions.	Community Accommodation Services	Complete
	As above	Structured case discussions are now in place for more challenging referrals, enabling options to be explored collaboratively and helping to maximise placement opportunities wherever it is safe and appropriate to do so.	Community Accommodation Services	Complete
	As above	Women's AP eligibility is being aligned to wider Probation Service changes from September, while retaining a differentiated	Community Accommodation Services	September 2026

No.	Concerns	Response: action taken / planned	Responsible owner	Target date
		approach for women. This will be monitored and arrangements refined as learning emerges from implementation.		
	As above	Locally, cases are now escalated via Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), regional Probation Delivery Unit leads and Women's group policy leads. Prison Offender Managers also escalate cases to the Head of Offender Manager Delivery (HOMD) for early intervention and guidance.	The Governor	Complete
	As above	All MAPPA eligible cases are reviewed six to eight months prior to release and discussed in advance of community MAPPA screening, enabling practitioners to: - Identify and escalate accommodation-related concerns for high and very high-risk cases at the earliest opportunity. - Inform decisions regarding the requirement for formal MAPPA meetings.	The Governor	Complete