



INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23
MAGILLIGAN PRISON

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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 (IMB) for Magilligan Prison who have served more than 3 years were appointed by the Justice Minister under Section 10 of the Prison Act (NI) 1953. New members to the Board were appointed by the Permanent Secretary to the Department of Justice.

The Board is required to:

- visit Magilligan Prison regularly and report to 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 to the Prison and Young Offenders 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. In exercising their rights under the Prison Rules, members shall take into consideration the matters referred to in Rule 124 (5) which state, in the exercise of any of its powers, the Board will not:

- undermine the security and good order of the prison;
- prejudice the efficient operation of the prison; or
- prevent the proper treatment of prisoners.

The Board shall also have reasonable access to any of the records of the prison, with the exception of medical records and matters of national security.

UK National Preventive Mechanism

The IMB is part of the United Kingdom National Preventive 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 present the annual report for Magilligan IMB covering the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. It should be noted that due to the low number of Board members, our ability to monitor all areas of the prison has been limited.

At the end of March 2023, our small Board faced the prospect of losing our longest-serving and most valued member Mrs. Anne Rowe due to her nine year tenure being due to end. Discussions took place between the IMB Executive Council, the Head of the IMB Secretariat and the DoJ Permanent Secretary as all three establishments were facing the same problem - losing long-established colleagues and recent recruitment drives had failed to deliver enough new members. Numerous 'reasons' were given as to why the nine year tenure ship was contradictory to that of IMB UK, and the issue was not helped by the fact that we do not currently have an operating Government nor an acting Justice Minister. A one-year extension has, in very recent days been granted to five IMB members who are across the three sites, and whilst we are extremely grateful that a satisfactory conclusion has been reached albeit temporary, and that Mrs Rowe has agreed to remain on our Board for another year, the debacle and uncertainty surrounding the tenure ship, recruitment and retention of IMB members cannot continue.

We did however welcome two new members onto our Board in April 2022 bringing our team to six in total, and I hope they enjoy their role as IMB members in Magilligan.

During the current reporting year, there were two deaths in custody, and to both families we extend our sympathy.

In my role as Chairperson, along with the Executive Council I attended many useful meetings during the year with CJINI, the Prisoner Ombudsman, Ronnie Armour and David Kennedy NIPS and the permanent Secretary of the Department of Justice, Richard Pengelley. Such opportunities are very welcome and overall, the meetings proved to be informative and beneficial to all parties. All things considered, I am of the opinion that the role of IMB's is both valued and appreciated.

At the time of writing last year's report one of the main concerns of the Board was the ongoing discord and tension within Foyleview. The recommendation that the

buildings and accommodation in that area be demolished / replaced remain, but I am very pleased to report that all issues were considered and reviewed and as a result Foyleview is now much –improved, and a place where the men who live there no longer feel it is a place of further ‘punishment’, rather than what it should be i.e. the final step on their journey to release. There is no reason to believe that Foyleview cannot continue to be the success story that it has come to be.

As we enter the new reporting-year, Magilligan will, in the coming weeks commence the operation of the long – awaited body scanner in the effort to reduce the availability of drugs within the prison environment. This is something we have supported for many years, and of course hope that it produces results. Everything possible must be seen to be done to stop the movement of drugs into prisons and whilst scanning will reduce the flow, the Board remains to be convinced that it will eradicate the problem.

A new tuck shop and stores will finally be operational in the coming months, and whilst the construction of it was heavily impacted by the pandemic, it does appear to be an impressive building, and will be a welcome environment for those who work in it, but we cannot help but think about the cost of this project and how the funds could have been diverted to other parts of the prison complex which are in dire need of repair not least the kitchen facilities, and as previously mentioned the whole Foyleview area.

The Board continues to note that overall, the relationships between staff and prisoners remain good. This is conducive to the smooth running of the jail, and is to be welcomed, although we do realise that it is not an issue that can be taken for granted, and we will continue to observe the dynamics.

This is now my 4th year as Chair of Magilligan IMB and I wish to thank my fellow board members for their input and work done during the year but more importantly for their support and friendship. It cannot be overstated how pleased I am, on a personal level to continue to have Anne Rowe on the Board for the incoming year. I also hope our two new members have settled into their roles and that the whole Board will continue to bring their individual skills and personalities to their positions. Board members give their time and services voluntarily, and their dedication must be recognised.

I wish to acknowledge the fact that whilst maintaining our independence, the Board are appreciative of the fact that Governors Milling and Platt have been more than accessible and cooperative with ourselves and their open-door policy has made our role so much easier. They have always been helpful when required, and along with all senior management have treated us with respect and courtesy. The care and consideration shown by the majority of staff members to the men who live in Magilligan is recognised by the IMB.

Finally, on behalf of the Board I wish to acknowledge the support afforded to us by the IMB Secretariat and offer our thanks to them.

Margaret McCrory

Chairperson | Magilligan Prison

SAFER CUSTODY

Maintaining the safety, mental health and wellbeing of prisoners is a priority for the prison. The Board's view of safety is formed from observations taken from its own monitoring, attendance at meetings and speaking with staff and service providers in the establishment. Members also review relevant documentation and, on occasion, CCTV footage.

The Safer Custody Forum is the formal means by which the management of vulnerable individuals, incidences of self-harm, bullying and poor mental health is monitored. Monthly meetings are Chaired by the Deputy Governor and attended by members of the Safety and Support team, Senior Officers, Activities and Residential Governors and representatives of Healthcare and the Prisoner Development Unit. A member of the IMB acts as an observer.

At the outset of each meeting the group of prisoners, trained by the Samaritans as Listeners, are invited to present their activities to the Forum. During Covid restrictions, their movement around the prison was paused and any assistance required was supplied directly from the Samaritans by phone in each house. This arrangement still remains but mobile reception is very poor and Listeners compensate, to a limited extent, by providing an input to Induction for transferred prisoners, "Wing Walks" during the week and emergency calls at night when they can be accommodated. Currently there are four Listeners with plans to recruit more using a revised training programme provided remotely through Zoom. The Board would like to see Listeners able to move freely around the prison again and attend prisoners in person if help is requested at night.

Supporting Prisoners at Risk (SPAR) Evo continues to provide effective support to prisoners who are distressed or experiencing a personal crisis. The Safeguarding policy sets out the process for referral and the Safety and Support team has access to an electronic care management system which enables staff to raise a concern, and triage and assess an individual's risk of self-harm or suicide. In the majority of cases, the level of risk is low but may require assistance from agencies such as CRUSE, AD:EPT and Mental Health. Where a Keep Safe care plan is required a monitoring regime is implemented which has greatly reduced the occasions on which a move to a safer cell and safer clothing is necessary.

Now located on a dedicated landing in Halward House, establishing a dedicated team has strengthened Safer Custody across the prison. Governance of SPAR records has much improved and audits of incidents of self-harm are clearly documented. Alerts on Care Plan reports enable management checks to be made to ensure that they have been completed on time and feedback and advice is given to staff with reference to the quality of recording.

Multi-agency review meetings for prisoners managed under Safer Custody enable an individual's issues to be addressed. An average of 22 prisoners are on the caseload at any time, each is discussed, and a personal development plan agreed. The prisoner is generally involved in this process with the aim of return to the general population. As a result of the lack of IMB members in Magilligan prison at present it has not been possible for a member to attend these meetings regularly which is concerning. However the Board needs to be informed of a prisoner being placed on a SPAR and notification of this has been haphazard. The Board requests that this be rectified.

The Challenging Anti-social Behaviour, (CAB) strategy has now been in place for two years. Designed to investigate and manage incidences of bullying, violence and unacceptable behaviour the process is based on the recording of evidence by raising a concern, incident or victim form and encouraging staff and prisoners to be vigilant. Despite being assured that all information supplied will remain confidential prisoners are unwilling to name perpetrators. Staff are encouraged to report any anti-social behaviour so that trends can be identified, both incidents and actions taken subsequently recorded, and more effective strategies developed to deal with it.

While instances of prisoner on prisoner violence and assaults on staff are low, the Board has received complaints regarding staff discrimination and victimisation. Being "picked on" is often the way it is expressed and submitting a formal complaint often results in the prisoner feeling that the reply he receives, does not address the issue. The Board feels that there is a need to develop a robust strategy for investigating allegations of victimisation by staff.

Despite being informed that Magilligan prison is not resourced to allow for constant staff deployment in carrying out searches at the main gate the Board remains

concerned that searching of staff and visitors is limited to mornings and at other targeted times when staff are available.

Members of the Board undertook a number of night visits during the period covered by this report. While there were no issues with regard to the care of the prisoners, the Board has serious concerns regarding the Night Guard staffing levels. In the event of a prisoner becoming ill and requiring to be transferred to outside hospital, the depletion of staff would leave the prison with barely adequate cover. If a further prisoner required medical intervention, it would be wholly inadequate. This situation needs to be addressed.

The Board repeats that it is disappointing that, despite Governor's Orders instructing staff to deploy body worn cameras many fail to do so. There are occasions where they could provide definitive evidence and once again the Board calls for their use to be made compulsory in all situations where control and restraint is employed.

Monitoring Observations

- Listeners be facilitated to move freely around the prison including at night if requested;
- Ensure that Board members are informed consistently of all prisoners placed on a SPAR;
- Develop a robust strategy for investigating allegations of victimisation of prisoners by staff;
- The Board wishes to record its continuing concern regarding lack of searches at the main gate;
- Night Guard staffing levels are inadequate;
- The wearing of body worn cameras made compulsory when attending incidents where control and restraint is required.

SEGREGATION - CARE AND SUPERVISION UNIT (CSU)

Segregation – the restriction of association may be used as a deterrent for a number of offences generally those categorised under Prison Rule 32 pertaining to the maintenance of good order and discipline within the prison or as a means of safeguarding a prisoner’s personal safety or the safety of others. Cellular Confinement (CC) may also be awarded through the adjudication process for a variety of reasons including possession of unauthorised items, disobeying an order and damaging prison property. The Duty Governor Visits the CSU daily and Board members at least once a week.

The IMB has a statutory obligation to ensure that, where a prisoner is detained under Rule 32, the procedure has been undertaken correctly and the paperwork generated signed to verify that this is so. The Board is not entirely satisfied with the standard of reports which is variable and have found a number not signed. This is an area which requires greater attention to detail.

Members of the IMB must be informed when a prisoner is placed on a Rule 32 and are statutorily obliged to attend case reviews where an application for an extension to the period of segregation is sought. Despite there being a protocol for contacting a Board member, notification is often received too late for the individual on rota to attend. Moreover, the time of case reviews may be changed at short notice, reviews cancelled and even when a member arrives at the CSU there is often a considerable delay before the review is started. This is not only frustrating for members but also extremely inefficient and, as in previous reports, the Board requests that a consistent method of communication be adopted.

Restrictions imposed by Covid 19 last year led to a corresponding reduction in the number of offences resulting in a Rule 32 and this has continued with few instances of segregation and few extensions beyond 4 to 5 days. The exceptions to this are those prisoners with complex mental health needs who frequently remain in the CSU for long periods awaiting transference for assessment and treatment outside of the prison under Article 53 of the Mental Health (NI) Order 1986, and individuals whose adverse mental health behaviours mean that there is no other suitable alternative accommodation for them. The Board continues to express its concern regarding this situation which has pertained for a considerable length of time.

Governance of extensions to Rule 32s and placement on cellular confinement has continued to improve over the period covered by this report. Prisoner Placement forms, produced at the point of transfer, state the reason for its imposition and enable any medical concerns to be brought to the attention of NIPS. Within two to four hours of being moved to the CSU a prisoner's fitness to be placed in segregation must be assessed by a member of the Primary Healthcare team. Where an extension to segregation is to be sought a further Healthcare assessment is provided. This does not pertain to for prisoners who are held under cellular confinement and who, on occasion, may be segregated for up to 14 days. The Board repeats its view that these prisoners should also be further assessed.

Adjudication is the formal process for dealing with instances of alleged misconduct. Possession of drugs, failing or refusing a drug test remain the principle charging offences. At both Rule 32 case reviews and adjudications, more attention is paid as to what happened rather than examining the behaviour underlying it. The Board feels that this is a missed opportunity.

In order to reduce the number of prisoners being segregated, failing a drug test for the first time may result in being offered an opportunity to engage in a programme designed to address substance abuse. If completed satisfactorily the charge is subsequently withdrawn. The Board is concerned that the number of test refusals remains high due to the fear that a positive outcome may result in medication being removed. There have also been a number of occasions where awards of cellular confinement coupled with removal of privileges have appeared to be particularly harsh given the offence committed and in circumstances where a number of prisoners have been charged with the same offence there have been inconsistencies in the awards. The Board would wish to see the issue of tariffs addressed resulting in greater consistency of awards.

Prisoners have told Board members that there is no point in them requesting witnesses to be present or asking a governor why a particular decision has been made as the outcome is already decided and it will not be reconsidered. The Board suggests that governors should clearly explain their rationale in making awards to the prisoners.

Maintaining a normal prison regime in the context of the CSU is limited by the constrictions of the building. There is a lack of privacy to make phone calls and an interview room located outside the cellblock is the only informal meeting area. There is no space large enough to allow for communal dining or association despite the willingness of staff to accommodate this, subject to risk assessment. During the year under review there was a period of several weeks where two long term residents were held at one end of the building and spent all day unlocked, eating and associating together which proved mutually beneficial. There was also an instance of a particularly challenging prisoner receiving a programme of individualised activities.

The Therapy Garden is used extensively when the weather allows and prisoners all receive time outside in the yard, where there is some gym equipment, although visits to the main gym are arranged if required. Library facilities are limited but distraction/activity packs are available. Learning and Skills providers are notified when prisoners are transferred to the CSU and if a prisoner is engaged in education this is continued as far as possible. Whilst acknowledging that time out of cell is limited, the Board feels that staff endeavour to help prisoners make the best use of their time in the CSU which can provide a beneficial period of reflection away from their wing. Despite this, the Board reiterates that building is not fit for purpose and requires considerable updating or, preferably, replacement.

A concerted effort is made to ensure that no prisoner remains in solitary confinement for any longer than is strictly necessary and an exit strategy is put in place for anyone on Rule 32. In an attempt to reduce the number of prisoners held for long periods there are weekly Oversight meetings with multi-disciplinary input at which any further support required is identified. A Board member attends but it is a matter of some concern that Healthcare is rarely represented. The meetings help to provide consistency in outcomes and decisions made by the Deputy Governor who chairs the meeting.

During monitoring visits, staff-prisoner relationships have been observed to be mostly positive and respectful and the Board receives few complaints of any segregated prisoner receiving a negative experience. Prisoners accommodated in the CSU are frequently extremely challenging and staff are exposed to sustained periods of verbal abuse and repeated instances of disruptive behaviour. Ensuring

consistency of staffing arrangements helps to promote positive relationships and provides continuity for prisoners. The staff work well as a team and are to be complimented on their professionalism in managing the men in their care.

Monitoring Observations

- The administration of reports requires greater attention to detail;
- A consistent method of notifying IMB members of Rule 32 is implemented;
- There is an urgent need for access to in-patient facilities for prisoners with severe mental health disorders;
- Prisoners held on Cellular Confinement should receive a further Healthcare assessment in line with prisoners on Rule 32;
- Increased attention is directed to understanding underlying behaviours rather than concentrating on what has happened in any particular incident;
- There should be a greater consistency of awards given in adjudications;
- Governors should clearly explain their rationale in making awards to prisoners;
- The CSU building requires complete refurbishment or replacement;
- A representative of Healthcare should attend Oversight meetings.

EDUCATION/PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITY

Belfast Metropolitan College, (Belfast Met), is the lead provider of Learning and Skills within the prison with courses delivered by staff from North West Regional College (NWRC), under a Service Level Agreement. The College is contracted to provide a range of accredited courses from Adult Literacy, Numeracy and ICT to skills which will help prisoners to gain employment on their resettlement into the community. Provision is for 52 weeks of the year and staff are contracted to work in the prison.

At the time of the 2021 inspection the leadership and management of the Learning and Skills provision was going through a major period of change. A lack of leadership, caused by a delay in the appointment of an on-site manager, coupled with the disruption caused by the pandemic, led to a disappointing inspection assessment. Subsequently there has been substantial improvement both in terms of management and increased provision.

A curriculum review has resulted in 104 qualifications being offered and staffing levels increased to 16 teachers, the majority of whom are full-time. The Board was made aware of one skills class which had been cancelled for many weeks due to the long-term absence of the teacher. This is clearly unacceptable and an assurance was given that where a lengthy absence was likely the class would be covered.

Belfast Met is responsible for the provision of Learning and Skills at Maghaberry and courses there are accredited by OCN. However, City and Guilds provides the accreditation for courses at NWRC which can cause difficulties for prisoners who transfer midway through a course. As a result, some prisoners have requested to remain at Maghaberry in order to complete a qualification. In addition, the number of places in any class can be restricted due to the type of accreditation for that particular class. The Board would ask that the Colleges explore the possibility of moving to one accreditation body.

The Magilligan Prison Estate is no longer fit for purpose and the poor accommodation limits skills provision. The lack of IT facilities is especially limiting particularly in view of the need for a high level of technological competency in current employment. The development of a digital strategy to support the delivery of Learning and Skills provision is seen by the Board as a priority for NIPS.

Levels of functional literacy remain low throughout the prison. Despite the provision of a 15-week Basic Skills course and access to the Shannon Trust “Turning Pages” reading scheme few enrol and those who do fail to progress to the level required for employment. Those who do not engage often rely on other prisoners to help them especially with reading and replying to legal documents. The Board in its last report suggested that this peer support could be formalised and suggests again that this should be further explored.

ESOL qualifications are offered to Foreign National prisoners and the take-up of these courses is high. The Board has been pleased to observe native speakers involved in mutual language learning with Foreign National prisoners.

Weekly “catch-up” sessions are held so that the Head of Learning and Skills is made aware of the prisoners who will be transferred and their individual learning plans. The Board is pleased to be able to report that prisoners who do not have basic levels of literacy or numeracy are no longer prevented from undertaking skills based vocational courses, provided that a risk assessment does not result in a contra indication..

Most qualifications are offered to Level 2 and there is an identified need for this to be extended to Level 3, which is more often required by employers. The Board would ask that this is addressed as soon as possible. Prisoners who are able to show evidence of competence and achievement may progress to undertake an Open University degree. In the last two years there has been a rise in the number of prisoners who have opted for this which has implications for the Learning and Skills budget as it is funded by NIPS.

As external work placements are not available to prisoner’s project- based learning is substituted. This ensures that vocational courses provide practical experience. Moreover, the Board is pleased to be able to report an increased emphasis on the acquisition of employability skills. In addition to a Jobs Fair visits have been arranged with the Jobs and Benefits Agency, local employers, community groups, and representatives of Business in the Community. This is an area where more contacts need to be made as employers remain unwilling to take on ex -offenders.

Where it is necessary to re-locate a prisoner to the CSU the Learning and Skills co-ordinator is requested to notify the CSU Senior Officer of any courses or other activity in which the prisoner is engaged to ensure that this continues.

Aside from Learning and Skills provision there remains a lack of purposeful activity. There are opportunities for training in workshops and jobs in the gardens or as orderlies but these are limited in number. The daily regime allows for time outside in the yard, in the gym or use of equipment on the landings. The weekly Park Run is popular and many men play pool but there is a need to extend the activities available. The Board regrets that lack of supervisory staff has led to the ending of the partnership with Roe Valley Bee Keeping Association. Over a period of 3 years several men gained a qualification in bee keeping and others with mental health difficulties benefitted from their contact with the bees. This project was also an excellent example of community involvement with the work of the prison. Consideration should be given to cultivating the land surrounding the prison estate which could be to grow basic food crops for use in the kitchens. This has the potential to create a number of jobs and contribute to skills development.

Prisoners nearing the end of their sentences, who have progressed to Alpha and Foyleview, accommodation beyond the wall, are engaged in a variety of employment including community workshops, industrial cleaning, recycling and key worker roles in the laundry and kitchens. The Print Shop has only been functioning sporadically due to the long-term absence of the Officer in charge and opportunities for “working out” are limited being located mainly in the voluntary and community sectors. Staff involved in rehabilitation are working hard to identify opportunities for employment in the local companies which has the ability to extend beyond the prisoner’s end of sentence.

The Board repeats the suggestion made in the 2001/2 report that some thought is given to creating additional activities in order for more prisoners to make best use of their time in prison.

Monitoring Observations

- The Board is pleased to report the substantial improvement which has been made to management and course provision;
- Give consideration to moving all courses to one accrediting body;

- As a priority developing a digital strategy to support the delivery of Learning and Skills provision;
- Formalise peer literacy support;
- Offer more courses above level 2;
- The Board is pleased with the increased emphasis on employability skills and would encourage establishing contact with a greater number of potential employers;
- The Board suggests that some thought is given to the creation of additional activities to extend the opportunities for purposeful use of time in prison.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

Oversight of the equality agenda lies with the Equality and Diversity committee that formally monitors the prison's compliance with its obligations under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. Chaired by the Deputy Governor, a monthly meeting examines statistical data covering the areas of adjudications, complaints, control and restraint, drug tests, Preps, UTRs, CTRs, searches and segregation. The Northern Ireland Equality Commission is represented and a member of the Board attends as an observer.

Prisoner forums are invited to raise concerns with the committee. This input is valuable but the issues brought forward are wide ranging and are often unrelated to Section 75. It would seem to indicate that there is a need to establish a general meeting comprised of representatives from each house, possibly chaired by the Residential Governor. This reiterates a suggestion made by the Board in a previous report.

A continuous Action Plan provides an overview of progress against recommendations. The monitoring data is presented in a format which enables disparities to be clearly identified indicating any poorer outcomes for either of the two main religious groups. Any anomalies are further examined by taking a 10% dip sample. Key performance measures relating to other protected groups are analysed under the headings of Religion, Race and Age but copies of this report are not made available to the committee. The Board repeats its suggestion that this be rectified.

There is a thorough analysis of complaints and detailed comparisons are made month to month. Despite the introduction of a revised protocol there has been little progress concerning the management of property and cash which continually engenders the largest number of complaints. The majority of complaints result either from items lost in transit or delays in prisoners receiving items sent to them. This causes a great deal of frustration and unhappiness and indicates that the process for dealing with property is still flawed and requires further review.

Whilst a small number of individual prisoners account for multiple complaints, often escalating them despite a resolution having been offered at an early stage, all complaints concerning discrimination, harassment or the actions of staff are taken seriously and investigated. However, the Board has concerns regarding the independence and rigour of staff investigations and calls for the introduction of a clear procedure for dealing with accusations of victimisation.

The allocation of work roles requires that a balance of religion be maintained as far as possible. Residential staff are requested to be aware of the breakdown of the religion of orderlies on the landings, taking into consideration the overall composition of the house. Applications for Resettlement Leave, CTRs and ATRs are examined closely to ensure that there is no unintentional bias in relation to decisions made especially with regard to areas that may be problematic for accompanying staff.

It is very pleasing that the Board is able to report on the excellent work undertaken with Foreign National prisoners by the co-ordinating officer. At the end of the period under review, there were 26 Foreign National prisoners from 13 countries. The Officer shows a good understanding of their needs and the support each one requires. To date they have integrated well into the general population undoubtedly helped by the availability of Flash Cards in each of the languages spoken which enables them to request items they require, make contact with fellow prisoners and become involved in the daily regime. Produced by the co-ordinating officer these flash cards are the first of their kind in the UK and have been recognised as extremely innovative.

Translation services, formerly provided by the Big Word have been replaced by Language Line which, since each residential area has its own unique code, makes monthly usage reports more transparent. The committee is kept informed of new

committals and releases and is made aware of the level of English language competence. Where necessary ESOL classes are offered and the majority of prisoners are engaged in work. Home Office Immigration surgeries take place in the PDU on a monthly basis with other immigration visits organised as required. This regular contact keeps prisoners informed of the status of their date for deportation or application for settlement which alleviates much of the anxiety generated by uncertainty regarding their progression.

Building on the work undertaken with Foreign National prisoners the co-ordinating Officer has been invited by the Home Office to undertake a job-shadowing period with Border Force, Immigration and PDU Officers.

The Equality and Diversity committee generates a large amount of data and the Board once again would suggest that more longitudinal analysis and identification of trends be undertaken.

Monitoring Observations

- The Board repeats its previous suggestion that there are regular meetings of representatives of prisoner house forums;
- Copies of Key Performance Indicators are made available at committee meetings;
- Review the protocol for dealing with property and cash;
- There is a requirement for the introduction of a robust strategy for investigating accusations of staff victimisation;
- The Board applauds the excellent work undertaken with Foreign National prisoners;
- There should be more longitudinal analysis of data.

HEALTHCARE AND MENTAL HEALTH

During 2022/23 there were no site wide restrictions due to Covid. Any positive cases were isolated locally within the houses/landings and the normal regime of the prison was maintained.

Healthcare services, which includes primary care, mental health and dental and optical services, are provided by the South East Health and Social Care Trust (SEHSCT). People in custody in HMP Magilligan should be afforded the same standard of care in prison as they would have received in the community.

The Board notes that due to staffing issues (sickness and vacancies) across services that there are significant waiting times in excess of community norms, to access GP, Dentist, mental health and addiction support.

Nurse cover is not always available at night and this has led to increasing use of agency Paramedics.

GP have a presence on site 2.5 days per week for Magilligan. Dental cover is 3 sessions per week.

35% of each GP clinic is retained for Urgent appointments.

Primary or mental health attendance at prisoner case reviews is dependent on staffing availability. However written assessment is routinely provided and a member of nursing staff attends the CSU at least once daily.

Older Persons

Over the last 4 years there has been an increase in the number of elderly prisoners aged over 60 in the prison population at Magilligan.

Elderly Prisoners	31/3/19	31/3/22
51-60 yrs.	44	44
60+yrs	32	47

This has implications for the Trust in that social care needs will increase considerably.

Healthcare do not routinely attend IMB Monthly meetings but on two occasions a member of staff was invited to attend. The Board feels that regular attendance or reporting would be preferable so that we can monitor access to services.

Mental Health

Midway through the year it was reported that the mental health team are under resourced (a situation that has continued from 2021/22) and that there are no psychiatric services on site so consultations are being facilitated virtually.

There are approximately 160 prisoners on Opiate Substitute Therapy across all three sites of which approximately 70 are in Magilligan. There can be up to 100 on the waiting list for this and it is a function of the safe caseload for the consultant.

There were no confirmed cases of dementia noted during the year.

The IMB would agree with the recommendations made in the report of the Unannounced Inspection of May/June 2021 (February 2022) and still required action during this 2022/23 period.

- Access to the General Practitioner for non-urgent appointments, should be in line with that in the community
- Forensic psychiatry cover and access to psychological services based on the health needs assessment of the patient population should be provided.
- There should be a review of the current capacity and capability of the addiction service to meet the needs of prisoners who require treatment and support for addiction

Further we would add that

- Access to Dentistry services should also be brought into line with those in the community.

LIST OF MAGILLGAN IMB MEMBERS 2022-23

Margaret McCrory - *Chair 2022/23*

Tanya Quinn

Anne Rowe - *Extended 1 year until 31/03/23*

Bryan Snoddy - *Appointed 01/04/22*

Arlene Sproule - *Appointed 01/04/24*

Chris Henderson - Appointed 01/04/22 / Resigned 03/08/22

Diane Mackey - Did not renew 31/03/23