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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 Secretary of State 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 regularly and report to the Secretary of State 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 Secretary of State; 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.

1 | Chairperson's Introduction

This Annual Report covers the activities for the year from 1st April 2007 – 31st March 2008.

Members of the IMB, appointed by the Secretary of State under the Prisons Act (NI) 1953 are required to:

- Visit
- Monitor
- Report

IMB members are appointed on a 3 year cycle by the Secretary of State and may serve for a maximum of 12 years. This year two IMB members are due to retire after giving 12 years' dedicated hard work and diligent service.

As Chairperson I wish to record my sincere thanks and appreciation to these members; their work in the prison will never be fully known and the contribution they have made to the Board is very much valued and appreciated.

I also welcome four new members who are becoming integrated into the Board – each coming with a range of expertise and experience. All members of the Board are volunteers who give freely of their time. The Board has no management function and operates independently from the prison. As with other public appointments, members undergo regular appraisal and work under the Nolan Principles.

Regular training events are provided for members and an Annual Conference is held and opportunities to visit other prisons are available.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank the Governor and his staff for their courtesy and co-operation during the past year and to thank all Board members for their hard work and diligence in supporting me. As Chair, I pay tribute to my former vice-chair for his guidance and support during the past 2 years and I wish to thank our training officer for her hard work and assistance. In addition I acknowledge the work of the editorial team for their assistance in collating this report and to each member for their contribution to the report.

No Board runs effectively without a well prepared and hard working secretary and I thank him for this.

Prisoner artwork has been on display in various places throughout the province and I welcome the opportunity to include a sample in this years report.

2 | Overview

- 2.1** The year 2007-08 continued to build on the success of the previous year. Prison population currently is 430 but rising and in the coming years will almost double. A new 60-bed accommodation unit is due for opening in October 2008 and the new 50-bed Alpha accommodation was ready for occupation in February.
- 2.2** On 18 December 2007 the Minister, Paul Goggins MP, announced a major investment with the decision finally being reached to build a new prison at Magilligan. This has eased all uncertainties of the past months and reassured staff.
- 2.3** Positive comments have been made on the décor, ambiance and state of the prison grounds and the improved morale of all staff. Restructuring has taken place, officer motivation improved, and leadership qualities developed. IMB recognise the challenges for the officers and appreciate the courtesy and co-operation shown to us. They have facilitated us in every aspect of our work and made our role one, which IMB feel to be effective and valued. IMB have been consulted in a meaningful way in relation to developments and proposals for change in a timely and inclusive manner.
- 2.4** IMB members respond to prisoners' requests, as well as monitoring their areas of special responsibilities. At IMB monthly meetings the Governor reports on developments, issues, etc and responds to members' questions. This is an excellent opportunity for both Governor and members to update each other on progress and concerns.
- 2.5** With prisoner requests reducing, members now are developing their monitoring role. To date this has proved beneficial to all involved with a quick response to any issues raised.
- 2.6** The Council for IMB has developed a 3 year strategy plan and each Board will develop a particular plan for their establishment. In Magilligan this will take cognisance of the Prison Business Plan.
- 2.7** IMB requested the reinstatement of a six-man local search team. This was restored during the past year. An alternative methods of searching was introduced with the concept of target searching. This has been introduced on a regular basis in a manner that does not have a negative impact on the prisoner regime and is delivered by a group of staff with specialist search training drawn from normal operational groups.
- 2.8** We note that the ECR (Emergency Control Room) requires updating with the Ready To Use (RTU) due to become operational in October 2008. We are aware discussions are at an advanced stage with regard to upgrading and improving ECR facilities.
- 2.9** IMB posters need to be clearly displayed in each block, IMB cards are also available.

3 | Summary of Recommendations

- 3.1** ■ With prisoner numbers continuing to increase, more staff will be required for induction
- 3.2** ■ Members are concerned with the increasing number of prisoners presenting with Mental Health issues and recommends that more fully trained Mental Health staff should be employed
- 3.3** ■ The transfer of prisoner health care to the Health and Social Care Trust causes an issue regarding who the prisoner sends his health requests and complaints to and who will be monitoring the provision in each prison establishment
- 3.4** ■ Prisoners on a PAR 1 should not be transferred while on PAR 1 and should be stable before moving to another establishment and all records should go with him on transfer
- 3.5** ■ Sub committee dates should be set and adhered to and members should be informed and kept up to date regarding same
- 3.6** ■ We recommend extended opening times for the library.

4 | Healthcare

- 4.1** The IMB is concerned that there are insufficient places outside of prison for those people with mental health problems.
- 4.2** Research Reports indicate that many prisoners have mental health problems. 72% of male sentenced prisoners suffer from two or more mental health disorders and 20% of prisoners suffer four of the five major mental health disorders.
- 4.3** IMB members are concerned that many of the prisoners in Magilligan have psychological problems. Hence, the need for more psychologists and Mental Health Nurses.
- 4.4** Prisoners with mental health problems have particular resettlement issues and this is addressed by the Multi-Agency Team approach.
- 4.5** IMB are aware of Headquarters' plans to recruit psychology assistants to work in all establishments with 6 assistants being employed within Magilligan Psychology Unit.
- 4.6** IMB have expressed their dismay and concerns to the Governor on the unacceptable condition of A & B Blocks of the Healthcare Unit. The wards in this unit were closed in early 2007 due to the advent of Legionella within the Healthcare Unit. IMB are aware of plans to create a Triage Unit with accompanying Healthcare staff facilities based in the main accommodation area of the prison, and welcome this initiative as an alternative to refurbishment of the old Healthcare building.

4 | Healthcare

4.7 IMB fully support plans to transfer responsibility (April 2008) for delivery of healthcare to the local Healthcare Trust, however would have concerns regarding who would deal with requests, complaints and the monitoring of provision.

4.8 Safer Custody Meetings

These meetings are held bi-monthly. Attendance is good and includes, among others, representatives from prison staff, governor, security governor, co-ordinator:

- Probations
- Psychology
- Healthcare
- Training
- The Samaritans
- Northlands
- IMB

4.9 The regular up-dating and sharing of information, in addition to the continual reviewing of policy, helps to ensure a safer environment for all.

4.10 Magilligan Prison has recently had a Prison Standards Audit pertaining to the Safer Custody Policy. Inspectors stated that they were impressed with the manner in which this policy was being implemented.

4.11 The Listener Scheme is continuing to be of great value. The most recent development has been the decision to allow the Prisoner Listener's Representative to speak to new committals who arrive weekly. New committals are now given an Information Pack devised by the Samaritans, which has been well received.

4.12 Unfortunately, trained Listener numbers have fallen due to the release of some Listeners. However, the Samaritans have plans to offer training to a further ten volunteer prisoners.

4.13 The IMB commends the Samaritans and Northlands for the dedicated work they undertake in the prison and figures would demonstrate the value of all these agencies and prison staff working together to ensure a safer environment where those needing help can be supported.

4.14 A total of thirty seven PAR 1 documents were opened during the year from 1 February 2007 to 1 February 2008, with no deaths in custody reported. The concerted efforts of all involved have helped ensure the safety of the vulnerable.

4 | Healthcare

- 4.15** However, it is a matter of concern that prisoners on a PAR 1 are still being transferred to Magilligan from Maghaberry. This places the prisoner at even greater risk with potential fatal consequences should Magilligan staff be unable to have him settled during the Induction period. IMB recommends that prisoners on PAR 1 should not be transferred.
- 4.16** The Anti-Bullying Strategy devised and used in Magilligan prison has been forwarded to the Human Rights Adviser for perusal and advice. No deficiencies were found.
- 4.17** A total of seven alleged cases of bullying were reported between 1 February 2007 and 1 February 2008. Four of the seven cases were in relation to the one prisoner. The agreed Anti-Bullying Policy was used to deal with these cases satisfactorily.
- 4.18** Recent developments pertaining to safety issues include:
- The introduction of a new “cut down tool” known as “the Big Fish” for use in emergency situations. This will replace the Hoffman Knife and be much safer for the staff to use.
 - A new Anti-Suicide blanket is being researched before decisions are made to introduce it within the prison.
- 4.19** The IMB are pleased that the proposal to offer Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST), discussed in our 2007 Report, has now been agreed and is being implemented.
- 4.20** Funding has allowed three Prison Officers to be trained in the delivery of the ASIST Programme. These trainers have delivered a 2-day training to a total of 57 prison staff and two IMB members.
- 4.21** The IMB were privileged to attend the ASIST training and acknowledge the skill and excellence of the delivery of what can be a very difficult subject.
- 4.22** The materials handed out included:
- A Handbook on Suicide Intervention; and
 - An excellent small wallet Guide. This can be used if faced with a potential suicide situation.
- 4.23** It is vital that the funding for this worthwhile training continues so that all staff can avail of this essential training.
- 4.24 CRUSE**
- Funding has been found for the introduction of CRUSE Counsellors into the prison. This has been proven already to be a worthwhile project with CRUSE counsellors being actively involved with the prisoner population and assisting in prisoner and staff training. IMB welcome the introduction of CRUSE and recommend that funding should be found to continue this project.

4 | Healthcare

4.25 Clinical Governance Committee

Topics such as hospital escorts for outpatient appointments, in-possession medication audit, record-keeping and the provision of mental health services have been discussed.

4.26 An IMB member attends the Clinical Governance Committee at Magilligan and monitors the Health provision for prisoners. IMB continues to be concerned about any difficulties which may arise following the transfer of Healthcare to the H & S C Trusts and who will monitor prisoners health issues.

4.27 Dog Section

The Dog Section is housed beside Foyleview. The passive drug dogs are an element in the ceaseless quest to rid Magilligan of drugs. There are normally about a dozen dogs here and they and their handlers are highly trained and skilled and deserve recognition.

4.28 The Northern Ireland Prison Service Dog Section are placing greater emphasis on the availability of passive drug dogs without necessarily reducing the importance of patrol dogs. During the year Magilligan has seen an increase in the number of passive drug dog indications in Visits and the Dog Section has played their part in helping to reduce the amount of illegal drugs within the prison.

4.29 IMB have requested consideration being given to the refurbishment of Dog Section staff facilities and are aware the Governor has this on a Works project priority list.

4.30 Drug Strategy Meetings

These are multi-disciplinary meetings held every two months. The main purpose of the meetings is to prevent or at least diminish the use of illegal drugs in the prison.

4.31 Part of the remit is to treat drug abusers in the prison and to arrange for outside support when they are released. IMB are concerned that the contract with Northlands to provide in-house workers in Magilligan has not been renewed yet, although discussions are ongoing to ensure how the Service delivery best meets the business need.

4.32 The main drug being found is cannabis, although amphetamines and ecstasy also feature each month. Many of the finds are in the communal areas.

4.33 One of the new initiatives to identify and monitor drug taking is the "swab test" to be used instead of urine samples, the latter is not only very time consuming in terms of manpower, but is open to abuse.

4.44 The use of passive drug dogs in the visits area identifies those visitors who have been in contact with drugs, necessitating a closed visit, which prevents transfer of contraband into the prison. The dogs are also used during transfer of prisoners, and on return from home leave. IMB are aware of plans to extend Visits complex when additional prisoner accommodation becomes available.

5 | Learning and Skills

5.1 Sport and Recreation

Statistics provided over the last year for the Sport and Recreation Department of Magilligan show that extensive voluntary use has been made of facilities by prisoners wishing to participate in the varied programme provided. Prisoners now leave accommodation units to attend their gym session from 9am each week day, and this has proved this has provided additional gym time.

5.2 Statistics

The Gym operates a 6.5 day week with approximately 1050 hours of constructive activity per week. The prisoners Programme varies from week to week taking into consideration seasonal sporting activities which includes Outdoor activities. Prisoners participate in First Aid at Work, Canoeing, Duke of Edinburgh award programmes, other activities, and/or can follow an accredited course.

5.3 Staff can avail of Physical Education at lunchtime and in their off duty. IMB are aware of plans to refurbish and upgrade the staff gym and welcome this initiative.

5.4 Education and Library

The Education Department clearly makes an extremely valuable contribution to the wellbeing of inmates and staff members continue to research and provide new relevant courses for the prison population. The total staff complement of the Department consists of an Education Officer, a senior teacher, five full time teachers, three part time teachers and five full time external teachers.

5.5 As a large number of the prison population have poor essential skills particularly in terms of literacy and numeracy and the majority are short sentenced prisoners, it is important that basic literacy and numeracy skills are taught over a short period of time to ensure maximum benefit to the students.

5.6 A number of the courses at all levels have been academically accredited including profile of achievement for inmates below Entry Level 1, computer studies and recreational education. The art skills accredited course which is delivered in conjunction with the Playhouse Theatre in Londonderry and the North West Regional College, incorporates three disciplines – literacy, creative writing and performance in the medium of English – and has proved to be very successful. The creative writing classes are held once per week and are delivered by the writer in residence and again a number of inmates are working on their own projects in the areas of poetry, prose writing and drama. To date two books have been published - 'Magilligan Sentence' and 'Magilligan Prison Writings'.

5 | Learning and Skills

- 5.7** The computer studies CLAIT course is delivered over a six weeks semester and provides a basis for CTC and CLAIT Plus which offer inmates a range of qualifications which are particularly pertinent in seeking employment in the IT job market.
- 5.8** In relation to Recreational Education, accredited courses are provided in pottery and art and the work produced by the students is of such a high standard that they are encouraged to submit their work for the Koestler Awards.
- 5.9** A number of students have undertaken Mathematics, English Language and English Literature at GCSE Level and a full range of Open University courses are available. Other subject areas such as Computer Aided Drawing, Business Studies and Sage Accounting are available as self study packages or on request.
- 5.10** The Department also provides a Toe By Toe programme, funded by the Shannon Trust, which is delivered on a one to one basis using a mentor and a mentee. It is designed to help non readers and results to date have been most encouraging. We would like to commend the Shannon Trust for this funding and would strongly recommend the continuance of this programme.
- 5.11** Library resources are well utilised and a number of extra children's books have been acquired for Child Centred visits. However the library is rather small and the IMB would like to see opening times extended.
- 5.12** The IMB would like to thank all those involved both externally and internally in education provision for Magilligan Prison inmates and IMB commends the links and partnerships that the prison has established with local colleges, community groups, local Council and various organisations.
- 5.13 Prison Development Unit (PDU)**
- The Prison Development Unit delivers a range of behaviour programmes designed to reduce recidivism amongst offenders, assist offenders with relapse prevention strategies and offer useful practical life skills development.
- 5.14** An Induction Programme is offered to all new prisoners. This is facilitated by various departments, agencies in the prison and the IMB.

5 | Learning and Skills

- 5.15** The list of programmes available, continue to be extended and the IMB commend all the officers and staff for this provision.

Programmes:

“GOALS”	Partners Together	Wellmen
Community Dialogue	Acupuncture	Parenting Matters
Family Induction	Substance Misuse	VP Dabble
Basic Substance Awareness	Enhanced Thinking Skills	Anger Management
Art Therapy*	Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme*	Business Start
Pre-release Programme	Housing Advice	Benefits Advice

*Art Therapy – several art exhibitions displaying prisoners’ work have taken place throughout Northern Ireland and an example of the artwork is shown below.

*A number of prisoners achieved their Duke of Edinburgh Award and this was presented to them by Dame Mary Peters

- 5.16** An increasing number of officers have been trained in a variety of programmes.

- 5.17** A Programme Accreditation Board at Prison Service Headquarters ensures that all programmes are validated and provides quality assurance and consistency of delivery. The IMB appreciate the variety of programmes provision and the dedicated staff who provide prisoners with suitable programmes.



6 | Visits and Family Links

6.1 Child Centred Visits

Child Centred Visits have now resumed after a period of cancelled visits owing to staffing difficulties.

6.2 These visits are very important to the families and the prisoners as contact between the children and their fathers is vital.

6.3 The IMB monitors these visits, which take place twice a month. These monitoring sessions take place on a regular basis and observations, as well as discussion with families, show clearly the value of this time spent together.

6.4 The hard work, effort and commitment made by the Prison Staff and NIACRO are recognised by the families and the IMB. The dedicated Family Officer is now full time. Two others will support him, so that cover is always available. This indicates how important the senior management considers this area to be.

6.5 The Family Officer selects the prisoners for the Programme using interview and clearly defined criteria. A maximum of twelve prisoners will join each visit.

6.6 Prisoners selected for Foyleview will now be eligible to continue on the Child Centred Programme until Town Visits commence. These visits will be facilitated once a month.

6.7 Recent changes include the following:

- The training of the Family Officer in the process of making DVDs. This means that the children involved in the Big Book Share will now take home a book and a DVD instead of a cassette. The IMB hope that training for this will be facilitated as soon as possible.
- A Healthy Eating initiative has been introduced by NIACRO since January. This has proved very successful. The children are keen to eat the healthy fruit and sugar free drinks. The IMB welcomes this project.
- The storage space for the play materials has recently been sorted. Materials have been assessed for suitability and safety. The Prison Orderly deserves praise for his hard work sorting out this storage space and for helping to keep the other areas clean and tidy.
- Plans to introduce a Family Forum for mothers attending Child Centred Visits are nearly finalised and should soon be implemented.
- The proposal to set aside an area for use during Visits by bereaved families and inmates is under way. This initiative is commendable.

6 | Visits and Family Links

- 6.8** The IMB recognises the work of the NIACRO Staff in Magilligan.
- 6.9** IMB visits show that hard work goes into the setting up of the play areas, so that they look inviting to the children using them on all visits. The children's artwork and paintings are well displayed. However the most important thing observed is the very caring approach to the children and their welfare. Without this, all the visits would be of less value.
- 6.10** The IMB wishes to acknowledge the generosity of the Prison Fellowship. At the Christmas Carol Service two boxes of books were handed over. These will provide resources to support the Big Book Share Programme. The children will enjoy reading these.
- 6.11** Monitoring of the admittance of Visitors to Magilligan indicates that all visitors are treated with respect and staff are very helpful. These observations are verified by comments during discussions with visitors during the year.
- 6.12** The IMB welcomes plans to provide a sheltered walkway and upgrade NIACRO facilities in the future. The visitors will welcome this too.



7 | Accommodation

7.1 Reception

This is the first point of contact for new prisoners arriving in Magilligan. The glass panelled holding cells are bright, clean and well maintained.

7.2 Reception is responsible for processing all prisoners entering the establishment, including prisoners returning from court appearances, parole and home leave. Here they are searched and permitted to shower. All property in excess of that allowed in their cells is placed in secure storage.

7.3 Prisoners are medically examined as soon as possible by the prison Doctor or a healthcare officer.

7.4 A new system of documentation has been introduced to accompany committals when they are transferred to and from another prison. The documentation high – lights any medical conditions or problems, thus identifying prisoners at risk, whereupon, a specific set of safety measures and procedures are put into place.

7.5 The staff in reception are efficient, experienced and trained to deal with any questions or concerns raised by the prisoner.

7.6 Welcome Packs containing soft drinks and sandwiches are immediately available in Reception for prisoners on reception from Maghaberry.

7.7 Induction

Magilligan provides a comprehensive and structured Induction programme based in H3 to all prisoners on committal. This is a multi – disciplinary presentation and assessment over a five day period with the additional aid of a PowerPoint Presentation.

7.8 Information is available, such as healthcare, visiting arrangements, home leave, tuck shop and pastoral care. Information relating to work opportunities, education, remedial care, courses and programmes is also included.

7.9 Induction offers an opportunity for inmates to plan their time constructively whilst in prison, and is designed to take into consideration the various educational abilities of the prisoners. The Custody Time Line Resource File is also excellent and provides information on:

- Committal
- Induction
- Activities

7 | Accommodation

7.10 The Induction programme is accompanied by a handbook for prisoners containing all the relevant information and Staff regularly monitor and review the existing Induction programme, and the views of prisoners and residential staff are sought.

7.11 H1

H1 is one of three H-Block style accommodation blocks at Magilligan. H1 A/B side continues to operate successfully as a drug free landing. Places are limited and demand for them is high. Waiting lists are currently in place for people to take up a place as soon as a vacancy becomes available. Its popularity is testament to what a successful scheme a drug free landing is. The drug free landing is just one of many schemes on offer at Magilligan and staff there are dedicated to researching and trialling new treatments all the time.

7.12 All H-Block accommodation remains unsuitable due to lack of in-cell sanitation. An electronic unlock system allows prisoners to be unlocked during night guard and have access to toilet facilities; this system works very well. IMB recognise that with major financial investment in new accommodation facilities at Magilligan in the near future, with the replacement of H-Blocks, it is not financially viable to fit in-cell sanitation to old accommodation units. However, the staff and orderlies make the most of the resources they have and H1 is always immaculately presented.

7.13 The I.M.B is always well received at H1 and finds the staff helpful, friendly and courteous at all times.

7.14 H2

Due to the refurbishment of the current SSU (Special Supervision Unit) a temporary SSU has been set up in part of H2 D-Wing and has not been without some difficulties. However, the prison staff have dealt with any issues in a professional manner, ensuring that the block and SSU are operating well.

7.15 The IMB recognises this professionalism and will welcome the completion of the complete revamp of SSU (June 2008).

7.16 Relationships between Staff and prisoners are found to be good. Prisoners can and do feel free to approach staff for guidance if they have a problem.

7.17 IMB members are welcomed in H2 and SSU and Staff are always helpful when requests are made to visit prisoners and see PAR 1 documents.

7 | Accommodation

7.18 The Senior Officer's working office is a very well organised room with prisoners' names and numbers clearly displayed in a new system. Staff information is clearly displayed and PAR 1 documentation is up to date and available on request. This tidy, well-organised office enables the efficient carrying out of all the duties required of the staff. The IMB is pleased to note the good teamwork, which is clearly evident on visits.

7.19 The re-painting of the whole H Block has created a brighter environment for staff and prisoners alike.

7.20 The fact that the painting was undertaken by prisoners, supervised and guided by an instructor, is something the IMB would like to see happen more often. This is gainful employment that leads to the acquisition of skills of use on release.

7.21 There is a very high standard of cleanliness through the Block including the kitchen and other areas. This standard is consistent on visits made throughout the year.

7.22 H3

H3 contains the Induction Wing for prisoners on committal from Maghaberry. The Induction procedure lasts for two weeks, during which time prisoners are provided with the routines and procedures for the prison and after personal interview are advised on a range of programmes available to address their offending behaviour which resulted in a custodial sentence. Prisoners are required to sign up to a resettlement plan applicable to their personal needs and custodial sentence and to agree to participation in a range of educational vocational training, drug treatment or sex offender programmes.

7.23 Relationships between staff and prisoners are found to be very good. Prisoners can and do feel free to approach staff for guidance if they have a problem. Prisoners who were previously escorted within Maghaberry go to work and education classes in Magilligan on an unescorted basis. The Induction programme ensures prisoners are aware of the trust being placed on them not to misbehave and the consequences if they should.

7.24 The Senior Officer's working office is a very well organised room with prisoners' names and numbers clearly displayed in a new system. Staff information is clearly displayed and PAR 1 documentation is up to date and available on request. This tidy, well-organised office enables the efficient carrying out of all duties required of the staff. The IMB is pleased to note the good teamwork, which is clearly evident on visits.

7.25 There is a very high standard of cleanliness through the Block including the kitchen and other areas. This standard is consistent on visits made throughout the year.

7 | Accommodation

7.26 Kitchen and Canteen Facilities

During the past twelve months the IMB have inspected both the Kitchen and the Canteen facilities on several occasions. IMB have always found them both to be managed and maintained to a high standard. The staff demonstrates carrying out their duties with a high degree of professionalism and keep the operation running smoothly. Prisoners are employed in the Kitchen and train to Catering NVQ levels. A 4-week multi-choice menu is provided for all prisoners and has proved to have a positive impact on the prison regime. IMB would commend the catering staff for their consistently high performance.

7.27 Tuck Shop

Also during the last twelve months IMB have inspected the Tuck shop. This is a convenient facility, and makes a valuable contribution for inmates, staff and visitors. There is a wide selection of goods on offer, including craft supplies. The tuck shop is working well and staff endeavour to meet the requirements of their customers.

7.28 Laundry Section

The Laundry section is again a very important part of the establishment, it is well looked after and maintained. The well-being of the inmates is dependent on the services provided by the Laundry section and consequently it needs to be equipped to the highest standard to support the demanding role it plays. The current washing machines are constantly in use 7 days per week and standby machines are required for maintenance etc. to be carried out. The introduction of the new 60-bed RTU accommodation unit later in 2008 will require at least one new washing machine to be made available in the central laundry. IMB note that in early 2008 a complete change of bedding (pillows, bed sheets, duvets and covers) were purchased for all prisoners and current bedding will be replaced on a needs basis as required.

7.29 Transport and Stores

Most of the vehicles operating in Magilligan have been replaced in the last few months, so the fleet is relatively new. There are different vehicles for the various transportation requirements.

7.30 There is an "Outside" people carrier for transporting prisoners to and from Bellarena station on release or for home leaves. They are also used on Wednesdays and Saturdays to transport prisoners' families, who are visiting, from the station.

7.31 There is another "Inside" people carrier that takes prisoners around the inside of the prison, those arriving or being released with their belongings are taken to and from their accommodation. This vehicle also takes stores and other necessities to the different areas in the prison.

7 | Accommodation

- 7.32** Recently Magilligan started using prisoner drivers instead of staff to transport prisoners to their different work places within the community. All prisoners are trained in driving responsibilities and the health and safety aspects of driving a minibus containing up to 8 persons. The vehicles have location trackers for security purposes. This releases Staff for more relevant duties and provides employment for prisoners.



8 | Chaplaincy

8.1 Chaplains' Report

The Chaplains in Magilligan continue to work together as a team. During the year Church Services have taken place each Sunday in three different areas. The Roman Catholic Mass in H2, the Combined Service in H1 and the Free Presbyterian Service in H3. There is still concern that no central place of worship is available but it is hoped that when the new prison is built a permanent chapel will be available.

8.2 The chaplains have no office at the moment, this is currently being addressed (available May 2008).

8.3 A Mission was held last year for one week in the month of May when attendances were very good. Special speakers and singers came each evening.

8.4 The Bible Study Group meets on Thursday afternoon and is very enthusiastically received. In all these activities the chaplains work in conjunction with the Prison Fellowship. IMB highly commends the Chaplains for their dedication and hard work.

8.5 Changes are planned for the chaplaincy in the Northern Ireland Prison Service and discussions are at a final stage.

8.6 Annual Carol Services were held in the main prison and in Foyleview.



9 | Resettlement

9.1 Northern Ireland Association for Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NIACRO)

9.2 NIACRO has benefited from much needed refurbishment recently. Renovations are continuing and include a plan for a smoking shelter.

9.3 During the year, the Manager and staff organised various events for those visiting with their children.

9.4 Transport is provided daily to bring visitors to and from the Railway Station.

9.5 Plans are at an advanced stage to reorganise the complete NIACRO complex at the front of the prison to incorporate a new building, car park and covered walkway. IMB welcome this major project.

9.6 NIACRO staff have been actively involved in the design of the reorganisation of their buildings and business facility

9.7 Gardens

The garden section continues to make a valuable contribution to the appearance of the Prison as well as providing employment to prisoners. Useful skills are acquired by those choosing to work in gardens. Prisoners are trained in many aspects of horticulture and take great pride in how they improve the general prison environment. A new polytunnel has been purchased to extend the range of garden activity.

9.8 Various new walls around flower bed areas are being built and these should add to the general appearance of the prison.

9.9 New grass cutting equipment has provided employment and training for prisoners.

9.10 Sperrin

Sperrin has two wings, each with a total of eight dormitories, accommodating a total of 64 prisoners.

9.11 The facilities were set up as a half way house to Foyle View due to pressure of Prisoner numbers. Prisoners accommodated in Sperrin tend to be old age, infirm and most likely sex offenders. Their age and offence limits their opportunities to attend a range of educational and vocational training courses. However, new work opportunities are being explored. Whilst appreciating financial constraints under which we all work, IMB are concerned at the continued use of dormitory style accommodation for elderly-type inmates. This type of accommodation goes against the concept of single-cell accommodation for all prisoners.

9 | Resettlement

9.12 Foyleview

Foyleview is the resettlement unit of Magilligan Prison. It is semi-open and accommodates up to 82 prisoners nearing the end of their sentences. Foyleview's purpose is to prepare prisoners for release, minimise risk of re-offending and help them reintegrate successfully into the community. An important aspect of this is addressing prisoners' needs in education, employment, accommodation and where relevant reinstatement in the family.

9.13 To this end, prisoners are all engaged in community work or in the work shops in prison. These works include sign making, embroidery, picture framing, making computer designed badges and logos. Other employment includes gardening, grounds maintenance, orderlies' work, catering work and recycling.

9.14 Foyleview comprises five "portacabin" style buildings which contain bedrooms small kitchen and shower / toilet area. Three of these buildings are in use for 30 years and are in urgent need of replacement. The two newer buildings are in acceptable condition. There is also the larger communal "Cunningham" building which has the canteen, games room and television lounge. This is particularly in need of replacement. The condition and style of accommodation impacts on all the work and activities of the unit, the need for refurbishment is clear.

9.15 However, in spite of these drawbacks, much valuable work is being undertaken in Foyleview. Following the untimely death of the Principal Officer in charge of Foyleview, a comprehensive review was carried out in the autumn of 2007 by another two Principal Officers. This is a far sighted and detailed document which, if implemented, will ensure that the good work being done in Foyleview is built on and extended and that the physical environment and staffing structures are commensurate with this.

9.16 New wooden flooring has been provided and fitted by prisoners to each bedroom and there are proposals to provide three new classrooms, a new canteen, reception and visits area. Foyleview is now set up as a separate functional unit and at present the Governor is considering reorganising staff to permit Foyleview to have its own staffing complement and therefore consistency of business delivery. Two additional instructors have been added to the Foyleview staffing complement. It is hoped that Foyleview will continue to make a very important and valued contribution to the work of rehabilitation of prisoners in Magilligan Prison.

9 | Resettlement

9.17 Alpha Compound

A new 50-room accommodation unit was ready for occupation in February 2008. Alpha will serve as an assessment unit for prisoners wishing to transfer to the semi-open Foyleview in preparation for release and also accommodates some sex offenders. The working day is organised around all Alpha prisoners going to Education, Vocational Training or Gym, with only a small number of prisoner orderlies remaining within the Unit.

9.18 At present there are forty-five prisoners in the unit. All prisoners dine in a communal area regardless of offence. The IMB welcomes this new provision which includes a games room with up to date equipment.

9.19 Probation

The Probation Board for Northern Ireland provide services in relation to offenders both inside and outside the prison.

9.20 Probation and the prison services work closely in the delivery of Offending Behavioural Programmes and are an integral partner within the programmes delivery unit. They are actively involved in carrying out prisoner risk assessments and participate in the MASRAM process. Risk Assessments are carried out on all prisoners at various stages of their sentence and IMB believe that if the quality of service is to be maintained with the increasing prison population, additional staff will be required. IMB commend Probation staff on their commitment to delivery of prisoner programmes within Magilligan.



10 | Local Steering Group

- 10.1** This Group, chaired by the Resettlement Governor, meets every two months and is attended by representatives from Education, Training and Employment, Resettlement / Programmes, Probation, Psychology, Northlands, Gymnasium, Hospital, Induction and IMB.
- 10.2** The group identify and address problematic issues and oversees the preparation of resolutions. This multi – agency approach has proved to be effective with positive comments being made by many visitors to the establishment.
- 10.3** IMB are aware and support plans to review all programmes being delivered. Currently Magilligan has a target of 87% of prisoners on a resettlement plan within 3 months and are achieving a figure of 93%. A target figure for prisoners on programmes is set at 70% and Magilligan are achieving 87%. These business figures are very commendable and IMB congratulate all those involved in resettlement and programmes.

11 | Equality and Diversity Meeting

- 11.1** Diversity is about all the differences between individuals in the work place and the wider community. Those differences are represented by the experiences, backgrounds and beliefs of colleagues, prisoners and their families, and the wider community we all serve.
- 11.2** The Governor and senior management team look at differences in a positive way to see how they can harness and use the wide range of talent and ability available to create new attitudes and better ways of working. Valuing and encouraging diversity helps create an environment which is inclusive and supportive. An increased awareness of diversity issues impacts positively on attitudes and behaviours within staff and the prisoner population.
- 11.3** These meetings recommenced and are held bi-monthly and IMB welcomes this. These meetings are very useful, both in fulfilling Criminal Justice guidelines, and in providing detailed information on prisoner profiles. The meeting is chaired by a governor and attended by a multi-agency team.
- 11.4** There is a low percentage of foreign nationals within Magilligan at present; however this may increase in the future. A dedicated Principal Officer has been nominated to liaise between the prison establishment and Foreign Embassies and Consulates to ensure respective foreign national prisoners are managed in a caring and meaningful way.

12 | Appendix

12.1 Members of Board

Mrs Joan Doherty **(Chair)**

Mr John Richardson **(Vice Chair)**

Mr Robert Armitage

Mrs Margaret Campbell

Mrs Rosemary Craig

Miss Jodi Harte

Mrs Irene Johnston

Mr Samuel Mc Gregor

Mr Michael Mc Ivor

Mr Clarke Mc Laughlin

Mr Joseph Mitchell

Mr Thomas Kerrigan

Mrs Frances Rose Symington

Mrs Valerie Von Hoff

Mr Brian Collins

Mrs Rae Morrison

Mr Cormac Wilson

Mr Gordon Ramsey



