



**INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT 2016 – 17
MAGILLIGAN PRISON**

MISSION STATEMENT

To enhance the quality of prison life, by working to ensure fairness and accountability in prison.

Statement of Purpose

Members of the Independent Monitoring Board for Magilligan Prison are appointed by the Justice Minister under Section 3 of the Treatment of Offenders Act (NI) 1968 and under the Prison Act (NI) 1953.

The Board is required to:

- visit Magilligan Prison regularly and report to the Justice Minister on the conditions of imprisonment and the treatment of offenders;
- consider requests and complaints made by prisoners to the Board;
- report matters of concern to the Governor or, in serious cases, the Justice Minister; and
- exercise certain powers that are given under the Prison and Young Offender Centre Rules (NI) 2005.

The Prison Rules further require the Board to satisfy itself as to:

- the treatment of prisoners including provision for their healthcare and other welfare while in prison;
- the facilities available to prisoners to allow them to make purposeful use of their time;
- the cleanliness and adequacy of prison premises.

To enable the Board to carry out these duties effectively its members have free access at any time to all prisoners and to all parts of the prison to which they are appointed. The Board shall also have reasonable access to any of the records of the prison.

UK NATIONAL PREVENTATIVE MECHANISM

The Independent Monitoring Board is part of the United Kingdom National Preventative Mechanism (UK NPM) as required by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT).

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CHAIRPERSON'S INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to present the report for Magilligan Prison's Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) covering the period from 01 April 2016 to 31 March 2017.

At the end of March 2016 the Board lost four of its longest serving members, who had come to the end of their terms of appointment, and a further three others who resigned due to other commitments. This left a total of two members with six new recruits to induct and mentor. Without the help of Bernie McCollum (Maghaberry) and Brian Doherty (Hydebank Wood), both of whom had previously worked in Magilligan, this would not have been possible and I wish to thank both of them for giving their time and expertise so willingly. Subsequently two more members have left the Board. One has returned to Maghaberry on a temporary basis and the other has transferred to Hydebank Wood. Despite the small number the remaining members have settled in well, have "hit the ground running" and have dealt with an ever increasing number of SPAR and Rule 32 case reviews, adjudications and prisoners' requests. They have all demonstrated unstinting dedication and commitment to the role and I am deeply grateful to them.

During the current reporting year we were deeply saddened to learn of Officer Jason Walsh's death as the result of an accident. Also there was one death in custody and to each of these families we extend our sympathy.

Given that the planned new build at Magilligan has stalled, due to lack of finance, there has been some refurbishment of the prison estate. The programme of installing in-cell sanitation is ongoing but it is wholly unacceptable that there are still two wings of the H blocks which require prisoners to "slop out." In September 2016 asbestos was discovered in the Foyleview residential terrapins, resulting in the majority of prisoners having to be moved to alternative accommodation in Alpha. This necessitated a reconfiguration of sentence progression. With just one terrapin in use, a smaller number of prisoners remain in Foyleview and are employed outside the prison, while others work in a variety of roles within it. Changes to accommodation have caused some disruption during the year. Halward House, which formerly housed vulnerable prisoners, including those managed under Safer Custody, now accommodates committals while vulnerable prisoners have been moved to H1. For a number of prisoners with poor mental health this move proved extremely stressful and

occasioned a spike in incidences of SPARs. Moreover there is a continuing problem resulting from some individual transfers from Maghaberry, whose violent and disruptive behaviour renders them unsuitable to be managed in the open regime of Magilligan.

Increasingly the Board is aware of the need to provide social care to the growing number of elderly prisoners. Currently the responsibility for funding this provision is unclear, and whilst inmates are able to assist as carers, multiple medical conditions place increasing demands on healthcare facilities and staff. As an aid to mobility a prisoner driven "buggy" is now available for transport around the jail, and in H2 an Advanced Care Room has been equipped for individuals requiring a high level of medical supervision and provides facilities for visits by family members.

A major concern throughout the year has been the availability of drugs both prescription and illegal. Despite intelligence led interceptions and greatly increased drug testing large quantities still enter the prison especially "legal highs" which, on occasion, have caused life threatening reactions in some prisoners. Recruitment and retention of healthcare staff remains problematic and mental health staffing levels are wholly inadequate. This situation is exacerbated by an appreciable number of transferred prisoners requiring an initial mental health assessment. There is no doubt that a high percentage of the prison population have severe mental health problems and that their needs cannot be addressed adequately within custody.

Monitoring the use of cellular confinement in the Care and Supervision Unit (CSU) has raised issues regarding the lack of suitable accommodation, for prisoners who have to be removed from the general population for their own safety. The Board is aware that some individuals have spent unacceptably long periods in the CSU, and that this is not conducive to good mental health. As the current refurbishment of the prison estate continues, we would ask that consideration is given to finding some space which would resolve this situation.

A particular strength of Magilligan prison is the excellent relationships which exist between staff and prisoners. There have been serious incidents which could have escalated dangerously, except for the deployment of good "jail craft" and willingness of prisoners to obey orders. The Board has been impressed by the caring attitude of staff and their willingness to "go the extra mile" when required.

In former Annual Reports the Board called for the reinstatement of Family Officers. This has now been achieved and it is to be hoped that there will be adequate general staffing levels to allow this role to be developed. It is disappointing that the regular child-centred visits have not been maintained, and that family days and family inductions may cease due to uncertainty surrounding funding for Barnardos. On a more positive note the percentage of prisoners engaged in constructive activity has been greatly increased, and North West Regional College has provided a range of courses at varying levels, resulting in qualifications which will contribute to gaining employment on release. Several prisoners took part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, the Listeners received their certificates of training from the Samaritans, and a number of individuals successfully submitted examples of their creative writing to win Koestler awards.

In conclusion I would like to thank Governing Governors Eagleson and Treacy, Deputy Governor Milling, Governors of the various areas within the prison, Senior Officers and staff at all levels for their help and support. Moreover the IMB is most grateful to the Secretariat for their guidance and assistance throughout the year. We are moving into exciting times for Magilligan Prison as many planned innovations begin to take shape and come to fruition. Members of the IMB look forward to making their contribution to these developments

Anne Rowe
Chairperson

OVERVIEW OF ESTABLISHMENT

A medium to low security prison, Magilligan holds a total of 432 (as of 31/03/2017) adult male prisoners, most of whom are serving 12 years or less, although there are a small number who are life sentenced. The regime focuses on maintaining a balance between appropriate levels of security and prisoner safety, respect, engagement in constructive activity, and addressing offending behaviour leading to resettlement and a reduction in recidivism.

The prison estate is on the site of an army camp and a number of the original Nissan huts are still in existence. The majority of prisoners are housed in three H-Blocks each containing 100 cells divided into 4 landings of 50 cells each.

- House 1 comprises the R.I.S.E. Landing, on which prisoners have their own keys and the other three wings accommodate vulnerable prisoners. There are no in-cell toilets on C and D wings.
- House 2 A and B wings are occupied by elderly prisoners and here all cells have wooden doors and the prisoners have their own keys. Wings C and D are currently having in-cell toilets installed.
- House 3 has in-cell sanitation on one wing and houses prisoners from the general population.
- Modern accommodation is provided in Halward House, which contains committals, and Alpha where prisoners nearing the end of their sentence are accommodated with some being selected to move outside the wall to Foyleview.
- This is a low security semi-open unit which is comprised of a number of porta cabins only one of which is currently occupied due to asbestos having been found in the other buildings.
- There is also a separate Care and Supervision Unit (CSU).

Responsibility for prisoners' healthcare lies with the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (The Trust). Working in partnership with the Trust on-site drug and alcohol services for prisoners with addictions are provided by Alcohol and Drugs: Empowering People through Therapy (AD:EPT).

Education and Training is provided by the North West Regional College and library services by NI Libraries.

Various charitable and voluntary organisations maintain a presence on the site. CRUSE Bereavement Care supports prisoners dealing with bereavement issues, the Samaritans train prisoners who have volunteered to become Listeners, Barnardos provide family care and Housing Rights staff assist prisoners in obtaining benefits, housing and grants on release.

Spiritual and religious matters are the remit of the Chaplaincy team who represent all the major denominations, facilitate the practise of all faiths within the prison community and provide support to prisoners and their families. Additional help is provided by the Prison Fellowship.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board recommends that:

1. ACCOMMODATION

- a) Further to the recommendation last year, all H-Blocks have in cell sanitation fitted. (para 1.1)
- b) Necessary in house resources are provided to maintain this standard. (para 1.2)
- c) A return to single room/cell accommodation for all prisoners but recognises the difficulty given the transient influx of prisoners. (para 1.3)

2. ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- a) That the drugs strategy be kept under review (2.1)

3. CATERING AND KITCHEN

- a) More prisoners with longer sentences are made available to work in the kitchen, so that they can complete the NVQ level 1 and 2, which can be completed within approximately six to eight months. (para 3.2)

4. CHAPLAINCY

No recommendations

5. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- a) All current subjects should be continued and opportunities to achieve outside qualifications should be extended and encouraged, and more opportunity is provided for personal development classes. (para 5.2)
- b) There is continuation of all existing programmes in the Prisoner Development and Resettlement Unit and development of the Sex Offender Treatment Programme facility. (para 5.4)

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

- a) Every effort should be made to widen membership of the Prisoners' Forum in order to ensure that all sections of the prison population are represented. For example more effort needs to be applied to encourage prisoners from ethnic and disability backgrounds to attend and participate. (para 6.1)

- b) NIPS provide the committee with comparative statistics in order to undertake in depth analysis and investigate trends. (para 6.2)
- c) New explanations sought with conclusions are brought to next and subsequent meetings in order to inform understanding and prisoner wellbeing. (para 6.4)
- d) A pilot is considered of joint Equality and Diversity and Safer Custody meetings. (para 6.5)
- e) There should be reinstatement of chaplaincy hours for the Protestant denominations. (para 6.8)
- f) The Safety survey should be issued again later in 2017 and prisoners offered some incentives for completion. (para 6.10)

7. HEALTHCARE AND MENTAL HEALTH

- a) NIPS and DHSSPS plan to resource adequately the social care needs of a growing population of elderly prisoners. (para 7.5)
- b) Staffing levels for mental healthcare are increased as a matter of urgency. (para 7.6)

8. LIBRARY

- a) More prisoners are encouraged to avail of the great services on offer in the Library. (para 8.5)

9. RECEPTION AND INDUCTION

- a) It would be helpful if short handouts could be given to help prisoners remember what has been said at the induction presentation. (para 9.2)

10. DOG SECTION

- a) Accommodation for the dog handlers is provided adjacently to the dog compound as a matter of urgency. (para 10.2)

11. SAFER CUSTODY

- a) The Safer Custody monitoring of vulnerable prisoners should continue and be further developed. (para 11.4)
- b) Transfer lists sent to Safer Custody Senior Officers contains the relevant information with regard to prisoners with urgent mental health assessments.(para 11.5)

- c) The criteria for becoming a Listener is reviewed and security restrictions on Foyleview residents working within the Main Prison are re-examined.(para 11.6)
- d) the Safety survey be re-issued later in the year.(para 11.9)

12. SEGREGATION – CARE AND SUPERVISION UNIT (CSU)

- a) The CSU building is refurbished to an acceptable standard.(para 12.3)
- b) That a dry toilet is installed in the CSU as a matter of priority.(para 12.4)
- c) To promote consistency of awards the adjudication of a group of prisoners charged with the same offence should be carried out by the same governor.(para 12.7)

13. SPORT AND RECREATION

- a) More activities are developed for prisoners with mental health issues for example walking and eco therapy programmes. (para 13.2)

14. TUCK SHOP

No recommendations

15. VISITS

- a) Family officers and child-centred visits should resume immediately.(para 15.2)
- b) Major housekeeping is carried out in the area outside the visits room and the visitor's toilets.(para 15.6)

Section 1 – ACCOMMODATION

H1 H2 and H3 Blocks

1.1 The main accommodation in Magilligan is three H-Block units, old-style cells with capacity to house approximately 300 prisoners. Despite an increasing population the majority of cells remain single occupancy. While it is acknowledged that there are now a number of cells, some within the H Blocks, which have now in cell sanitation, a considerable number continue to not have this facility. The Board feel that in this is unacceptable and again recommends that all H-Blocks have in cell sanitation. It should be noted that the Board has made this recommendation regularly in past reports, but it has never been fully implemented.

Recommendation: Further to the recommendation last year, all H-Blocks have in cell sanitation fitted.

Alpha House

1.2 Alpha House can accommodate up to 65 prisoners in two wings. The cells in Alpha are called rooms, and each prisoner has his own key. The unit has shower facilities and both ordinary and disabled toilet facilities. The building is immaculately clean throughout and appears to be an efficiently well managed. The Board commends both the prisoners and staff for this maintaining this standard. It would appear that here is a good working relationship between prisoners and staff.

Recommendation: Necessary in house resources are provided to maintain this standard.

Halward House

1.3 Halward House is a building located separately from the other prison units. All cells have toilets and there are communal on each landing. Halward House is spotlessly clean and the Board is very impressed with this facility. While it was designed as single accommodation on two floors, due to a fluid prisoner population, doubling up has been necessary on occasions; to date this has presented no major problems. Relationships within this facility between prison staff and prisoners appear excellent and positive.

Recommendation: A return to single room/cell accommodation for all prisoners but recognises the difficulty given the transient influx of prisoners.

Foyleview

1.4 Foyleview is a semi open facility in Magilligan. It is situated within the prison compound, but outside the main prison security perimeter. It comprises of two porta cabins (three old porta cabins where closed due asbestos will not reopen as they are no longer required). These facilities consist of bedrooms, a small kitchen, and a shower /toilet area. Relationships again within this facility are good between staff and prisoners.

Section 2 - ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

2.1 There has been some progress in developing a drugs strategy. NIPS and the South Eastern HSC have produced joint strategies in relation to Suicide, Self-Harm and Substance Misuse. A review of vulnerable prisoners has been commissioned. It is recommended that the drugs strategy be kept under review.

2.2 Despite the observational skills and diligence of the staff, the supply of drugs and illicit substances continue to get into the prison. It is alarming that the new psychoactive substances are not being detected by the drug dogs at the point of entry. The make-up of these dangerous drugs is changing so rapidly that it is extremely challenging for the staff.

2.3 Prescription drugs, and the misuse of same, continues to create a problem as many of these fall into the wrong hands, acting as a currency within the prison.

2.4 Efforts are being made to work towards a drug free prison with incentives available for prisoners who are drug free. Those seeking help with substance dependency problems can avail of the services of AD:EPT and Trust clinical addiction services.

Section 3 – CATERING AND KITCHENS

3.1 The kitchen prepares food to a very high standard within the prison and caters for up to 500 prisoners per day. It is clean and tidy, and everyone who works in the

kitchen is appropriately dressed to the highest standard. The kitchen staff work well as a team, from the catering manager to the prisoners, who seem to enjoy their role in the kitchen.

3.2 The kitchen provides a varied menu which covers all requirements ranging from medical, religious and cultural diets, very few complaints have been received in reference to the food, and any that has, have been rectified within the kitchen.

Recommendation: The board recommends that more prisoners with longer sentences are made available to work in the kitchen, so that they can complete the NVQ level 1 and 2, which can be completed within approximately six to eight months.

3.3 In addition, prisoners are required to be available to commence work in the kitchen at 8.30am, and to date most prisoners are running late due to unlocking which leaves a lot of pressure on staff to get food prepared. The kitchen needs more staff to accommodate this and also the opening of the cabin.

Section 4 – CHAPLAINCY

4.1 The Chaplains provide valuable support to prisoners, not only in the provision of religious services, but also assistance with the resolution of personal issues. On occasion their willingness to accompany inmates to outside visits may facilitate attendance at funerals and other family affairs, whilst their role as befrienders and counsellors is an important resource within the prison.

4.2 The system by which prisoners “sign up” for attendance at religious services requires review, since inmates have stated that they have not been called to attend despite having indicated that they wished to do so.

4.3 It is disappointing that the pro rata resourcing of the Chaplaincy continues to disadvantage some groups and that this anomaly has not been addressed.

4.4 The provision of a dedicated building for religious services is currently in train and the Board welcomes this initiative.

Section 5 - EDUCATION AND TRAINING

5.1 Recognised as an important aspect of prison life, these facilities are effectively managed by two staff from Limavady College, where all teaching staff for the wide range of subjects are also sourced. Most men engaged in education or training, whether at basic level, or more advanced, report that they find it rewarding and worthwhile, with many commenting that it makes them feel more confident and it could help them find a job when they are released.

5.2 Practical subjects from gardening to catering are also highly appreciated by the students, with as many as possible in all subjects receiving certificates for their achievements. All current subjects should be continued and opportunities to achieve qualifications should be extended and encouraged. It could also be possible to provide more opportunity for personal development classes, although these could perhaps be provided by the PDU.

Recommendation: All current subjects should be continued and opportunities to achieve qualifications should be extended and encouraged and more opportunity is provided for personal development classes.

Prisoner Development and Resettlement Unit

5.3 This department involves co-working between Prison staff, Probation Board for Northern Ireland personnel and Psychology Department. This year there have been staffing difficulties; however despite these difficulties this department delivered the following programmes - Building Better Relationships; Domestic Violence Programme; Job Track; and Enhanced Thinking skills.

5.4 I am advised that staffing within the Probation Service is now at an adequate level, and given the number of Sex Offenders now in Magilligan it is their intention to develop The Sex Offender Treatment Programme (SOTP).

Recommendation: Continuation of all existing programmes and development of the Sex Offender Treatment Programme facility.

Section 6 - EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

The aims and procedures are clearly set out in a prison service brochure which follows on from an initial policy statement. Data on relevant issues such as religion, nationality, adjudications, Rule 32 are collected monthly and provided to those attending the regular committee meeting concerning equity and diversity.

6.1 The Equality and Diversity committee has responsibility for ensuring that the prison complies with its obligations under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, by promoting equality of opportunity and eliminating discrimination. Chaired by the Deputy Governor and coordinated by a designated Senior Officer, its membership is drawn from a number of officers at various levels and representatives from the Human Rights Commission, NIPS Headquarters, Probation Service, Criminal Justice Inspectorate, Healthcare and Chaplaincy. In addition there is a Prisoners' Forum comprised of representatives drawn from the general population whose input is extremely valuable. Unfortunately it has proven difficult to recruit members and currently expressions of interest are being sought in order to widen the representation.

Recommendation: Every effort should be made to widen membership of the Prisoners' Forum in order to ensure that all sections of the prison population are represented. For example more effort needs to be applied to encourage prisoners from ethnic and disability backgrounds to attend and participate.

6.2 It is intended that meetings should be held monthly, but it has been necessary to re-schedule on a number of occasions and, given the number of people involved, attendance has been variable; however a new Coordinator is now in place and participation has increased. The committee monitors and provides statistical reports on complaints, drug testing, adjudications, use of force, searches, home leave, segregation and prisoner regime status. These are all examined and any statistical deviations, trends or issues of concern are discussed and appropriate action taken if required.

Recommendation: NIPS provide the committee with comparative statistics in order to undertake in depth analysis and investigate trends.

6.3 Whilst statistics are presented at each monthly meeting, comparative figures are rarely provided resulting in insufficient information to facilitate longitudinal analysis. The Board would like some attention to be given to statistical “drilling down” in order to better understand trends and anomalies.

6.4 New or unexpected discrepancies in equality rates regarding Rule 32 or adjudications are noted. However there is seldom much discussion of the explanation for these, other than inequalities in the general population.

Recommendation: To have new explanations sought with conclusions brought to next and subsequent meetings in order to inform understanding and prisoner wellbeing.

6.5 As many issues in Equality and Diversity meetings can be linked with those of safer custody meetings, an ongoing suggestion is the some meetings may be jointly combined as a sensible and effective way of widening the range of discussion on evidencing inclusion.

Recommendation: A pilot is considered of joint Equality and Diversity and Safer Custody meetings.

6.6 Equality Commission training for staff is ongoing and will be provided to prisoner representatives.

6.7 At the end of the period under review the prison population was 432 of which 13 (3.01%) were foreign national prisoners mostly from Poland, Lithuania and Romania. Proficiency in English language varies and, in addition to the use of the Big Word Translation Service, interpreters have been provided when requested. Monthly statistics are broken down by religious affiliation but the percentage of foreign national prisoners in each category is not given. Although the population is small this information would highlight any areas where action needs to be taken.

6.8 Despite the recommendation made in the 2015/16 Annual Report that chaplaincy hours for the Protestant denominations should be reinstated in order to provide equality of provision, the situation remains unchanged. There has been no

reduction in the chaplaincy hours for Roman Catholic prisoners but access to Protestant clergy is restricted. The support to prisoners provided by the chaplains is very important and once again the IMB request that the current inequality of provision is addressed.

Recommendation: There should be reinstatement of chaplaincy hours for the Protestant denominations.

6.9 Prisoners transferring from Maghaberry should have any disabilities recorded on their records but may self disclose on reception. A disability survey has been undertaken and resulted in an approximately 18% initial return. A further survey will be undertaken in 3 months' time. H2 A and B wings house elderly prisoners, and a number of inmates who act as carers providing day to day assistance other than with personal care. Individuals with low mobility are able to access a prisoner driven vehicle to transport them around the prison estate, and an Advanced Care Room has been established to provide accommodation for prisoners who require considerable nursing support and facilities to spend time with their families. In addition, a range of activities have been introduced to allow elderly prisoners to engage as fully as possible in prison life.

6.10 A Safety survey has been issued which resulted in a 12% return. This contrasts with the 85% return from the same survey undertaken in 2014. The outcome of the 2014 survey showed 17% of respondents felt threatened against 10% in 2017, and whereas no one reported feeling intimidated in 2014, 10% did in 2017. Incidents which resulted in feeling unsafe in 2017 which related to race was 3%; (1% 2014); nationality 3%;(5% 2014) and religion 8% (5% 2014). Furthermore 42% reported having been victimised by staff (37% in 2014). It is intended to circulate the results to all prisoners in the coming weeks and this may generate more responses. In view of the low return the Board feels that the survey should be issued again later in the year, since it indicates that there are some areas of concern in relation to equality and diversity. It would be important to employ a variety of incentives to encourage completion of the survey.

Recommendation: The Safety survey should be issued again later in 2017 and prisoners offered some incentives for completion.

6.11 The Board will continue to monitor matters relating to Section 75 and appreciate the hard work and dedication of the Equality and Diversity committee to promoting fair and equal treatment to all prisoners

Section 7 - HEALTHCARE AND MENTAL HEALTH

7.1 Within the prison primary health, including dental health, care services are provided under the auspices and management of the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (The Trust). Prisoners should be afforded the same standard of care in prison as they would receive outside it thus there are similar constraints on provision as exist in NHS services to the general public. A significant number of the complaints made to members of the IMB involve healthcare, and due to patient confidentiality it is very difficult for members to discuss the issues with staff. Increasingly prisoners are referred to the Patient and Client Council which, as an independent organisation, is able to investigate and advocate for them. How successful this has been remains to be seen as the Council has only just begun to provide a service in prisons. The IMB will monitor the outcomes over the next reporting year.

7.2 A new Director of the Trust has been in post since October 2016 which has resulted in noticeable changes to provision. There are still staff shortages but there has been a welcome consistency in bank nurses assigned to the prison, and the Trust is actively engaged in encouraging experienced nurses to consider a career in prison nursing. Each House has a dedicated member of the nursing staff allocated to it, which facilitates staff knowledge of an individual prisoner's medical conditions. Nurses triage prisoners and refer to the GP as appropriate, however there are frequent complaints regarding waiting times for appointments. The Board is pleased to be able to report that healthcare staff received the IPP award during the period covered by this report, and that both "Well Man" clinics and health promotion programmes have been established with a high "buy in" from prisoners.

7.3 Over the period covered by this report the IMB has been monitoring the high level of prisoners' complaints concerning medication, mainly regarding reduction in prescriptions. Prior to entering prison many individuals have been used to significant over-prescribing of medication, with long histories of drug use and resultant addiction. The policy in prison is to reduce supply, but often this results in raised

levels of anxiety, self-harming, and an increased likelihood of having to be placed on a SPAR in order to obtain more medication. In cases where the GP suspects or knows that the prisoner is taking illegal drugs, it would be dangerous for further medication to be given, but on occasion the prisoner is considered simply manipulative when in fact it is more a matter of poor communication or assessment.

7.4 Transport to outside hospital appointments can be a problem. Prisoners have missed appointments; mostly due to a lack of transport rather than lack of escort staff in fact some prisoners are allowed to attend without escort. IMB members are aware of prisoners requesting second opinions and appointments made for them but subsequently they have refused to attend.

7.5 There are now an appreciable number of older prisoners accommodated in H2 A and B. Here cells have wooden doors and inmates have keys which enable them to come and go as they please. An Advanced Care Room has been equipped to provide a suitable environment for prisoners who have multiple nursing requirements. Access to podiatry and physiotherapy services can still be problematic, but the recent appointment of an Occupational Therapist is to be welcomed. A wide variety of activities has been introduced including, armchair yoga, Brainfit Programme and dementia friendly memory clinics. While nursing staff provide personal care where needed, a number of inmates act as carers to individual elderly prisoners. The crisis in provision of social care to an aging population is reflected in the prison population, and the Board recommends that the NIPS and the DHSSPS make plans to allocate adequate financial resources to this area.

Recommendation: That NIPS and DHSSPS plan to resource adequately the social care needs of a growing population of elderly prisoners.

7.6 Incidences of poor mental health continue to increase and the situation has been worsened by long term staff sick leave. The one mental health nurse is completely overwhelmed by the volume of referrals made to him, greatly exacerbated by prisoners being transferred from Maghaberry with no mental health assessments. A psychiatrist visits once a fortnight and the addictions nurse has a long waiting list for appointments. Increasingly healthcare staffs are unable to attend Rule 32 and SPAR case reviews. The Board finds the lack of adequate mental health care concerning.

Recommendation: That staffing levels for mental healthcare are increased as a matter of urgency.

7.7 It is unacceptable that there are still cells in Houses 1 and 3 without toilet facilities. That chamber pots are still being used in 2017 is wholly unacceptable. The Board notes that a programme of refurbishment is underway and that work on House 3 is scheduled to begin in the next few weeks.

Section 8 – LIBRARY

8.1 The Library building, with a relaxed ambience, is situated close to Halward House, H1, 2 and 3 and is easily accessible to all. A smaller facility is housed within Foylevue. Each landing is allocated a dedicated day in the main Library.

8.2 Good use is made of the facility which has upwards on 3000 plus books, CDs, and DVDs. Entitlement to borrow ranges from two books for basic prisoner, four items (two CDs included) for standard to six items for enhanced which includes one DVD and two CDs at a time.

8.3 The staff are most helpful and encouraging. The Librarian will take requests and source certain books for prisoners, especially those studying in the Open University. Up to date law books and foreign language fiction are among those frequently requested. At present books are available in 11 languages. A weekly book club is also operational.

8.4 Prisoners are encouraged to partake in educational projects e.g. creative writing for the prison magazine, and Big Book Share. This is a new initiative being set up to encourage fathers to read and record age appropriate material to share with their children.

8.5 The Library fulfils a very important role and is appreciated by all its users. The layout of the shelves and seating areas and general atmosphere makes a visit to the Library something to look forward to. Currently about 50% of the prison population make use of the service.

Recommendation: That more prisoners are encouraged to avail of the great services on offer in the Library.

Section 9 – RECEPTION AND INDUCTION

Reception

9.1 All new arrivals to the prison come into the reception and holding department where they are given a snack lunch; this is much appreciated. They are then interviewed and informed of what will happen next. Their belongings have already arrived but they have no access to them until the next day. They are told what their initial location will be, and a member of the chaplaincy will speak briefly to them. There is no fulltime senior officer allocated to the reception team, and at times there can be few prison officers available, especially when a prisoner needs to be escorted for drug testing. Some officers have said that they feel that reception is understaffed at times.

Induction

9.2 Induction talks for new arrivals takes place some five days later. These provide a lot of information, the majority of which is about the effects and risks of various drugs. The IMB suggest this be toned down a bit at this stage, with perhaps more emphasis on prison rules and prisoners' rights. It would be helpful if short handouts could be given to help prisoners remember what has been said. A contribution from PDU and IMB could also improve the overall usefulness of the induction experience, with the idea that this is a prison transfer induction rather than a new prisoner induction.

Recommendation: It would be helpful if short handouts could be given to help men remember what has been said at the induction presentation.

Section 10 - DOG SECTION

10.1 The dog section is made up of four handlers and nine dogs. They undertake searches throughout the prison and can also double up as a search team when required. Searches include home leave, work parties returning back to prison, movement within the prison, visitor and also intelligence lead searches.

10.2 The staff are now based in the training room due to an asbestos discovery in Foyleview in August 2016; this is totally inadequate for them, they have no rest room, changing or washing facilities and also share the kitchen with other people who use this room for various training courses. This results in inadequate space for the staff, and is situated quite a distance from the kennels, which are unsupervised; this raises an issue of safety for the dogs.

10.3 Any complaints received from prisoners regarding searches have been investigated by the IMB member who accompanied the dog team on the search.

Recommendation: The board recommends that accommodation for the dog handlers is provided adjacently to the dog compound as a matter of urgency.

Section 11 - SAFER CUSTODY

11.1 The safety of prisoners is of paramount importance, and the Safer Custody Forum is the principle means by which data relating to the management of vulnerable individuals, incidences of self-harm, bullying, and poor mental health is monitored. Chaired by the Residential Governor, it is coordinated by a designated Senior Officer and is comprised of members of the Safer Custody Team and representatives of the Samaritans, Empowering People through Therapy (AD:EPT) and CRUSE bereavement care. During the period under review, there has been some disruption to the pattern of monthly meetings and attendance has been variable. However the Board is pleased to report that the Forum has been refocused and refreshed, a new coordinator appointed and the former successful strategy of interspersing full monthly meetings with case conferences focussing on specific prisoners re-established. Furthermore, older prisoner casework will be tied in with the Forum with monthly meetings taking place in H2.

11.2 Between April 1st 2016 and March 31st 2017 a total of 91 SPARS were open and closed; an increase of 11 on the last report. Self-harm (43), low mood (34) and thoughts of suicide (24) were the predominant reasons for opening a SPAR, and the average time spent on one was 2.5 days. Whenever possible Board members have attended Case Reviews and Serious Case Reviews, and have been impressed by the manner in which these have been conducted. Much of the increase in SPARs is attributable to prisoners being transferred from Maghaberry already on a SPAR, often

due to their unwillingness to be moved to Magilligan. In the majority of cases, the more relaxed regime contributes to them settling in quickly and the SPAR being closed. Frequently it has been necessary to double up prisoners in single cells due to Magilligan receiving increased numbers from Maghaberry. This has led to prisoners self-harming or reporting suicidal thoughts in order to be moved to a single cell.

11.3 The Board has some concerns regarding the Safer Custody recording procedure as, whilst the booklet documents referrals and interventions, it is largely a tick box exercise. Often it is the observations made by the IMB members that relate to mental state rather than the performance of actions. In order to minimise risk there has been a tendency to place prisoners on 15 minute observations and anti-ligature clothing. Currently there is a move away from this, with staff being encouraged to use 15 minute observation only in serious cases, and for prisoners to remain in their own clothes. Moreover SPAR cells in accommodation other than Halward, are to be used where possible, with prisoners only being moved from their normal accommodation if strictly necessary. As a result of officers having good relationships with the prisoners on their landings, a SPAR may be avoided as they are able to talk through the issues troubling the prisoner.

11.4 Regular fortnightly multi-agency meetings have been re-established to monitor all prisoners managed under Safer Custody. Vulnerable prisoners are now accommodated in H1 B wing, and Referral Assessment Criteria guidelines have been developed. Coordinated by a designated Senior Officer each case is discussed and a personal development plan agreed. The prisoner is involved in this process with an eventual return to the general population the ultimate aim. This has been a very successful initiative and the Board recommends that it should continue to be developed.

Recommendation: The Safer Custody monitoring of vulnerable prisoners should continue and be further developed.

11.5 It has been brought to the Board's attention that prisoners with urgent mental health assessments are being transferred to Magilligan weekly, without this information being included in the transfer list sent to staff. Safer Custody Senior Officers need to be aware of this information when committals arrive.

Recommendation: That transfer lists sent to Safer Custody Senior Officers contains the relevant information with regard to prisoners with urgent mental health assessments.

11.6 The Listeners continue to provide a valuable service to prisoners both through “wing walks” and response to individual requests. A recurrent problem has been the difficulty in recruiting suitable prisoners, and retaining them, especially since the criteria for application is similar to that required for entry to Foyleview. It is both time consuming and costly for the Samaritans to run more than one training programme a year. A further difficulty is that once promoted to Foyleview, the Listeners are not permitted to work in the Main Prison which, currently, leaves just two individuals covering the area. At the last call for volunteers, there were 24 applicants of whom eight were accepted. Subsequently two were failed at the security vetting stage leaving six for training, which is the minimum required. If the scheme is to continue there must be a review of the criteria for becoming a Listener, and a compromise reached over security restrictions concerning Foyleview.

Recommendation: That the criteria for becoming a Listener is reviewed and security restrictions on Foyleview residents working within the Main Prison are re-examined.

11.7 In the last Annual Report, the Board called for the ‘Safer At Magilligan’ (SAM) anti-bullying process to be revised. This has been completed and a more robust strategy introduced including incorporating Hate Crime information. A total of 14 SAMS have been raised. Demands for drug debts to be repaid, and for prescription medication to be “handed over”, form the two most frequent causes of bullying. Despite there being encouragement for prisoners to report bullying, they remain unwilling to do so mainly due to the need to identify the perpetrators. Reported incidents of bullying by staff are infrequent but are taken very seriously and thoroughly investigated. IMB members will monitor the outcomes of the revised strategy and will attend anti –bullying management boards as observers.

11.8 The Board is pleased to report that funding has been secured for a member of CRUSE bereavement care to work for one day a week in the prison. While this is not adequate for the demands placed upon the organisation we welcome the resumption of this service.

11.9 A repeat of the Safety survey, initially conducted in 2014, has been issued resulting in a 12% return (85% in 2014). The analysis shows that 58% have felt unsafe especially during visits and while attending Healthcare and 10% reported having felt threatened or intimidated. The Board is aware that the results obtained were derived from a low response, but given its relevance to Safer Custody ask that the survey be re-issued at a later date.

Recommendation: That the Safety survey be re-issued later in the year.

Section 12 – SEGREGATION – CARE AND SUPERVISION UNIT (CSU)

12.1 Segregation is the restriction of association, and prisoners may be removed from their usual location in the prison and housed in the Care and Supervision Unit (CSU) for a number of reasons. In general these involve offences categorised under Prison Rule 32, generally for the good order and discipline within the prison; cellular confinement awarded through the adjudication process; violent and refractory behaviour and, vulnerable prisoners accommodated for their own protection. Members of the Board visit the CSU at least once a week and have a statutory obligation to ensure that, where a prisoner is detained under Rule 32, the process has been undertaken correctly and the paperwork generated signed to verify that this is so.

12.2 The IMB must be informed when a prisoner is placed on a Rule 32 and members are obliged to attend case reviews where an application for an extension to the period of segregation is sought. It is often the case that the IMB Secretariat is notified of a case review too late to be able to contact the member(s) on rota. Moreover the time of case reviews is often changed at short notice, and even when a member arrives at the CSU at the time notified there may be a considerable delay before the review is started. This is extremely frustrating for members, leads to much waste of time and inefficiency.

12.3 In the 2015/16 Annual Report it was recommended that the CSU building be refurbished to an acceptable standard. Since the prevailing financial situation will result in further delays to the proposed new build at Magilligan it is imperative that some interim work is initiated on the building which is clearly unfit for purpose.

Recommendation: The CSU building is refurbished to an acceptable standard.

12.4 The Substance Misuse Guidance recently issued to staff states that:

"Magilligan Prison will take all reasonable measures to reduce the availability of illicit substances to prisoners". However there is no dry toilet available in the CSU, which minimises the opportunity of finding illicit substances concealed internally. The Board recommends that this situation is addressed as a matter of priority.

Recommendation: That a dry toilet is installed in the CSU as a matter of priority.

12.5 Prisoners accommodated in the CSU tend to be extremely challenging, and the Board wishes to compliment the regular staff on their professionalism in managing them. Relationships between prisoners and staff are excellent and it is very rare for the IMB to receive complaints from inmates concerning their treatment. Over the course of the review period there have been several "dirty protests" which have forced staff to work in unhygienic conditions and members have expressed concern at staff shortages especially given that the unit is generally very busy.

12.6 Frequently prisoners are placed on Rule 32 for their own safety. Where an individual has enemies throughout the prison it is not possible to accommodate him anywhere other than in the CSU. Segregation is not conducive to good mental health, and prisoners placed on a Rule 32 should have an exit plan in place from the inception of their being placed in it. During the time covered by this report, the longest period spent in the CSU was 89 days and the average was 18 days. The Board is concerned that this situation is occurring frequently and would ask that some alternative strategies are considered.

12.7 Adjudication is the formal process for dealing with instances of alleged misconduct. The IMB attend these proceedings regularly and generally feel that the process has been followed, and the decisions made are fair and reasonable. On occasion Members have been concerned as to the consistency of the awards made, especially on two occasions where a large number of prisoners had refused to obey an order to lock and were all charged with the same offence. Several complaints were received from individuals who felt that they had been treated unfairly. On investigation the IMB were informed that in some cases a prisoner's previous record had been

taken into consideration. The Board would recommend that where there are a large number of inmates all being charged with the same offence they should be adjudicated by the same governor to promote consistency in awards.

Recommendation: To promote consistency of awards the adjudication of a group of prisoners charged with the same offence should be carried out by the same governor.

12.8 The Board is pleased to report that awards of cellular confinement (CC) are often suspended. However there is concern that prisoners are adjudged as being mentally fit to be awarded CCs on the basis of their medical records without being seen by a doctor. There have been instances where a prisoner declared in his adjudication that he did not feel able to cope with cellular confinement but was awarded it on the basis that his record stated he was fit to be confined. The Board feels that in a situation of this nature the award of CC should not be implemented until the prisoner has been seen by a doctor.

Section 13 - SPORT AND RECREATION

13.1 The initial observation of the Sport and Recreation Department is that it is a well organised and managed facility.

13.2 There is a wide range of activities for all prisoners depending upon capabilities and mobility. Staff have advised that they operate a tailored range of activities for vulnerable prisoners, including sex offenders, separately from other inmates. It is evident that there are good relationships between prisoners and staff.

13.3 There are various activities provided, one of which is The Duke of Edinburgh Scheme up to Silver award; another recent development is the cycling in the community scheme. The Gym is open Monday to Friday 8.30am to 7.00pm.

Recommendation: More activities are developed for prisoners with mental health issues for example walking and eco therapy programmes.

Section 14 - TUCK SHOP

14.1 The tuck shop is well stocked with a wide range of items. Efforts are made on a regular basis to accommodate requests for goods which are permissible but not readily available. The orders and delivery system is well-organised and operates very successfully.

Section 15 – VISITS

15.1 The ability to have family members attend the prison is a positive experience for all; the maintenance of relationships is considered essential for successful rehabilitation. During the year April 2016 to March 2017, 11,617 bookings were made, resulting in 28,418 visitors. Of these, 9462 were males, 13,036 were female and 5920 children attended. Weekends are usually busier, but staff training has recently had an impact on visiting hours with a period of Thursday visits being cancelled for several weeks, although these will hopefully be reinstated in the very near future.

15.2 Child centred visits had been held on a regular basis at the start of the year, however the Board are disappointed to note that they have now ceased, as a result of family-appointed officers being deployed elsewhere. Family induction visits are being run by Barnardos, but they are unsure of future funding. We hope that the necessary measures are in place to prevent the disruption of the valuable service they provide.

Recommendation: Family officers and child-centred visits should resume immediately.

15.3 Visitors enjoy a good rapport with People Plus. Adults can avail of the well-stocked tuck-trolley and the children have a very favourable relationship with the staff who manage a well-equipped play area with a wide variety of toys and games. People Plus are to be commended for their work here.

15.4 Entry procedures to visits are generally very well-managed if and when the computer system is working at full capacity and if there are no staff shortages.

15.5 The “covered” walkway outside the walls continues to cause concern; it provides absolutely no shelter from the frequent inclement weather and is far from suitable for those who have small children and/or the elderly or disabled.

15.6 The area between the outside gate and the visits room which visitors have to navigate can only be described as 'grim'. This is unfortunate since it gives a very poor first impression of the establishment, which thankfully is not a true overall picture.

15.6 The visitors' toilets are dismal and unacceptable for public use within a government building.

Recommendation: Major housekeeping is carried out in the area outside the visits room and the visitor's toilets.

MAGILLIGAN BOARD MEMBERS 2016-2017

			Appointed
1	Mrs Anne Rowe	Chair	18/12/06
2	Mr Paul Devlin	Vice Chair	18/12/06
3	Mr Harry Montgomery	No change	01/04/16
4	Mr Chris Ralph	No change	01/04/16
5	Ms Eithne McEnespie	No change	01/04/16
6	Ms Tanya Quinn	No change	01/04/16
7	Ms Diane Mackey	No change	20/05/13
8	Ms Margaret McCrory	No change	01/04/16