

imb Independent
Monitoring
Board

MAGILLIGAN PRISON

Independent Monitoring Board's Annual Report for 2006 / 07



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Glossary of abbreviations

- IT – Information Technology
NIACRO – Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders

Mission Statement

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



1 | Foreword

This Annual Report by the Independent Monitoring Board covers the activities for the year from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007. Members of the IMB, appointed by the Secretary of State under the Prison Act (Northern Ireland) 1953, are voluntary and carry out the following duties;

- visit the prison regularly and report on conditions and treatment of prisoners
- consider the requests and complaints made by prisoners to the Board
- report on matters of concern to the Governor or in serious cases, the Secretary of State.

To fulfill their role, each member of the Board has the right of access to all parts of the prison and to each prisoner, without exception, at any time. Members are advised to visit in pairs. Ever since the 'nationalisation' of prisons at the end of 1870s, Board of Visitors and now Independent Monitoring Board, play a crucial role in the monitoring the state of prisons and the treatment of prisoners. Our Board meets once a month and visits the prison on a rota basis once a week. The Governor is invited to attend our monthly meetings to give his report, update members of progress on issues, and to respond to queries. This is most invaluable and much appreciated. The Governor also keeps the chair informed of any developments, special visitors and new systems. Members are also involved in Case Conferences which use a multi-agency approach. IMB members have been present as observers immediately following deaths and for all major incidents.

During the past year we have had three deaths in custody, two on home leave, and two serious incidents. To those families who have lost loved ones I extend the sympathy of the members of the IMB.

This year has brought its challenges, however the Board continues to monitor provision throughout the prison, respond to requests from inmates, and to various Consultation documents. There is still uncertainty regarding the future of Magilligan prison, however my board would continue to maintain that the special relationship in this area as a result of Foyleview prisoners working in the community over the past 13 years, would be sadly missed here and take a long time to develop in a new location.

A number of inspections have been carried out during the past year, action plans devised and implemented to respond to the identified issues. It is also very pleasing to note that new initiatives are constantly being formulated e.g. Induction booklet, new course and training plans, additional prisoner programmes, and Prisoner Development Unit treatment courses.

A number of members have had the opportunity to attend Inter-institutional visits to Mountjoy, Lindholme, and Belmarsh Prisons and have shared their experiences with other members.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to the Governors and all their staff for the courtesy shown to my members and myself during the past year. I also acknowledge the work and dedication of my predecessor who held the chair for two years and for all the work that he carried out during that time. I would also wish to extend my thanks to the board members and the secretary for their hard work and support during the past year. I also appreciate the support from the Director General who takes an active interest in our work, is always keen to listen and to do what he can.

2 | Overview of The Board's Business

During the reporting period members have made over 300 visits to the prison either on rota, monthly Board meetings, training, to visit areas of responsibility, case conferences or various committee meetings. While there is a decline in the number of applications from prisoners, we can identify that this is due to the effectiveness of the personal officer scheme in some areas and on occasions the Prisoner Ombudsman's office. This allows the IMB to monitor more and gives members a more in depth view of the establishment. We recommend that the Personal Officer scheme should be extended.

The Board was pleased with the response of the Governor and the Director General in attending to many of our concerns throughout the year. During the year there were strong indications that prison population in Northern Ireland would increase and this happened. We would also be aware that with sex offenders having loss of remission removed in the future, this will have an impact on our population. Currently Magilligan's population is 430. Constructive development in the form of a 'Ready To Use Unit' to house 60 inmates has been ordered and hopefully will be in place in early summer. Provision of a new unit in Alpha compound to house 50 prisoners has also been agreed and in total these will provide an additional 110 places. The board room had to be reallocated but in the interim period the Governor has facilitated our meetings in various venues.

Healthcare provision has been excellent although the accommodation requires major improvements. On the 1st April the lead responsibility for this area will be transferred to the Department of Health and a number of issues around this still need to be addressed. During the year the Healthcare centre had to be closed for major improvements to the water system and at time of writing remains closed while ongoing work continues. However Healthcare is being offered at each residential unit. Our ageing population is increasing and while Healthcare did make some provision, this will have to be addressed by other sections in the prison. A number of problems have been caused by withdrawal of or change to medication and members are currently monitoring this. When prisoners are transferred to Magilligan, all their files including Healthcare files and information should be transferred with them. We recommend that all file information should be available on Computer with restricted access.

Education continues to address the various Inspection reports and are continuously devising new programmes. We recommend that Education and Training are provided for more prisoners and that the length of daily provision is extended. This year there will be the formation of the new North West Regional College and already it is pleasing to report that plans are well underway for the provision of courses. However if our Government are promoting skills which will be beneficial for our country's economy, then they must provide the necessary funding. This is an issue which needs urgent attention so that joint provision could be established — thus saving money in the long term! I also commend the Governor's initiative of training inmates on various skills e.g. painting, gardening, engineering, metalwork, etc and then providing work opportunities for them — again saving money!

Adjudications are monitored, but on occasions members are not informed in time if a prisoner requests a 'McKenzie Friend'. The Board is always concerned that prisoners are given sufficient notice and that care is taken to ensure that the prisoners understand the charges they face. We also feel that it is vitally important that the prisoner is informed of the outcomes of all charges, refusal of home leaves, etc.

3 | Security And The Special Supervision Unit (SSU)

The provision of security is very good, however we recommend the reinstatement of the search team at Magilligan. This team could be used to combat the increase and use of drugs entering the prison. We recommend the provision of CCTV on corridors in SSU and the provision of 2 thumb scans — one at the main entrance and one at the visits area would enhance security. Board members visit SSU regularly and interview prisoners in their cells. Board members also attend Case Conferences to discuss provision for prisoners. We have two concerns — those inmates who have home / compassionate leave and who fail to return to prison; and secondly those prisoners who break the rules. Firstly prisoners who have leave granted and do not return on time and / or keep their conditions should have time added to their sentence. Ideally if they could be electronically tagged in some way so that tracking can be carried out if necessary — during this past year we are all aware of media reports on a prisoner who appeared not to comply with his conditions — tagging would give some comfort to the public, especially for those sex offenders who have been granted remission. Secondly, we have recorded a number of prisoners who cause problems shortly before their release date, and the Governor has very limited powers to punish in these cases. We recommend that powers are given to Governors to extend sentences in these incidents.

The SSU has been out of action for some time now, due to Legionella Bacterium, other facilities have been used for prisoners who required Special Supervision.

The staff in SSU and Healthcare are sympathetic to prisoners with mental health problems, however this is a growing area and one which must be addressed by the new Health Trusts urgently.

4 | Visits and NIACRO

All prisoners look forward to their visits. Child — centred visits are much appreciated by the prisoners and facilities are well maintained. Visits occur between Wednesday through to Sunday, with Saturdays being the most popular. NIACRO provide refreshments and crèche facilities. The booking system for children, especially to a prisoner who is known to be a risk to children, must be urgently reviewed and improved. A child protection policy should be in place.

A wide variety of courses are available and each year new courses are being accessed / devised for our inmates with the potential to improve their employability opportunities. Accreditation has been granted for a number of new courses i.e. Pottery and Art, Tiling, Industrial Cleaning, etc.

It is worthy to note the number of achievements during the past year from those participating in Essential Skills, through GCSE'S in English and Mathematics through to Open University courses — 5 inmates were awarded 60 points or more in Open University courses.

During the past year an Anthology was published by inmates under the guidance of our Writer in Residence — this was an exceptionally good publication and well worth obtaining a copy of. A second book is now under way. New Courses to develop Drama and Music are being developed in conjunction with the Nerve Centre, while a partnership between the Playhouse and Magilligan are delivering Essential Skills through Creative Writing and Drama.

Ballymena Institute in conjunction with Magilligan were awarded with an all Ireland AONTAS award — STAR — for innovation for creation of a 'virtual classroom'. The Governor and Director of Education appreciate the support and assistance received from both Limavady and Ballymena Colleges and look forward to this continuing with the new merged Colleges — North West Regional College and the Northern Regional College.

5 | Education and Library

The Library continues to suffer due to lack of space — with over 2000 books in boxes. Action plans have been devised and implemented following the various Inspection Reports. In looking to the future there are a number of major issues to be addressed :-

- 1 Better accommodation for Education and Library — no doubt this will be addressed when a new prison is built.
- 2 'E Based learning' needs to be introduced so that inmates can have access to more courses at all levels.
- 3 More course places available.
- 4 Daily classes lasting longer each day. I congratulate all involved in the supporting, guiding and teaching of inmates.

6 | Workshops and Industries

Workshops continue to train inmates in trades that will be useful when they are released. The many trades available are joinery, plastering, home decorating, catering, gardening and computer repair. Recently the home decorating course has been usefully employed in the residential areas of the prison, putting their training to good use. These courses are very popular and there is a continual demand for places. The instructors are mainly civilians and therefore the inmates have to show, through their reports, continued responsible behaviour.

The Workshops are held in Second World War Nissen huts and portable cabins. These buildings have been kept in repair and where necessary refurbished by the inmates on the relevant courses. The chance of the workshops being replaced as purpose built units is unlikely at present. The workshops are vitally important in preparing prisoners' for resettlement and employment when their sentence has been completed. A wider variety of skills should be on offer i.e. plumbing, tiling, etc and an extension to the joint provision with the North West Regional College at its' Limavady campus should be provided for the setting up of such a provision. Also the use of this Campus during the summer months for prisoners should be established. Funding is an issue which needs to be addressed both by the Prison Authorities and Department of Employment and Learning.

Grounds are well maintained and cared for with varying seasonal floral displays. Training is being provided for inmates on using the two new lawnmowers and they will maintain all of the lawns — again a saving to the prison. There are insufficient job opportunities and this needs to be addressed, as does cover for absent tutors. We feel that an overall Head of Education and Workshops would be beneficial in providing a consistent and coherent approach to educating and training.

7 | Healthcare Centre

The Healthcare Centre in Magilligan provides a first class, full range of healthcare services to all prisoners, including GPs' services, dental care consultants, and opticians.

It has initiated many clinics to support health and well-being including a well-man clinic, smoking cessation and asthma clinics and an essence of care protocol, recently introduced. In addition this year it has also included in treatments, aural acupuncture which is being delivered by two people to reduce stress, and as a means to alleviate addiction dependence. It is also equipped with the necessary equipment to provide emergency care and life-saving treatment. The hospital is kept in immaculate condition and is always clean and tidy.

There have been two new observation wards built recently; designed to be safer cells with no ligature points, each has CCTV and call buttons linked to both the Samaritans and attendant staff. Both are equipped with toilet and washing facilities and are spacious, comfortable and brightly painted. They also have TV and video access through a plexi-glass screen, a disabled wheelchair access shower has also been provided. One recently introduced policy is the dispatch of prisoners' treatment and medication detail to the prisoners' GP on release, to ensure continuity of care.

Concerns about the level of staff cover were raised last year, and this has been addressed in some part by the addition of three additional staff. This brings to two the mental health cover, which in our view was badly needed. This also brings to 14 the total number of staff which is a minimum requirement. There has been further rationalisation within the healthcare unit, where a nurse is allocated to an individual block, but can be recalled to the centre when needed. The prisoners have access to the doctor by appointment, four from each block on a daily basis. They can normally get their medicine the next day, and are currently at 90% self medication.

There has been introduced into the centre a patient's helpline, to facilitate contact between staff and prisoners' relatives, to enable a more comprehensive assessment to be made.

There has been a comprehensive Hepatitis B immunisation programme for inmates, which involves three injections.

The buildings are temporary, dated and in need of refurbishment. They are second World War Nissen huts. The rooms can be warm and stuffy with poor ventilation especially on warm and sunny days.

Since February this year there have been some interruptions in the Healthcare setup. Legionella Bacterium was detected in the water supply which led to patient relocation in various parts of the prison and to Maghaberry.

This outbreak occurred despite repeated and regular checks by environmental health on the water system. Investigations to date have failed to reveal the source.

There is work underway to improve the water systems in both the Healthcare Centre and the SSU. This work however, discovered asbestos in the building and 'remedial action' is being taken by approved contractors to eliminate any threat

The Healthcare Centre is at present not operating normally although there has been no diminution of services, supplied to patients in various locations.

As the review of Public Administration commences, the position of Magilligan's Healthcare staff and facilities will have to be determined — there must be no loss of provision for the inmates and staffing issues need clarification.

8 | Reception

Since its recent refurbishment in 2003, Reception has continued to run efficiently and effectively and remains one of the more pleasant and modern areas of the prison to work.

The glass holding cells are clean and well maintained and clearly display information relevant to prisoners arriving at a new institution such as how to contact The Samaritans and the IMB. IMB posters are clearly visible in the holding cells, and this is one of the few locations in the prison that display such information in this format.

The staff there are efficient and well experienced in the day to day workings of reception which makes them well equipped to deal with any questions or concerns prisoners might have and ensures that the committal process is completed as quickly as possible.

9 | Accommodation

H1 AB

H1 A/B is a drug free landing with a zero tolerance policy that prisoners voluntarily agree to live on. Prisoners who reside there undertake regular voluntary drug tests and, based on accounts of staff who work there the regime appears to be working well. There is soon to be a new drug testing system introduced where swabs taken from prisoners' mouths will replace the old style urine testing. It is believed this will be a more accurate and reliable form of testing. H1 C/D usually accommodates pre-release or short term prisoners.

The whole block has recently been re-painted by a prisoner and an instructor. In fact, on a recent visit to the wing, maintenance was found to be underway, with one of the prisoners along with an instructor painting the grills to the entrance of the block. This high standard of cleanliness and presentation was found throughout the block. The Senior Officer's office was clean and tidy and staff are always friendly, obliging and accommodating to IMB members on visits. An IMB prisoner application book was found in the office also, clearly demonstrating that prisoners have free access to members of IMB.

No major concerns or problems were reported or found in H1 and the kitchen and facilities for both staff and prisoners were satisfactory.

There appeared to be a good relationship between staff and prisoners as we visited the landings which indicated to us that the majority of prisoners are content on H1 and that the regime appears to be successful.

H2

Following the discovery of Legionella Bacterium and the subsequent closure of the SSU Inmates on Rule 35.4* had to be transferred back on to the wings. This impacted on the disciplinary structure and atmosphere on the wings, thus increasing the pressure under which staff are working.

Last year the old gym was refurbished and reserved to facilitate classes. Due to staff shortages in Education, these classes were withdrawn. Nevertheless, the room does provide a venue for Church Services.

Sex offenders have a much older age profile than the average prisoner and are in need of some form of constructive and sedentary activity. Currently, staff are exploring the possibility that a charitable organisation might provide classes for ageing and vulnerable inmates. Furthermore, there has been difficulty in recruiting volunteers for the Listening Scheme and consequently the staff have to rely on volunteers from other blocks.

The Electronic unlock system for access to night-time facilities has been updated. The sluices unit has been re-tiled and staff closely monitor its use and ensure inmates adhere strictly to health and safety guidelines.

The introduction of telephone cards with personal pin numbers last year has proved very successful in eliminating former abuse.

The setting up of a medical room with a triage nurse on duty from Monday to Friday has also been equally successful and provides reassurance, treatment and early detection of ailments and illnesses.

Despite numerous measures, there is evidence of increased drug abuse.

We recommend in-cell sanitation and realise this will require a major investment.

Footnote* A prisoner who is to be charged with an offence against discipline may be kept apart from other prisoners pending adjudication, if the governor considers that it is necessary, but may not be held separately for more than 48 hours.

10 | Tuckshop

Foyleview

At the time of writing Foyleview had 78 prisoners, all working on various jobs:

20 are on mandatory 30 days community work engaged in various tasks; landscaping, gardening, painting, etc.

Two are starting full time employment on heavy mechanical posts.

16 are working in Foyleview — picture framing, making computerised badges, logos, signs, etc.

A set of T shirts for a cross community line dancing group in Limavady has been embroidered with group name and the logo 'Magilligan Prison, Helping the Community' these were donated by Foyleview.

300 Yule logs were made at Christmas, sold and the proceeds given to a hospital in Malawi. A sponsored walk round the Kilrea, Garvagh, Limavady area is also organised for this hospital. This will be preliminary to a 500 mile walk round N. Ireland over three weeks in April in aid of Meningitis Research. Taking part in these will be prisoners and officers from Foyleview.

The sorting, washing and packing of old uniform shirts for Romania is almost completed after 2 years work.

The polytunnels were destroyed by wind and new covers are awaited.

Sections of ground have been ploughed up, one is for vegetables and the other for flowers.

An inmate who worked in the garden and polytunnels got a full time permanent job in a local Garden Centre when he was released and the garden centre is prepared to employ other inmates.

Prisoners are doing NVQ's in catering in the prison kitchen.

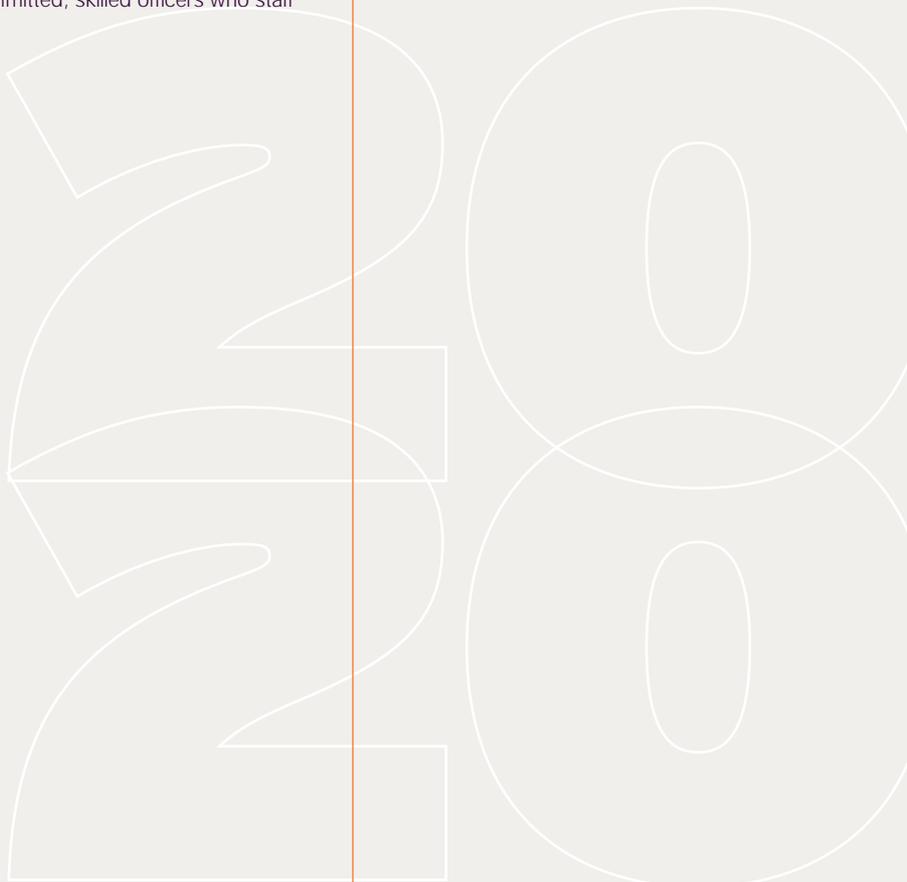
The upholstery machinery from the main prison has been transferred to Foyleview and prisoners' whose trade is upholstering, will train their peers when the machinery is set up. The large roundabout outside Limavady will be landscaped and planted by Foyleview prisoners and the prison logo displayed.

Tables are being made for the National Trust and discussions are going on at present with a view to bringing on mature trees for the Trust. The planned cultivation of willow for making baskets, etc is also being investigated.

The Restorative Justice Conferencing which has been taking place will be further developed with prisoner and victim being introduced. To this end training in mediation skills will shortly begin for two officers from Foyleview. The Deputy Governor has been selected to lead the Restorative Justice project for the Prison Service.

Of the 1000 prisoners through Foyleview since it opened in 1994, 280 approx were deselected. Of the remainder, only about 30 have received further custodial sentences. This compares very favourably with the rest of the prison and with prisoners elsewhere. Sixty five percent of prisoners discharged from Foyleview in 2005/2006, left with employment confirmed. There is much valuable work being done in Foyleview which is to be commended and encouraged. The credit for this must surely be given to committed, skilled officers who staff the unit.

The tuckshop has a wide range of goods on offer from baked beans to craft requirements. The latter is finding it hard to source but staff continue to search for materials that are suitable for a variety of crafts. New items are added to the list on a regular basis after consultation with the 'customers'. Customer surveys are carried out twice a year. Costs in the tuckshop are the same in the three establishments. This past year sales have increased in Magilligan.



11 | Sport and Recreation

There can be no doubt as to the value of the Sport and Recreation department at HMP Magilligan. 28,000 inmates attended sessions in the complex on a voluntary basis last year where a varied programme of activities was on offer to all prisoners wishing to participate.

Average weekly attendance at the gymnasium over a six and a half day working week including five evening classes Monday – Friday is around 450.

52 000 Constructive Activity Hours have been recorded within the Regime during the period April 2006 – March 2007. This does not include the time spent on Staff Well-being at the Staff Wellness Centre or within the Physical Education Programme at lunch time.

The mainstay of the Physical Education programme is offering the inmates a diverse range of activities and opportunities to participate in weight training; badminton, indoor/outdoor soccer, indoor bowls, athletics and remedial/compensatory classes.

The programme varies from week to week, taking into consideration seasonal sporting activities and the rotation attendance of the inmates.

Foyleview is catered for in the evenings and the weekends within the programme with weight training during the week and outdoor activity as an option at weekends.

Foyleview inmates may participate in organised accreditation courses which operate during the week as the majority may attend outside employment

This year six Foyleview inmates achieved the First Aid at Work Certificate.

Fourteen other projected Accreditation Courses are included in this years planner.

Outdoor Activity is now an integral part of the Sport and Recreation Programme and individual walking, climbing, canoeing and kayaking days are organised.

The Duke of Edinburgh Scheme is in this years programme, this together with NVQ Sport and Recreation Level 1 & 2 Gym Instructor Award (Focus) is intended this year as part of the ongoing rolling accreditation programme outside the main programme. (In Cell and on Association time).

Passive recreation is also provided especially for older prisoners. It is important to note that supported by the Governor, the Sport and Recreation Department remains active the whole year round, providing an outlet for the pursuit of sport and recreation.

Indeed the Sports Complex is now the accepted Centre for:

- Christmas Party
- Summer Events
- Child Centre Visits
- Prison Art Foundation

The IMB would support the refurbishment of the old weights equipment in Foyleview with modern cardio-vascular machines. Refurbishment of all weather pitch is a priority, if maximum use is to be made of this facility.

The IMB receives few complaints regarding Sport and Recreation Facilities.

We believe that this is due to the excellent programmes on offer, the high quality of management within the Department and the support of the Governor and his staff.

There can be no doubt that the Sport and Recreation Department within HMP Magilligan has a lot to offer and is an integrated part of the Prisoner and Staff Regime.

12 | Chaplains and Prison Fellowship

Chaplains at Magilligan are appointed by the various Churches and they hold regular Church services. Chaplains and Prison Fellowship meet together regularly and have an annual Conference to which various bodies are invited to attend. If an inmate is of a faith other than Christian, alternate provision is made for him. The Chaplains meet with all new inmates weekly as part of the induction process. Chaplains respond to all prisoners requests and on occasions work with ourselves in trying to resolve a serious incident. It is important that Chaplains and Prison Fellowship work with prisoner's families, their extended family and the local clergy.

We acknowledge the vital role Chaplains and Prison Fellowship play in the lives of prisoners during their time in custody and their integration into the community and the impact that this work can have on helping to reduce re-offending.

Dedicated accommodation for services is still an issue as is prisoners arriving on time for services. The Governor has identified some suitable areas for church services and hymn books have been provided. A former prisoner raised money through a sponsored cycle and has donated a large number of Bibles for the prison and this has been greatly appreciated. In previous reports we recommended that Chaplains had secretarial support and this has now been addressed. We would recommend that an office in a central location for easy access to residential units is provided.

IMB members have attended special services and are also aware of the times of Sunday services. We would also like to pay tribute to the various clergymen and Prison Fellowship for the ongoing Bible study and the Annual Mission week. It is also interesting to note that attendances at services have increased.

The Prison has had various Church leaders visit during the year and this is very much appreciated.

13 | Prisoner Development Unit

A current Internal Review of Northern Ireland Chaplaincy commends the work that Chaplains do and the degree of collaborative work being undertaken. However with a growing prison population and current legislation, the role of the Chaplain has the potential for developing its work and services – this is an area that our Chaplains and Prison Fellowship have much to contribute to. We commend them for all the work they do.

The Annual Report for 2006 indicated that 96% of eligible prisoners had agreed to and were actively engaged in the Resettlement Planning Process.

Programmes available to prisoners have increased in number. These include:

Barbados Programmes on

- n Parenting Matters
- n Parents On Release
- n Partners Together
- n Talking To Children About Tough Issues

Programmes On

- n Family Induction
- n Substance Misuse
- n VP Dabble
- n Basic Substance Awareness
- n Sex Offender Treatment
- n Motivational And Enhancement Group Skills
- n Enhanced Thinking Skills
- n Anger Management
- n Art Therapy
- n Duke Of Edinburgh Award Scheme (offered to the increasing numbers of young prisoners)
- n Induction
- n Business Start
- n Pre-Release (which is now offered to all prisoners)

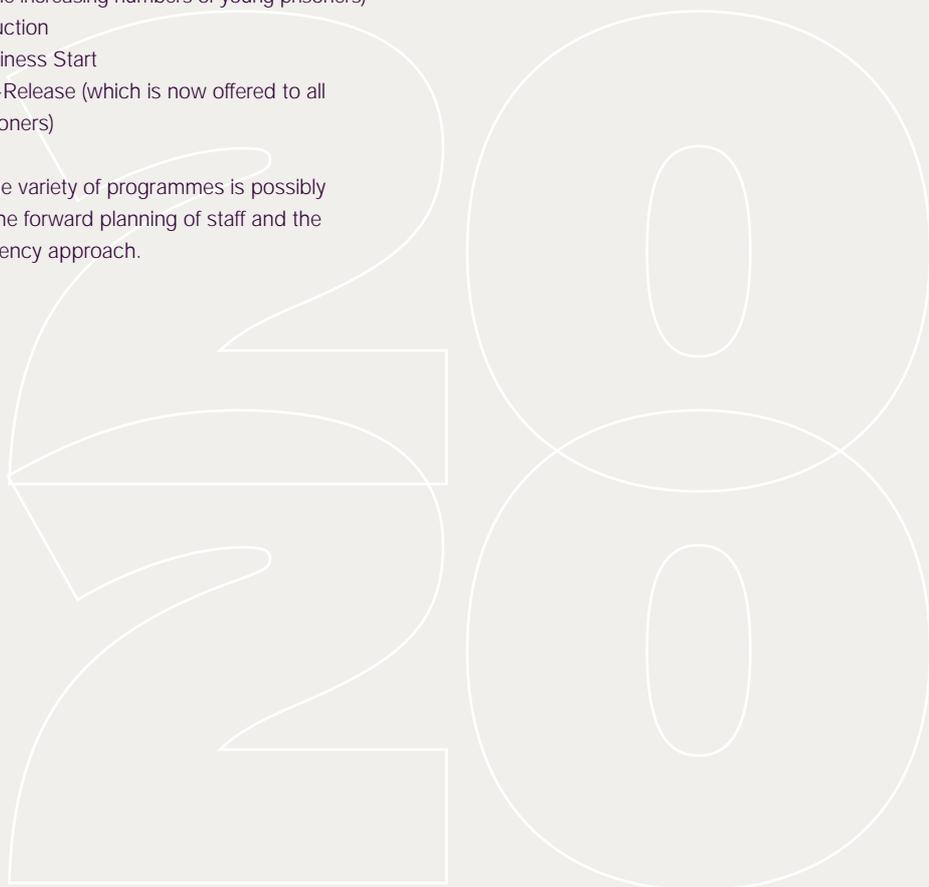
This large variety of programmes is possibly due to the forward planning of staff and the multi-agency approach.

One Officer has completed a five week Housing Advice Training Course leading to a full NVQ. This allows the officer to provide access to Housing requests and decide action to be taken through the Prison, NIACRO and the Housing Rights Advice Worker. As a result of this training more hostel placements have been secured for prisoners on release. This has always been an area of concern.

Plans are being put in place to offer Training in Benefits through the Social Security Agency. This will enable officers of the resettlement team to carry out an enhanced role in Benefits Advice.

The IMB welcomes both these initiatives and is pleased that training in Benefits will be offered to more staff from Induction, PDU and Foyleview. The Staff of PDU are to be congratulated on their excellent work and achievements during this year.

We would recommend that PDU staffing levels should be increased to extend the number and range of programmes offered.



14 | Committees

Suicide Prevention

The Suicide Prevention Team Meetings are held regularly. A return to bi-monthly meetings is to be welcomed, as it is important that everyone keeps up to date with developments.

Training will continue to be offered to staff.

The IMB recognises the importance of this and hopes resources will be made available to continue with this training.

During the year, tribute was paid to the Listeners for their work following a Death in Custody.

The involvement of prisoners from Foyleview for training as Listeners would be welcomed. Many problems surface near release time or after discharge.

To facilitate and encourage interest an Open Night took place in Foyleview. As a result, prisoners from Foyleview will be among the next eight prisoners to be trained as Listeners in June.

The opening of PAR 1's (Prisoner At Risk form) on prisoners at risk of self-harm and suicide continues. A Governor on a monthly basis will carry out quality assessment of these. The IMB continue to request these PAR 1's on visits to the prisoners and should add comments if necessary.

The provision for older prisoners' continues to be debated, as is the need to provide suitable activities for them. The IMB supports the need for such provision and hopes that more suitable accommodation will soon be in place.

Reports indicate the Family Hotline has been used more often. This Hotline may be used by Family members to pass on, or obtain information regarding prisoners at risk of self-harm or suicide. Health Care has indicated that this information has proved very valuable in preventing self-harm and suicide.

Inductions

The Induction Programme continues to be available to all new prisoners. This Programme is delivered over a five-day period in H3. Staff are trained to deliver the Programme along with other Agencies.

The Programme covers what all prisoners need to know about policies regimes and procedures in Magilligan Prison.

The role of the Independent Monitoring Board in this induction Programme needs to be reviewed and a rota drawn up to support the continuation of IMB input. In this way the role of the IMB can be highlighted and the prisoners informed of how the IMB can help.

The issue of IMB posters to be displayed in all areas has improved but work in this area is still needed.

Staff are always aware of the need to monitor and review the existing Induction Programme and its delivery. A very thorough approach has been made to elicit the views of

- a) The prisoners
- b) The residential staff
- c) Visitors

This enabled data to be collected and analysed and used as a basis to improve the existing programme.

As a result, the updated Induction and Information Handbook will be available in April. This handbook and Power Point Resource will be invaluable to the trainers in the delivery of the programme. The handbook will provide access to a range of information for prisoners. Support will be provided for those with reading difficulties, so that they can access the information.

The handbook was designed to help guide all prisoners throughout their sentence and contains information on procedures practices and opportunities that exist within the prison setting.

The format allows for easy updating and additional information to be added. This will be done on a regular basis.

The Custody Time Line Resource File is also excellent and provides information on

- Committal
- Induction
- Activities

A Training DVD adds to the usefulness of these resources.

These are extremely useful, well-designed and adaptable resources which could be used by other prison establishments.

The IMB congratulates The Training Officer, Staff and all prisoners involved in putting together such valuable resources, which will help ensure clarity and consistency for all.

15 | Special Events / Visitors

Equality and Diversity

These meetings are generally held monthly and are a well structured and effective means of providing a ‘snapshot’ of all prisoners, their locations, age, status, religion and their work stations.

Foreign National Prisoners should have the same access to facilities as other prisoners. Prisons should be aware of the specific needs that foreign national prisoners have, and implement a distinct strategy, which aims to represent their views and offer peer support.

In Magilligan at present there are only a small number of foreign nationals, and at present are kept separated, which is in some cases dictated by the crimes committed. At present there is no great language problem in the group, but facilities are available for translation of documents and access to Consular officials.

Recently the Portuguese Consul for Northern Ireland visited the Prison to meet foreign national prisoners and gave positive feedback on facilities on offer.

The comprehensive pie charts, graphs and figures which are tabulated by the Equality Diversity Manager are provided at each meeting and prove to be a great help in allocating work spaces, ensure that they are fully utilised and that any imbalance in numbers can be addressed or at least discussed with a view to obtaining parity.

There is an initiative underway to target those prisoners on the basic regime with a view to help them enhance their status (and try to achieve parity).

One interesting point is that the over 50s are the group who are most likely to hold a job in the prison.

7th May	Freedom of the City of Lisburn ceremony for NIPS
10th May	Unannounced Inspection by HMCIP
15th May	Delegation from Coleraine Borough Council
22nd May	Reps from Human Rights Commission
5th June	Kit Chiver's, Chief Inspector
June	Foyleview and Resettlement team won a major Award from CJI Award Scheme
27th June	Radio Ulster — Talkback Broadcast went out live
4th July	Common Purpose Visit
9th August	Robin Masefeld (DG) visited
22nd August	Surveillance Commissioners
13th Sept	Shannon Trust visited
22nd Sept	Business in the Community NI
3rd Oct	Trip to Mountjoy Prison
3rd Oct	Latvian Delegation visited
20th Oct	Partners of Prisoners and Families visited
7th Nov	Presbyterian Moderator visited
Dec	Alison Morrison, Irish News visited
13th Dec	Bishop Hegarty visited
14th Dec	Daily Mirror
14th Dec	Vincent Keamey, BBC Home Affairs visited
15th Dec	Anne McCleary, Director of Services
24 & 25th Dec	Robin Masefeld (DG) visited
10th Jan	New Board members attended
25th Jan	Robin Masefeld visited
Feb	Education Dept in link with Ballymoney College receive the Ulster Award Sponsored by UCC
2nd Feb	Reps visited from Health Trust
March	Prisoners involved in BBC Production

16 | Recommendations

1. The Personal Officer scheme should be extended.

2. All inmates file information, including healthcare, should be available on computer with restricted access.

3. Education and training is provided for more prisoners with the length of the daily provision being extended.

4. The provision of CCTV on corridors in the SSU and the provision of two thumb scans – one at the main entrance, and one in the visits area.

5. The reinstatement of the search team at Magilligan.

6. Powers are given to Governors to extend sentences where incidents occur with prisoners just prior to their release.

7. All cells should have in-cell sanitation, the board realises this will require a major investment from NIPS.

8. A Chaplains office is centrally located for easy access to residential units.

9. The PDU staffing levels should be increased to extend the number and range of programs offered.

10. A wider variety of skills should be on offer i.e. plumbing, tiling, etc and an extension to the joint provision with the North West Regional College at its' Limavady campus should be provided for the setting up of such a provision. Also the use of this Campus during the summer months for prisoners should be established.

17 | Board Membership

Mr Robert Armitage
Mrs Margaret Campbell
Mrs Rosemary Craig
Mrs Joan Doherty (Chair)
Miss Jodi Harte
Mrs Irene Johnston
Mr Samuel Mc Gregor
Mr Michael Mc Ivor
Mr Clarke Mc Laughlin
Mr Joseph Mitchell
Mr Thomas Kerrigan
Mr John Richardson (Vice Chair)
Mrs Frances Rose Symington
Mrs Valerie Von Hoff
Mr Brian Collins
Mrs Rae Morrison
Mr Cormac Wilson
Mr Gordon Ramsey

