



MAGILLIGAN PRISON

Independent Monitoring Board's Annual Report for 2010/11





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## 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; and
- 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

On 31 March 2009, the Independent Monitoring Board became 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).



## Chairperson's Introduction

I am pleased to introduce this Annual Report by the Independent Monitoring Board for H.M.P. Magilligan which covers its activities for the year from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011. The members of the Board are appointed by the Minister of Justice and carry out the functions mentioned above.

The IMB at Magilligan has an establishment of fifteen members from across Northern Ireland and working on a voluntary basis, they bring to the prison a wide and diverse range of skills, knowledge and experience. Following the re-organisation of the IMBs at the start of the reporting year several experienced Board members were transferred to either Maghaberry or Hydebank Wood and three other experienced members were transferred into Magilligan from the other two establishments. Despite this the Board was under strength for some months and it is a tribute to the members of the Board that during this period, no meetings or rota visits were cancelled. The dedication, commitment and generous giving of their time by those members, and indeed all members, must be acknowledged. Six new members were appointed in July 2010 and they attended their first Board meeting in August. The knowledge and expertise which they have brought to the Board will benefit the prisoners at Magilligan.

I wish to thank all the members of the Board in Magilligan for their continuing work and dedication and for their support of the Chair throughout the year. It is deeply appreciated. In particular I offer my sincere thanks to the Vice Chair, Margaret Campbell, for her help and her sterling contribution to the smooth running of the Board.

To fulfil their roles, 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. The Board plays a crucial role in monitoring the conditions of the prison and the treatment of prisoners. The Board meets once a month and members visit the prison on a rota basis at least once a week to deal with any complaints received from prisoners. Members attend at adjudications to monitor the process, attend appropriate committee meetings, are also involved in multi-agency case conferences and are present as observers immediately following a death in custody or a major incident.

In September 2010 the Governing Governor retired after many years at Magilligan. The Board acknowledges his contribution and wishes him well for the future. An acting Governor was appointed until the new incumbent took up post at the end of January 2011. The Board welcomes him and looks forward to working with him in years to come.

The Governor is invited to attend the monthly Board meetings to give his report, update members on progress of issues and respond to queries. His participation at these meetings is most invaluable and much appreciated by the members. The Governor also keeps the Chair informed of forthcoming developments and new systems and procedures. The Board wishes to acknowledge the unfailing courtesy and co-operation of all those who fulfilled the role of Governor during the reporting year. My job as Chair has been facilitated generously by Governors who appreciate the importance of the work of the IMB and for that I thank them.

The Board wishes to acknowledge the excellent work carried out by many members of staff working in Magilligan who demonstrate dedication and respect to those in their charge. It also wishes to acknowledge the excellent working relationships between the staff, the senior management and members of the IMB.

It is with great sadness that the Board must report the death in custody of a prisoner during the past year. Armondo Nunes died on 18 November 2010 and even though he had been terminally ill, as with all deaths in custody, the circumstances surrounding his death are subject to an investigation by the Prisoner Ombudsman. A number of members of staff also sadly died during the year. The Board wishes to extend its thoughts and sympathy to the families, loved ones and colleagues of all these persons.

In conclusion, I wish to thank most sincerely the Board Secretary who has always been most helpful and patient, doing his work quietly and competently while always being there for us. I also wish to thank the other members and Head of the Secretariat for the enormous contribution which each of them has made to the IMB during the last year. The Board's job has been made much easier due to their sterling work which is deeply appreciated.

Finally, I would once again like to thank all the members of the IMB at Magilligan Prison for their dedication in monitoring the conditions and treatment of prisoners held at that establishment. I look forward to working with each and every member of the Board over the next year. It is my privilege to serve such a dedicated team as their Chair.

Brian Collins  
Chairperson

## Overview of Establishment

HMP Magilligan is a medium to low security prison which houses around 500 male prisoners serving nine years or less and a small number of life sentence prisoners. The regime focuses on addressing offending behaviour and reducing reoffending.

The majority of prisoners are housed in the three old-style H-Blocks and the dormitory-style facility of Sperrin. Alpha and Halward House are newer additions which have more modern provisions including in-cell sanitation. There is also a separate Special Supervision Unit (SSU).

Outside the main prison wall is Foyleview - the resettlement unit of Magilligan. It is a low security semi-open unit for selected prisoners who are nearing the end of their sentence. This accommodation comprises portacabin living quarters and the larger communal Cunningham building.

Although responsibility for the healthcare for all prisoners has been transferred to the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (SEHSCT), the prison has an in-house Healthcare unit. On-site drug and alcohol services for prisoners with addiction problems are provided by ad:ept working in partnership with the Trust.

Various charitable and voluntary organisations maintain a presence on the site - NIACRO provides guidance through the Jobtrack scheme for those trying to obtain a job on discharge; CRUSE provides invaluable support in dealing with bereavement issues; Barnardo's support prisoners over family issues; and Housing Rights staff brief prisoners on the complexities of obtaining housing, housing benefits and associated grants.

Spiritual and religious matters are the remit of the prison Chaplaincy Team which aims to facilitate the practice of all faiths within the prison community. Additional spiritual help is provided by Prison Fellowship.

The current prison grade staff comprises 411 of which ten are governor grades. Support is provided by a variety of civilian staff including civil servants, psychology staff, probation staff, teachers and civilian instructors.

The Certified Normal Accommodation (CNA) is 568 and the maximum operational capacity is subject to operational demands. As at the end of March 2010 there were 495 prisoners on the roll. A breakdown of the prison population is provided at Appendix 1.



## Summary of Recommendations

The Board recommends that –

### 1 Accommodation

- a) top priority is given to the replacement of Houses 1,2 and 3 by more modern accommodation or at the very least a refurbishment to provide in-cell sanitation is completed (paragraph 1.2)
- b) all Foyleview buildings are replaced with a modern facility (paragraph 1.15)
- c) the SSU building is replaced by a modern purpose-built facility (paragraph 1.16)
- d) priority is given to building a new prison on the existing Magilligan site (paragraph 1.17)

### 2 Alcohol and Substance Abuse

- a) greater efforts should be made to move towards a drug-free prison with the introduction of further incentives for prisoners to be drug-free (paragraph 2.4)

### 3 Chaplaincy

- a) a dedicated place of worship be established immediately and be included in any new prison build (paragraph 4.5)

### 4 Education and Training

- a) the IT classrooms are properly resourced and updated with the provision of new computers a priority and an IT technician is retained on site (paragraph 5.3)

### 5 Equality and Diversity

- a) consideration is given to exploring ways of determining more accurately the actual number of prisoners with a disability and the provision of facilities to ensure that disabled prisoners are not unintentionally discriminated against (paragraph 6.4)

### 6 Resettlement

- a) an extra Family Officer should be appointed to the Family Support Group (paragraph 12.9)

### 7 Safer Custody

- a) staff training on the SPAR process and on recording of data on PRISM should be considered a matter of urgency (paragraph 13.4)
- b) Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) is offered to all staff dealing with prisoners (paragraph 13.6)

### 8 Special Supervision Unit (SSU)

- a) that other appropriate and effective awards are used more frequently than cellular confinement (paragraph 14.6)

## 9 Tuck Shop

- a) every effort is made to price products competitively as prisoners are on a very low income (paragraph 16.2)

## 10 Visits

- a) top priority is given to the construction of the long-proposed and much needed covered walkway (paragraph 17.2)

# 1 | Accommodation

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**1.1** Houses 1, 2 and 3 (hereinafter referred to as H1, H2 and H3) are the main accommodation units in Magilligan with capacity to house approximately 300 prisoners. The majority of cells are single occupancy cells. The Board is impressed with the good interpersonal relations between the staff and prisoners. The landings are clean and well organised with many information posters for the prisoners to read. The staff take a very proactive role in sorting out prisoners complaints / concerns at House level rather than allowing issues to fester and escalate.

**1.2** None of the houses has in-cell sanitation which is totally unacceptable in a modern twenty first century prison. The Board therefore recommends (once again) that either the Houses be removed and replaced with modern accommodation or at the very least be refurbished to provide in-cell sanitation. It should be noted that this recommendation has been made in previous Annual Reports but unfortunately to date this has not been achieved.

**1.3** Halward House is a relatively new building in the prison. The building is immaculately clean with orderlies doing the cleaning. It has 52 cells - 27 upstairs and 25 downstairs. All cells have toilet facilities and there are communal showers on each landing. Two medical cells upstairs also have showers.

**1.4** There are observation cells for prisoners on SPAR and two cells for "listeners" - prisoners trained to listen to fellow prisoners with problems. Listeners work in pairs and these cells facilitate the listeners staying overnight with the prisoner. Also upstairs are two IT rooms where prisoners studying with the Open University or undertaking further education can study. These are available for all prisoners. The Education department provides the tutors and all prisoners in Halward House have access to all courses available within the prison. Victim support groups are organised regularly and are well attended.

- 1.5** Until recently it was divided into two separate regimes with upstairs being designated as the Harm Reduction Unit (HRU) and downstairs housing drug-free prisoners or those trying to come off drugs. The HRU no longer exists as the cells were needed because of the increase in the prison population. The house is fully functioning with a waiting list for admission. It is an efficiently managed unit staffed by six officers on a varied shift pattern. The rota is organised by the Senior Officer from H1. Prisoners can move from Halward House to Alpha or Foyleview but they can also be de-selected through their own behaviour.
- 1.6** Alpha House can accommodate 50 prisoners in total (25 per wing) and is normally at full capacity. It is much sought after accommodation for which prisoners must apply. They must also meet the strict entry criteria. The cells are called rooms, each prisoner has his own room key, flat screen TV's in all rooms, tea and coffee making 24hr facilities in both wings. It has shower facilities and both ordinary and disabled toilet facilities. Alpha has its own keep fit suite, dining rooms and in house learning. Of the 50 prisoners in Alpha at any time, normally half are sex offenders. All prisoners in Alpha work in various locations within the prison.
- 1.7** Sperrin Unit is a 32-bedded dormitory-style facility staffed by three officers. The dormitories are divided into four units in which each prisoner has his own locker and wardrobe. Each unit consists of a staff area, a TV room and a large dining and kitchen area. The unit is airy, clean and tidy with the cleaning being done by the prisoners themselves. The showers and toilet areas are outside the sleeping quarters, as is the laundry where prisoners do their personal laundry. The unit is very clean and the prisoners are very proud of that.
- 1.8** Not all prisoners in Sperrin attend day placements within the prison as these have to be earned. Those who do qualify are kept to a schedule and are held to account if the schedule is not met. Likewise, not all prisoners in Sperrin have earned the right to home leave or family visits. Additionally, and depending on the individual concerned, they may not be allowed visits with their children. The Board is disappointed that the scheduled reduction in numbers in Sperrin did not happen due to an increase in the prisoner population.
- 1.9** Foyleview is the resettlement facility in Magilligan. It comprises a number of portacabin-type huts providing sleeping accommodation, toilets / showers and small kitchen. It also has a communal building containing a canteen and a recreation room / television lounge. It is situated between the prison's internal and external walls and is consequently seen as the low-level security and semi-open element of the prison. It has the capacity to accommodate 82 prisoners and there are normally around 75 in situ, all of whom are in low-risk categories and are nearing the end of their sentences. Each prisoner has a key to his own bedroom and has access to a small kitchen unit and toilet and showering facilities.
- 1.10** To be selected for Foyleview, prisoners must have served at least four weeks in prison and must be within the last 15 months of their sentence and within three months of their Home Leave Eligibility Date (HLED). They must also undergo a selection process of the Foyleview Board and sign a contract accepting the rules and obligations as required by the Prison Service. Prisoners may be nominated for consideration by officers or also by self-nomination. The Foyleview Board has the power to deselect prisoners should they breach the terms of their signed contract.

- 1.11** During their stay in Foyleview prisoners are expected to work and to involve themselves in education geared to preparing them for release and integration into life beyond prison walls. Prisoners are assessed for work on arrival at Foyleview and following an initial period in the laundry or prison kitchen they are assigned to specific areas such as gardening, print-shop training, picture framing, grounds maintenance and orderly duties. Currently a group from Foyleview is redecorating the Prison Visits area. All prisoners are expected to be ready for work by 8.30am following breakfast and the morning head count. They normally finish work between 4pm and 4.30pm.
- 1.12** Weekly visits are available to the prisoners and after an initial settling-in period and subject to satisfactory reports application may be made for a family town visit every two weeks. If successful, prisoners may be collected by families at the external gate of the prison at 9am and are required to return by 3.30pm. Following successful completion of the first family town visit prisoners may be eligible for a work placement in the community. Presently there are 10-12 prisoners working outside the prison.
- 1.13** On reaching their HLED prisoners may apply for a period of two days home leave and if granted and on successful completion they may become eligible for the Foyleview Enhanced Home Leave Scheme which permits them to have a maximum of three days on alternative weekends, normally from Saturdays to Tuesdays.
- 1.14** It is hardly surprising that the Foyleview initiative is so highly regarded within the wider prison service and great credit is due to those who planned it initially and to those who work continually to prepare prisoners for release and in doing so reduce the risk of reoffending whilst helping prisoners to reintegrate meaningfully with their families and the community.
- 1.15** It is a matter of great regret that much good work is not matched with decent and appropriate facilities. The present accommodation falls well short of what is acceptable and reasonable to deliver a proper service for prisoners and staff so the Board recommends that all Foyleview buildings should be replaced with a modern facility as a matter of urgency.
- 1.16** Despite a relatively recent refurbishment, the Special Segregation Unit (SSU) building is not fit for purpose and the Board recommends it is replaced by a modern purpose-built facility. Damage to the fittings and fixtures has occurred several times and in particular the water sprinkler system has been frequently damaged. This cycle of damage and repair has implications for the ever constrained budget.
- 1.17** As recommended in previous reports the Board still believes the provision of a modern prison with proper facilities cannot wait any longer and in spite of the present economic climate it should be treated as a priority.

## 2 | Alcohol and Substance Abuse

- 2.1** As with all prisons, the misuse of drugs continues to give concern. It undermines control and discipline and requires that additional measures are introduced to reduce the supply of drugs. The NIPS strategy on drugs identifies four key areas – control, care, education and information. During the reporting period a number of additional measures have been introduced in Magilligan to prevent drugs entering the prison – the installation of extra observation cameras, the use of drugs dogs and new procedures for closed visits. In addition, the abuse of prescription medication in Magilligan warrants special attention.
- 2.2** Prisoners are offered awareness training and the Board commends the introduction of an intensive 6-week programme that was developed with the assistance of the Health Promotion Department of the Western Health and Social Services Board. The Board also acknowledges the work done by the Drugs Steering Group which meets monthly.
- 2.3** The designation of Halward House as the Harm Reduction Unit (HRU) housing those suspected of anti-social behaviour was believed to be responsible for a reduction in the opportunities for drug dealing so it is disappointing that the facility has had to be discontinued to provide extra accommodation for the increasing population.
- 2.4** While accepting that no system can be 100% effective, the Board recommends that greater effort should be made to move towards a drug-free prison and that consideration is given to the introduction of further incentives for prisoners who are drug-free.

## 3 | Catering and Kitchens

- 3.1** The kitchen is situated well away from the main prison building and is manned by six staff plus a manager. Shortage of staff is still a problem as there is no automatic replacement for sick leave and so forth and at times the manager has had to call in agency staff.
- 3.2** Up to 2000 meals are made every day (including tuck-boxes) and the menu rota is over a 3 week period for lunches and desserts, although the menu can change due to operational difficulties. Prisoners tick their choices on forms but if they do not complete their form a selection is made for them. Choices are labelled Low Fat, Healthy Option, and Vegetarian. During the week breakfast consists of a choice of cereals but on Sundays, sausages, boiled eggs, soda, pancakes, etc are available.
- 3.3** The unit is clinically clean and the staff are appropriately dressed for work in a kitchen. Considering the complement of staff, the kitchens are well managed and the standard of hygiene of the buildings and staff are a credit to the manager.

## 4 | Chaplaincy

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- 4.1** The chaplains continue to work together as a close knit team. They conduct church services each Sunday and also hold services in Foyleview during the week. A Bible Study is held each Thursday and 13 prisoners are at present engaged in a Bible Correspondence course for which they will receive a certificate. Three inmates are currently completing a Theology Certificate course.
- 4.2** The chaplains provide cover five days a week and are on call the other two days. There is one chaplain on duty every day who visits one of the blocks and the SSU. A log book is at hand to write down who is on duty and who is present in prison on a particular day. They respond to requests from prisoners to help with various problems. Meeting new intakes in reception, taking the induction course and accompanying prisoners to hospitals, funerals, etc are part of the ongoing work. They also attend Case Conferences if requested. Chaplains also link with the community and assist prisoners with the transition process from prison to home.
- 4.3** Another aspect of their work is to conduct funeral services of Prison Officers. This does not happen very often but is still an important part of their service to the prison.
- 4.4** The Prison Fellowship also offers support and works with the chaplains to provide spiritual help for prisoners. The Gideons visit the prison as do heads of other churches. An Annual Mission is held and this is generally looked forward to by prisoners.
- 4.5** As Magilligan is the only prison in the British Isles with no registered place of worship the Board recommends that a dedicated place of worship be established as soon as possible and be included in any new prison build.
- 4.6** The Board also thanks the organist for her contribution to the services during the reporting year.

## 5 | Education and Training

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- 5.1** The Education Department has to work with a wide spectrum of abilities from those prisoners with no reading ability to those completing degrees. For those with reading difficulties the Toe by Toe Scheme is continuing to prove beneficial. With 96% of all employment requiring Level 1 in literacy and numeracy, it is very pleasing to note the improved attendance and outcomes of these courses. All staff are encouraged to teach employability skills in the context of their work.
- 5.2** 145 inmates gained Level 1 certificates in Health and Safety with other inmates achieving GCSE's, NVQ's, CLAIT, CLAIT Plus and 33 students achieving Level 4 – 6 in Art, Sport Studies, Law and Social Sciences. Two students are currently completing Honours Degrees – one in Law plus one in Art History. English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) has been introduced for the Foreign National Prisoners (FNP) and these classes are well attended, mainly by the Latvians. Attendance at courses is monitored on a monthly basis.

- 5.3** Information Technology (IT) is extremely important in this electronic age so prisoners need the appropriate facilities to gain competence. However the computers in Magilligan are very old and the classrooms not properly resourced and this needs to be addressed urgently. This was highlighted in previous Board reports and also a previous CJINI Inspection Report but to date no new computers have been provided. The Board is extremely disappointed with the lack of action and again recommends that this issue is addressed immediately to allow prisoners to experience high quality equipment and facilities fit for 21st Century. It is also recommended that there is an IT technician on site as this would prove most beneficial.
- 5.4** Good partnerships with outside agencies continue to be developed, however Service Level Agreements (SLA) have to be retendered and negotiated annually.
- 5.5** The Board congratulates the education staff on their patience, perseverance and hard work in all they do for their students and is pleased to report their ongoing good practice – but would reiterate that results could be even better if up-to-date equipment was available.
- 5.6** The Big Book Share, facilitated by the Education Department, is well supported and of great value in keeping family links alive. The Board recognises the value of this initiative and sees it as an opportunity to involve some prisoners in the process perhaps leading to a qualification.
- 5.7** There are ten workshops in Magilligan providing a wide range of training opportunities, including metal fabrication, furniture making, painting, decorating and printing. The workshops provide work and training for around 100 prisoners - approximately 10 per workshop. The various courses are very popular and there is normally a waiting list to gain entry. The workshops operate from 9am to 4pm on Monday to Friday and the average period spent in each workshop is nine months after which a prisoner can apply for a course in a different workshop. All prisoners entering workshops are given Health & Safety training and also half day per week classroom embedded learning related to their course.
- 5.8** The products manufactured in some of the workshops in Magilligan are used for furnishings in all three NI prisons. The print shop undertakes printing work for the NIPS and also for local councils and community groups.

## 6 | Equality and Diversity

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- 6.1** The prisoner population is becoming increasingly diverse with a number of minority groups represented.
- 6.2** The Prison Equality and Diversity group met on four occasions during the reporting year when statistical information relating to the prisoner population was considered in terms of trends and potential developments.



- 6.3** The Foreign National Prisoner (FNP) population within Magilligan, while still relatively low, presents ongoing challenges. Language barriers provide inhibitors to some prisoners' full engagement with the opportunities available. Contact has been with the United Kingdom Border Agency and an initial meeting has been held between that Agency and the FNPs. It is important that those channels of communication remain open as the absence of up-to-date information about immigration status is unsettling and not conducive to the prisoner's full engagement with the regime.
- 6.4** Another area that merits focus relates to the needs of prisoners with disabilities. Records suggest that prisoners with a disability are in single figures which is likely to be an under-estimation of the experience of a range of disabilities. The Board recommends that consideration is given to exploring ways of determining more accurately the actual number of prisoners with a disability which in turn will give an indication of areas of need and inform service delivery.

## 7 | Gardening

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- 7.1** The gardening project involves between eight and twelve prisoners managed by an officer. They work all year round planting seeds etc for the coming year. The manager allows the prisoners to decide which flowers and bushes and which colours to plant so they all take special interest in their work. Because of the harsh winter in the reporting year many plants were lost so permission was given for plug plants to be purchased. The team work only within the inner wall (Foyleview prisoners do the grounds outside the wall) and it is obvious that they have a special interest in their work. The floral displays are certainly well maintained and the gardening team deserve credit for this.

## 8 | Healthcare and Mental Health

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- 8.1** The Healthcare Centre currently has 18 staff - one principal nursing officer, two senior nursing officers, eight nursing officers, three healthcare officers and two healthcare assistants. At the end of the reporting period three vacancies were being covered by one mental health nurse from the Trust bank staff and two RGN agency staff. By the end of May 2011 it is planned that the Centre will have its own Bank of nurses in post contracted by the SEHSCT which will replace the need for agency nurses and lead to a positive financial saving.
- 8.2** The Trust also supports the Centre in staff development, audits, clinical governance and policies and over the next year will introduce a trial management restructure. The current principal nursing officer at Magilligan will be the new clinical nurse manager for all three prisons and the young offender centre. Each establishment will then have an operational nurse manager but one has yet to be appointed for Magilligan.



- 8.3** Some of the services provided at Magilligan include management of chronic diseases such as diabetes and hypertension, promotion of Wellman assessments and smoking clinics in addition to the routine services that would be provided in an outside healthcare clinic. Unfortunately the prison's visiting ENT Consultant can no longer provide a clinic session but discussions are taking place with another consultant to provide this. Plans are also underway to engage the services of a dietician from the Causeway Hospital to provide a diet clinic.
- 8.4** The Clinical Governance Committee, on which the IMB has a representative, meets four times each year and a detailed review of activities, issues and performance takes place. During the reporting year the Board made representations to NIPS Headquarters about the high level of cancellations to outside hospital appointments because of operational problems by the prisoner escort group which in many cases had to give court attendance priority. This problem has improved considerably thanks in part to the Board's representations.
- 8.5** Prisoner satisfaction surveys are conducted annually and feedback has been generally positive. There are also plans to develop prisoner Health Care Forums across the prison estate.
- 8.6** Finally the Board would like to acknowledge the fine work and dedication of the Healthcare Centre staff in looking after the welfare of the prisoners in their care. The three IMBs in Northern Ireland can be pleased that, after their many years of campaigning, prison healthcare is now provided by a professional statutory body specialising in healthcare for prisoners.

## 9 | Induction

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- 9.1** Induction takes place in the week following the prisoners' arrival in Magilligan. The induction process is comprehensive and structured and is delivered by a multi-disciplinary team all of whom are specially trained for the role. Information is provided on work, training, education and skills, behavioural programmes and support services. A handbook containing all relevant information is available and it is regularly updated to reflect any changes introduced to the prison and its regime.
- 9.2** During induction, prisoners are assessed for their levels of literacy and their educational needs are given particular attention. This information helps staff to draw up each prisoner's individual sentence and resettlement plan. Health screening is also included in the process to address any healthcare needs the prisoner may have. In the Board's opinion the induction process works well.

## 10 | Laundry

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- 10.1** The laundry is open from Monday to Friday. Prisoners' duvet covers, pillowcases, sheets and towels are done once a week on a rota system – Monday is Halward House; Tuesday is H1; Wednesday is H3; Thursday is H2 and Friday is Alpha and Sperrin. The items are brought over by the Stores' staff in the morning and returned again on the same day. Prisoners are responsible for doing their personal laundry.
- 10.2** The laundry unit is managed by four prison officers who work on a rota basis. Six prisoners from Foyleview start there at 9.15am and work until 12 noon. They go back to Foyleview for their meals and return again at 2pm to work until 4pm. Tea-making facilities and a microwave are also provided for their use. Toilet facilities are also provided within the unit.

## 11 | Reception

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- 11.1** In the reception process prisoners' belongings are logged and there is a selection of clothes available for anyone that may require them. The prison medical staff are on hand to check prisoners' medication and deal with any issues which arise and the prisoners are examined by the prison doctor.
- 11.2** As Reception is every prisoner's first contact with the prison to which they have been committed the reception area and its staff are very important. In Magilligan the reception area is pleasant and welcoming and the staff are efficient and friendly. The Board commends them for carrying out their duties in a caring and sensitive manner, particularly for those prisoners for whom it is the first time in prison.

## 12 | Resettlement

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- 12.1** Effective resettlement is vital to the prevention of further offending and as a consequence needs to permeate all aspects of the prison regime. Within Magilligan there is a dedicated multi-disciplinary offender management team, located within the Prisoner Development Unit (PDU), the shared work environment assisting in promoting information sharing and collaborative working. All prisoners serving a sentence more than six months have a sentence plan, reviewable at intervals. For those prisoners serving shorter sentences, a plan is developed at a joint transfer and discharge interview. Positives associated with the approach to resettlement were noted in the report on an Announced Inspection of Magilligan Prison 29 March -2 April 2010, including the active encouragement of family contact. While the geographical location of the prison provides some challenges in terms of accessibility, the visiting arrangements encourage that links be maintained with family.
- 12.2** A range of accredited and non-accredited programmes are delivered which seek to address the resettlement needs of the prisoner population. There are a number of factors which impact on the programmes delivery.

- 12.3** It is not always clear from Board members' contact with some prisoners that sentence plans are viewed as more than paper exercises and that the sentence planning process is specifically connected to a prisoner's individual circumstances. Many prisoners have a need for more individualised interventions captured within their sentence plan and which in particular address the need to motivate them in sustaining their efforts to change. The Psychology department make a valuable contribution to this work; however the continued absence of a fully complemented team means this valuable resource is considerably stretched.
- 12.4** There are a number of potential impediments to the meaningful engagement of some prisoners in the available programmes, including the existence of cognitive and educational deficits. Good use is made of the educational facilities to support prisoners in achieving the required basic numeracy and literacy skills. If they are to be enabled to engage in existing programmes, the increasing number of prisoners for whom English is not the first language presents resource implications in terms of interpreting services.
- 12.5** It is clear that the PDU staff are both committed and skilled in engaging with prisoners on resettlement-connected work but the continued absence of distinct roles for residential staff in reinforcing targets and behaviours is a weakness. The introduction of a Personal Officer scheme would allow for more proactive engagement between residential staff and prisoners with specific emphasis on encouraging individual prisoner's ongoing commitment to resettlement plans. Staff could perform an important role acting as pro-social models to support prisoners' new thinking and behaviours.
- 12.6** At the end of the reporting year, 37% of the prisoner population were subject to conditions under the Criminal Justice Order 2008 - a percentage which is likely to increase. These prisoners have particular needs frequently connected to risk of harm issues and rightly are engaged in a range of service provision. However it is important that this work does not detract from the ongoing essential emphasis on the resettlement needs of the entire prisoner population. A continued weakness is the range of services delivered to prisoners serving short sentences. While relevant practically orientated services are offered, there are fewer opportunities for prisoners on short sentences to engage in purposeful work, acquire educational or work skills, or have access to offender behaviour programmes. There are practical difficulties with extending the range of service provision but this prisoner group includes some with the greatest resettlement needs and with increased likelihood of reoffending.
- 12.7** As the prisoner population has increased there has been an associated pressure on the availability of meaningful, purposeful activity. While the opportunities available to prisoners within Foyleview considerably assist with pre-release preparation, there is a need for the general work opportunities to reflect the working day outside the prison. There is scope for developing further work opportunities which impart skills useful to prisoners on release.

- 12.8** Finally, recognition must be given to the Family Support Group. The group meetings are facilitated by the Families Officer who provides a well-planned programme of activities and opportunities for discussion supported by various speakers. Prison Staff, Chaplains, Prison Fellowship and IMB are all involved in these meetings which provide support to prisoners' families as they are also "serving a sentence". Feedback indicates how valuable these sessions are to families.
- 12.9** A recent inspection report echoed the Board's previous recommendation that an extra Family Officer should be appointed to support this excellent work. The Board repeats this recommendation.

## 13 | Safer Custody

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- 13.1** Meetings of the Safer Custody Forum are held bi-monthly. The meetings are chaired by a Governor and well attended by a multi disciplinary group including representation from Child Protection. An IMB member also attends. This sharing of information and discussion is central in the delivery of a safer prison environment.
- 13.2** A total of 33 SPARS (Supporting Prisoners at Risk) were opened during the year mainly due to "thoughts of self harm" and the average duration was four days. Completed SPAR forms continue to be monitored by prison staff to ensure quality and feedback is given if shortcomings are found. A care plan and follow up support is provided even when the SPAR is closed.
- 13.3** The SPAR process was found to be operating effectively during the aforementioned Announced Inspection Report. Multi-disciplinary attendance at case conferences and care plans that take account of prisoners' needs were both highlighted as examples of good practice. The attendance of Board members at most of these Case Conferences is part of the impartial monitoring process.
- 13.4** Members of the Prison Staff have identified the need for training on the SPAR process and on recording of data on PRISM. To ensure quality the Board recommends that this training should be considered a matter of urgency.
- 13.5** The Listener Scheme continues to develop with 13 new Listeners having completed training. Certificates were presented to recognise the commitment of these prisoners and some of their family members attended. Recent changes mean that one Listener is on duty in the Reception area. This change is of great value as prisoners are very vulnerable when moved to a new prison. Two Listeners are always available in the vulnerable prisoner unit and a prisoner can request a visit from a Listener at any time. This would seem to help keep the incidences of self harm and suicide at a low level. Support for the Listeners is ongoing from the Samaritans who provide such a valuable service. This is recognised by the Board.

- 13.6** A large number of staff including those from Psychology and Management Support Services have undergone Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST). This is an essential part of the SPAR process so the Board recommends that the training is offered to all staff especially to those officers closely involved with prisoners on a daily basis.
- 13.7** The misuse of prescription and illicit drugs continues to be an area of concern in the prison. The Harm Reduction Unit proved a useful initiative with a significant reduction in drug abuse and adjudications evident but by the end of the reporting period the Unit had been disbanded as the accommodation was required to cope with the increase in the prison population.
- 13.8** Levels of reported bullying are low. The Anti-Bullying strategy currently being piloted in HMP Maghaberry will be adopted in Magilligan and this is welcomed by the Board.

## 14 | Special Supervision Unit (SSU)

- 14.1** The SSU houses a number of categories of prisoners such as those detained under Rule 32 who have offended against the good order and discipline of the prison, those undergoing cellular confinement as the result of a Governor's award, those awaiting adjudication, vulnerable prisoners who are accommodated there for their own protection and violent and refractory prisoners. The latter two are accommodated initially in a dry cell and moved to an ordinary cell when they cease to be violent or refractory.
- 14.2** Board members visit the SSU at least once a week and speak to all the prisoners accommodated there but it is only on very few occasions that a prisoner has a complaint to lodge. This is largely due to the sterling work performed by the SSU staff who treat all prisoners there with the utmost respect, dignity and fairness. The Board has been very impressed by the relationship between prisoners and staff in the SSU.
- 14.3** In cases of Rule 32 detentions the Board has a statutory monitoring duty to perform and is facilitated in the discharge of this duty by the SSU staff. It also attends all Rule 32 reviews and should the Board be concerned about any matter relating to such detentions, it may raise the matter with the Governor. A total of 19 prisoners were placed on Rule 32 during the reporting period.
- 14.4** Adjudications are also held in the SSU and take place from Monday to Friday and are conducted by governors. The Board is pleased to note a slight decrease in the overall number of adjudications during the reporting period, although numbers do fluctuate from month to month. Board members regularly attend adjudications and it is clear that the proceedings are conducted to the highest professional standards and in accordance with the rules of natural justice. Where doubt arises the matter is always resolved in favour of the prisoner and awards are only made when there is clear evidence of an offence or where the prisoner admits the offence(s). All proceedings are recorded so a formal record is available for evidentiary purposes.

- 14.5** Board members may also attend as a “McKenzie” friend for any prisoners facing a charge and, although members may not speak on behalf of the prisoner, they may assist him in respect of the presentation of his defence.
- 14.6** Whilst the length of cellular confinement awards is considered to be appropriate and consistent, the Board is concerned about the number of cellular confinements awarded. During the reporting period the average monthly cellular confinement awards have been as high as 75%. It is not productive to lock prisoners up throughout the normal working day and despite the fact that prison staff make every effort to provide prisoners with meaningful activity, a prisoner, in order to relieve the boredom, may use his time to think of ways to either test the system, to challenge authority or to plan further disruptive behaviour. The Board recommends that less cellular confinement awards are made and would urge that other appropriate and effective awards are used more frequently.

## 15 | Sport and Recreation

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- 15.1** The Sport and Recreation Department operates a full and diverse programme of activities. At all times the Department ensures equality and all prisoners are treated as individuals with individual needs. The prison anti-bullying strategy is also rigorously adhered to. Prisoners who wish to use the facility must undergo an induction process.
- 15.2** The Physical Education programme runs 6.5 days every week and includes evening association periods. The programme is designed to cater for all prisoners irrespective of age, nationality or fitness level. Prisoners’ attendance on the programme is dictated by their PREPS allowance. Prisoners who participate in the programme are given an individual training schedule if they request one.
- 15.3** A range of accredited courses is provided including Focus Level 1 Assistant Fitness Instructor Qualification, Level 2 Gym Instructor Qualification and Boxercise Proficiency Award. Qualifications can also be attained in First Aid and the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. The gaining of such qualifications can contribute to an increase in self-confidence and make a meaningful contribution to resettlement.
- 15.4** With a large number of prisoners attending the Sport and Recreation Complex on a voluntary basis during the year there is clear evidence of the value of the gymnasium and its well qualified staff. The Sports Complex has an approximate average attendance of five hundred inmates during the six and a half day working week. Forty-four thousand Constructive Activity Hours have been recorded within the Regime and passive recreation is also catered for.
- 15.5** Few complaints are made about the Sport and Recreation facilities and the Board believes this is due to the excellent programmes on offer and the high quality of management within the Department. The Board believes that the value of the Sport and Recreation Branch and its well-qualified staff are a resource for prisoners and staff alike which cannot be over-estimated.

## 16 | Tuckshop

- 16.1** The Tuck Shop is run by a manager assisted by one full-time and one part-time civilian member of staff and five prisoners. The facility is used by all prisoners on a weekly basis. The system works very well and generally there are very few problems.
- 16.2** The tuck shop has a healthy annual turnover and after overheads any profits are returned to the Governor's Fund and used for the prisoners' welfare. However the Board recommends that every effort is made to price products competitively as prisoners are on a very low income.

## 17 | Visits

- 17.1** Again visitor numbers have increased during this reporting year in tandem with the increase in the prison population and the Governor and staff continue to ensure that all visitors are treated in a courteous manner.
- 17.2** The Board welcomes the provision of extra seating as recommended in its last report however the Visitors Centre is in need of decoration and more toilet provision. There is also a need for suitable tracking on which to display the prisoners' artwork as some of the canvasses have been damaged. The Art displays create interest and brighten up the room. Once again the Board highlights the long awaited provision of covered walkways and hope these will be forthcoming in coming year.
- 17.3** The Board is concerned that the proposed replacement of the local booking facility with an integrated booking facility located in HMP Maghaberry will have an adverse effect on the ease with which families can book visits. The Booking Office in Magilligan is noted for its efficient and courteous system. The Board will closely monitor the new system to ensure that families receive the same good service.
- 17.4** Child-centred visits continue to be successful due to the excellent team made up of prison staff, the Family Officer and NIACRO. The number of child-centred visits increased in the reporting period with a total of 334 children involved over the year but a withdrawal of good will by prison staff in March and April and the inclement weather in December both led to the cancellation of some of these visits.
- 17.5** NIACRO staff continue to provide excellent play activities for the children and good food for visiting families. The provision of a new counter is a welcome addition as the food preparation area can be used only for food preparation and not used as a serving area. An extra member of staff would help share the work load which has increased due to the increased numbers.



## Appendix 1

### Breakdown of Prison Population (March 2010)

Numbers by Location	H1	94
	H2	91
	H3	87
	Sperrin	32
	Healthcare	
	SSU	6
	Foyleview	65
	Alpha	50
	Halward House	53
External Accommodation	Benburb	3
UAL		14
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>495</b>





## Appendix 2

### Magilligan Board Members 2010-2011

Mr Brian Collins	Chair
Mrs Margaret Campbell	Vice Chair
Ms Joan Burke	Appointed July 2010
Mr Paul Devlin	Appointed July 2010
Mr Brian Doherty	Appointed July 2010
Mrs Joan Doherty	
Mr Thomas Kerrigan	
Mr Paddy McAteer	Appointed July 2010
Mrs Bernadette McCollum	Appointed July 2010
Mr Sam McGregor	
Mr Noel McKenna	
Ms Christine McLaughlin	
Mr Peter Martin	Appointed July 2010
Mrs Rae Morrison	
Mr Jack Walls	





