



**INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19
MAGHABERRY PRISON**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Mission Statement	3
UK National Preventive Mechanism	4
Chairperson's Introduction	5
Overview of Establishment	6
Areas of Interest	
1. Safety	7
2. Equality and Fairness	9
3. Segregation/Care and Separation Unit	10
4. Accommodation (including communications)	12
5. Healthcare (including mental health and social care)	13
6. Education and Other Purposeful Activity	15
7. Work, Vocational Training and Employment	17
8. Resettlement Preparations	18
9. Chaplaincy	19
10. Reception and Induction	19
11. Separated Prisoners	20
12. Tuck Shop	21
13. Visits	21
14. Those awaiting deportation and extradition	22
Board Members 2018-19	23

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 Maghaberry 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 of the Department of Justice.

The Board is required to:

- visit Maghaberry 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 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 will have free access 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 states, in the exercise of any of its powers, a Board shall satisfy itself, in consultation with the governor, that the exercise of power 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.

Maghaberry Prison requires IMB members to give 24 hours' notice to access the prison during night visits.

UK NATIONAL PREVENTIVE MECHANISM

The Independent Monitoring Board 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 of the Independent Monitoring Board for Maghaberry Prison for the period 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019. For the purpose of this report, the Independent Monitoring Board shall be referred to as the IMB and 'the Board' shall refer to those members of the Maghaberry Board.

During this reporting year, the Board has noted an improvement within the prison. This improvement was reflected in the latest CJINI inspection.

The introduction of the Core Day - a more structured approach to education and greater focus on reducing the amount of drugs coming into the prison - has contributed to this improvement. Whilst we accept there will always be incidents, these are much less frequent and fortunately less serious than some years ago. This change was initiated by the previous management team and continues to be implemented by the current management team.

The recent recruitment of new IMB members has proven to be a great success with five new members fully operational from April 01st 2019. This brings the total number of IMB members to ten. The additional members allows us to continue to fulfil our statutory obligations, respond to prisoner requests and attend various meetings within the prison.

I would like to pay tribute to the invaluable contribution of our two retiring members, Valerie McConnell and Margaret McCauley who have completed their terms of office. I wish to thank my fellow board members for their support during the year and acknowledge the time and effort they give to what can be a difficult and challenging role. I would like to thank the Governors and all the staff within Maghaberry for the assistance they give to all IMB members and for being so readily approachable when members have issues they wish to discuss. Finally, I would like to thank the IMB Secretariat staff; they have consistently provided me with much needed support through some difficult times over the year and they continue to provide all Board Members with much encouragement, assistance and guidance – often without acknowledgement. They carry out important administrative processes effectively and efficiently and strive to offer as much help and direction as they can. The role of IMB chair/member would be a very difficult role to fulfil without the support of the Secretariat.

Ian Hackney

IMB Maghaberry Chairperson

OVERVIEW OF ESTABLISHMENT

Maghaberry is a high security, Category A prison establishment. Over the past year, the average monthly occupancy has been around 850 male prisoners at various stages of the criminal justice process ranging from Remands, Sentenced and some with Sentence Served who are awaiting deportation or extradition. The type of the sentences of those prisoners held at Maghaberry range from Category A to Category D, as well as a number of 'separated' prisoners from Loyalist and Republican backgrounds.

There are 11 accommodation units, 10 of which are operational (Foyle House is closed), and a Care and Supervision Unit. Amongst these units are four Separated Landings which house those prisoners who have requested - and who have been accepted - to enter the Separated Regime.

The prison also has a Working-out Unit situated on the old Crumlin Road Gaol site in Belfast; this is called Burren House.

AREAS OF INTEREST

1. SAFETY

During this reporting period, the IMB notes with regret, the deaths in custody of four prisoners at Maghaberry. We extend our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of these prisoners. Prisoners have talked to the IMB about how difficult it is to be in a cell located near to where a person has passed away and have described how they can hear everything that is going on. In addition, some prisoners have talked very eloquently about how they feel when one of their group dies, particularly if the prisoner has been in a specific area for a long period. As part of our role, IMB members have attended a number of debriefs related to the deaths and other serious incidents, have contributed to the Prison Ombudsman's investigations and given written evidence to the Coroner. Due to ongoing Prisoner Ombudsman investigations, we are unable to provide any further comment on the deaths.

The Board can report significant progressive changes in the field of safer custody. Recognition has been provided to the NIPS on the importance of the Prisoner Safety and Support Team within Maghaberry. This initially very small unit has now been elevated to a team that includes a governor, two senior officers (SO) as well as other experienced staff. One of the senior officers now chairs the majority of Supporting People at Risk (SPAR) case reviews, which brings a greater level of consistency to the process.

The weekly Prisoner Safety and Support (PSS) team meetings allow a multi-disciplinary group – made up of representatives from the Trust, the Chaplaincy, senior officers from individual houses, the IMB (when available) and Probation staff (when they have information to share) – to collectively discuss how best to help those prisoners with complex needs, or those who give cause for concern. The Board would like to acknowledge the great level of professionalism apparent in these weekly meetings and commends the work of the PSS Team. Staff from this unit has been extremely co-operative with the IMB and are always willing to listen to any concerns raised by individuals we have encountered on our daily visits to the prison. We are aware of their heavy workload, and commend the positive relationships they have built up with some individuals who present challenging behaviours.

The monthly Strategic Safety Custody meetings are well prepared and information shared with relevant agencies. The best attended monthly meeting was that held during the last thematic inspection, when one of the CJINI inspectors was present.

The SPAR process is designed to identify and support those individuals who are deemed to be at risk of self-harm, depression, suicidal ideation, or who have complex medical or physical health needs. Within the last year a new element of the SPAR process - SPAR Evolution (SPAR EVO) is being rolled out; the aim of this is to refine the SPAR process and ensure that those most in need of support, receive appropriate support. Unfortunately, due to the nature of the timings of SPAR reviews during the reporting year (i.e. they have been held when a nurse is available and are therefore opportunistic with no specific times or notice given) the IMB have found it difficult to attend and monitor SPAR reviews. Of the SPAR reviews attended by IMB members, all were found to be extremely positive and very supportive of the individual prisoner. The new SPAR EVO process will include timetabled SPAR reviews which will be emailed daily to all interested parties and make IMB attendance at same more likely.

The Donard Centre is run by an experienced SO from the PSS Team and continues to flourish. The Board would like to highlight the variety of courses available in the Donard Centre which continues to accept, for short periods over lunch, individuals whose behaviour poses challenges in areas such as the CSU. This facility allows such individuals to have a respite from the solitary existence that they currently have.

The Samaritans continue to support the Listener service and there have been new recruits during the reporting period. However, it has been more difficult to recruit in the main site. It often happens that shortly after finishing their training, a Listener can be transferred to Magilligan leaving an immediate gap in the service. This has been highlighted at the Strategic Custody meetings.

Drugs remain a constant problem, despite NIPS success in their detection and cessation of certain drug routes. There have been greater attempts to introduce drugs into the prison through visits. Prisoners will admit to being asked to bring illicit materials back from home leave or compassionate bail and consequently, some prisoners often make the decision not to take their home leave visits. During the reporting year, a number of prisoners have been admitted to external hospitals following packages of drugs - secreted internally –starting to leak leading to potentially serious medical problems. IMB members have been shown photographic evidence of the sheer volume of drugs that individuals are capable of smuggling internally. The overall number of drugs-related incidents has fallen, which has resulted in a more stable environment; incidents in general have diminished as are instances of bullying. Drugs bullying tends to be in relation to debts which are incurred through drug misuse and prisoners on legally prescribed medication being bullied to hand over their supply, if they are not on ‘supervised swallow’.

As a Board we believe that the prison is now in a safer and more stable environment than previously. There are focus and information groups for all prisoners in Maghaberry, set up specifically to raise prisoners' awareness of drug dangers. Alcohol and Drugs: Empowering People through Therapy (AD:EPT) run a SMART Recovery Course which consists of 12 prisoners in a Monday Group and 12 prisoners in a Friday group. This course is run in a similar manner as Alcohol Anonymous but differs because prisoners are given two chances; it is a 'roll on, roll off' system and they can be there as long as they want to be there and can come back anytime. AD:EPT also host meetings every few weeks to discuss any changes or patterns in drugs that are readily available. AD:EPT run Building Skills for Recovery (BSR) which is a Home Office approved course. There is also Naloxone training to which prisoners can be referred to and this is ongoing. Alcoholics Anonymous come into the prison every Monday, Wednesday and Friday and prisoners are allowed to attend as many sessions as they want. They are never turned away.

The Board notes an improvement in the reduction in waiting time lists for the services of AD:EPT. From referral to assessment, the wait has been reduced to approximately four weeks. The assessment to allocation for casework, is now between one and two weeks. This will change on a weekly basis as it is dependent on staffing levels, what is happening in the community and quantity of inductions.

Point of Concern

- IMB recognises the damage to individuals and others of the continued use of illegal drugs coming into the prison and the misuse of prescribed drugs. We are aware of efforts to reduce and minimise the harm caused by such activity and will continue to monitor closely.

2. EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS

The IMB members continue to attend the regular meetings of Equality and Diversity Committee. At these meetings, the members comment on the data presented and endeavour to refine and seek to make the data more meaningful. A number of complaints, 132 logged on PRISM, alleging discrimination were made under the Section 75 categories of Northern Ireland Act and 11 were upheld.

IMB are concerned at the accuracy and relevance of some of the data presented to the Equality and Diversity Committee. We are disappointed that longitudinal data, which is the best mechanism for identifying and rectifying any perceptions of bias and prejudice is still not

available in a format which makes it easy to identify trends. The prisoners who attend Equality and Diversity meetings make a very important contribution. Towards the year end they indicated that they were withdrawing for a period, with the exception of a sole representative, to consider their continued input. IMB are concerned at the absence of this lived experience.

IMB are disappointed that the final draft of the QUB research, led by Dr Michelle Butler, on 'Explaining Disparities in Prisoner Outcomes in Maghaberry' is not yet available.

Points of Concern

- The withdrawal of prisoner representatives from the Equality meetings must be addressed and resolved so that they re-engage in a timely manner.
- IMB are disappointed at the failure to see, in this reporting year, the final draft of the 'Explaining Disparities in Prisoner Outcomes in Maghaberry' report.

3. SEGREGATION – CARE AND SUPERVISION UNIT (CSU)

The definition of solitary confinement (Mandela Rules) is:

'For the purpose of these rules, Solitary Confinement shall refer to the confinement of prisoners for 22 hours or more a day, without meaningful human contact. Prolonged solitary confinement shall refer to solitary confinement for a period of time in excess of 15 consecutive days'.

The Care and Supervision Unit (CSU) exists to hold prisoners outside their normal location within the prison, for a number of reasons. The placement under Prison Rule 32 is mainly for the good order and discipline within the prison or, for the prisoner's own safety or on suspicion of holding illegal items which can be based on security intelligence or dog led. All Rule 32 case conferences and adjudications are held in the CSU. The occupancy rate within the CSU can be as high as 27. There are a number of 'dry' cells for the purpose of retrieving illegal substances/items.

Maghaberry IMB members have attended 98% of the Rule 32 case conferences (almost 600 in total) held during the reporting period. In the few instances of an IMB member not being available to attend, the paperwork pertaining to the case conference has been checked over at the first available opportunity. IMB members have and will continue to challenge any extension of a Rule 32 if they believe the extension is not warranted or could be looked upon as a punishment.

Following a Judicial Review, all Rule 32s are reviewed weekly. The review is 'in house' carried

out by the governor with responsibility for the CSU. The Board have a statutory duty to attend all R32 case conferences and we may attend the weekly review. IMB is of the opinion that the R32 panel review meetings should be recorded in much the same way as adjudications. We believe that having a recording of the R32 review could clarify any disparity if challenged. The Oversight group, highlighted in last year's annual report, continues to meet. Unfortunately, up-to-date minutes have not been readily available which can be problematic as some of the information contained therein, could be relevant to the R32 case conference decision. The Oversight group is attended by the Board's Chairperson.

IMB Members have achieved a 100% weekly visit rate to prisoners in the CSU. Each prisoner is seen, cells observed and individuals are asked if they have anything they wish to discuss with the board member carrying out the check. IMB believe that the CSU should be used as a last resort and consequently, our monitoring of it is conducted with this in mind, i.e. fewer prisoners held under R32 and as little time as possible should be spent in the CSU. We have asked that for the occasions where a prisoner cannot attend a scheduled review (he might be on a visit or at court) it be extended for a minimal period only so that he can attend in person.

A high portion of prisoners held in the CSU are there on suspicion of holding illegal substances or items on their person. The IMB now obtains a list of those held in CSU and the reason for their detention every month. This allows us to consider, as a Board, if the suspicion has been well founded or if someone has been placed in CSU without sufficient or reliable evidence. Whilst it is unlikely suspicion could be proven in 100% of cases, the IMB would not expect it to exceed 50%. We were concerned to find that over a three month period, only 35% of those held on suspicion, actually produced a 'find'. IMB will closely monitor these statistics to ensure that prisoners are not being held under R32 without adequate grounds for suspicion. Body cameras are worn by staff and activated during all interactions with prisoners in the CSU.

A small number of prisoners who foul their cells are managed in the CSU under the NIPS Faecal Contamination policy. Appropriate health and safety measures are in place; cells are deep cleaned regularly and prisoners are given every opportunity to desist from this behaviour. IMB members visit such individuals during their weekly visit to the CSU.

IMB note that generally relationships between staff and prisoners are good and there is some good practice. However, some situations arise that concern us and these have been drawn to the Governors' attention. We commend the manner in which staff work with those prisoners who are difficult to engage. It should be noted that complaints to IMB from prisoners held within the CSU remain low.

We note the efforts made, by both NIPS and the South Eastern Trust, to work with those prisoners who resist efforts to be returned to the prison population in a timely manner and risk becoming institutionalised in the CSU. We have witnessed some of these prisoners being successfully re-integrated into the prison population without regression of their mental well-being, or any other person's safety.

IMB members have observed a number of adjudications, despite the absence of any training in this process. The number of adjudications continues to remain at a much lower level than in previous years. We struggle to come to any definitive conclusion about the adjudication process due to lack of time, absence of training and no data. We believe that the appeal mechanism available, review by a second Governor, is inadequate and not transparent.

Points of Concern

- The high level of persons placed on Rule 32 solely on grounds of suspicion of being in possession of drugs and subsequently nothing is found.
- We have a concern that the appeals process in adjudications is both inadequate and not transparent.
- IMB members require training on the adjudication process.
- IMB will require monthly returns on adjudications, similar to that provided on R32's, to enable us properly monitor the consistency of the overall process as opposed to commenting on one off observations.

4. ACCOMMODATION (including communication)

Maghaberry Prison has capacity to accommodate 1021 male prisoners and the population as of 31 March 2019 was 810. Little has changed by way of accommodation within the prison site. Currently prisoners are accommodated, in the main site, in a mix of old 'square houses' - Bann, Lagan and Erne - and the more modern Bush, Roe, Quoile and Shimna houses. The Moyola wing, healthcare and CSU are also located in this part of the complex whilst the Mourne complex has two newer accommodation units.

The Board has observed the building of the new 360 accommodation block – Davis House, progress. This facility is due to open later in 2019 and will accommodate most of the prisoners currently housed in the old square houses. This new block will provide more satisfactory and modern accommodation. Once the building work is completed on Davis House, the ground surrounding it will be landscaped.

There is a rolling maintenance programme and efforts are being made to brighten up the site with ongoing painting and decorating. This includes new murals in the area known as the 'Wembley Tunnel', - the long corridor that leads to Visits and Healthcare. Attractive gardens are situated in the Mourne complex, and well stocked and tended planters are placed throughout the entire Maghaberry site.

The Board would comment positively on the outside area in Moyola. In addition to the large polytunnel - which produced a fantastic selection of vegetables and strawberries, there are raised vegetable and flower beds, and a very pleasant seating area surrounded by plants. On behalf of a group of prisoners, the IMB asked if a shelter could be provided that would allow people to sit outside in the cooler/wet weather. Appreciation should therefore be conveyed to the Governor for organising the building of this shelter within a week of our request. This has certainly enhanced the outside space in Moyola, which is very important to this group of prisoners who have no access to anywhere else in the prison.

Some of the prisoners have asked that space for a garden is created – somewhere they could go to sit, reflect and remember fellow prisoners, or family members who have passed away. The IMB believe that this is something that could be further explored.

Point of Concern

- IMB note that there is spare capacity in accommodation and would urge NIPS to explore the potential of utilising this resource to further enhance the range of opportunities to meet prisoner needs in education, health care and work by extending various programmes or initiating new programmes.

5. HEALTHCARE (including mental health and social care)

The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (The Trust) continues to provide health care services within Maghaberry prison. As noted in last year's report, we see a continued drive to promote well-being and a greater emphasis on social prescribing to achieve this end.

Additional occupational therapy, dietetic, music and art therapy staff have been recruited. There has been a positive response and uptake of these therapeutic interventions and when they are combined with the various sports organisations and coaching sessions including rugby, soccer and Gaelic games, a much more pro-active, participative and team building environment evolves which contributes to the physical and mental health wellbeing and improvement for those who engage.

There continues to be huge disparity between prisoners' self-reported disabilities and those with disabilities as identified by the Trust. IMB have not been made aware, nor have we seen, any detriment to prisoners presenting with disabilities.

People in custody with complex health conditions continue to live in the Moyola Unit which provides a more therapeutic environment than what is available elsewhere on site. The provision of end-of-life care within the prison, including appropriate transfers e.g. to a hospice continues to pose challenges to healthcare and prison staff, as well as to people in custody and their families. Whilst end of life care is not a regular occurrence on this site, healthcare staff endeavour to work with secondary care providers and NIPS to ensure appropriate flow of information to ensure best patient outcomes.

The regional shortage of nursing staff across Northern Ireland continues to be felt within the prison. To meet this challenge, the Trust is seeking alternative solutions by employing Medicines Management Technicians (MMTs) who will be involved in the direct administration of medication. This is not only a new role in Primary Health Care but also a first across the Trust and NI as a whole.

The promotion of screening services and sexual health clinics, including hepatitis screening/treatment and radiology services are available on site. Pain management, enabling patients to take control of their own self-medication is an integral part of both managing conditions and continuing towards rehabilitation and personal recovery.

As in previous years, the Board draws attention to the significant proportion of people in custody who have mental health problems, substance/alcohol misuse and often both. In addition, there are a number of individuals diagnosed with a personality disorder. Personality disorders still do not come under the ambit of the Mental Health Order in Northern Ireland. Challenges are ongoing for healthcare and NIPS in terms of management of this client group. Risk-taking and impulsive behaviour are indicative traits of their condition. As a board, we acknowledge the amount of care, compassion and understanding shown to these individuals.

The needs of the growing number of elderly prisoners have been recognised by both the Trust and NIPS. A seminar was held in December 2018 by the Human Rights Commission to look at the provision of support within the criminal justice system for such individuals. At present, most of the older prisoners with mobility and other support needs live in Moyola, although this is not a unit specifically dedicated for this group. Dementia is another condition that has been identified

in the Maghaberry population and appropriate arrangements continue to evolve to manage those with this diagnosis. The Healthcare Team are pro-active in linking with community teams to provide in-reach support as appropriate.

Points of Concern

- IMB continue to be concerned about the recruitment and retention of staff and funding available for healthcare provision.
- IMB have some concerns about availability of prescription medication, for example in those cases where:
 - (i) there is a removal of medication and
 - (ii) supervised swallow is withdrawn.

6. EDUCATION AND OTHER PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITY

Learning and Skills within the NIPS continues to be provided in partnership with Belfast Metropolitan College (BMC). Its focus has been to engage with more prisoners, try to keep more prisoners in education and help them to achieve as many qualifications as they can.

Each prisoner is assessed on arrival to prison to determine their essential skill level in literacy and numeracy. They are encouraged to partake in these courses as part of their overall resettlement programme. Approximately one third of the prisoners arriving in Maghaberry have literacy and numeracy skills which are the equivalent of P1/P2 in the community. In conjunction with NIPS, BMC accredited courses cover such diverse subjects as: bricklaying, joinery, painting & decorating, plastering & tiling, industrial cleaning, catering, food hygiene, horticulture and hairdressing along with the Essential Skills, some of which is part-funded by Department for the Economy. Art remains a much sought after subject as well. There is a six week catering course that provides a total of 14 awards on completion of the various sections as well as pottery and ceramics.

It is encouraging that NIPS and BMC are reaching out to some of the more marginalised groups within the prison. This includes running classes during the period of evening association for those vulnerable prisoners who may not be able to attend normal day classes.

Every quarter, the BMC hold an award ceremony to recognise achievements and the Board would like to acknowledge the effort and dedication both BMC and NIPS staff put into vocational and educational courses.

Numerous courses are available from a range of different voluntary agencies as well as BMC

and NIPS to help sentenced prisoners address issues that may have led to their offending in the first instance. Some of these courses include: Drug and Alcohol Awareness; Gaining Opportunities and Living Skills (GOALS); Resolve (for violent offenders); Alcohol Related Violence (ARV); Horizon (aimed at reducing offending) and Building Better Relationships. Other programmes include a Motivational Enhancement Group; Cognitive Self Change & Enhanced Thinking Skills.

There is an impressive range of accreditations across the board with almost two thousand each year at all levels. In the current year, a number of prisoners have achieved A* at A Level Art, 30 prisoners are working towards a degree with the Open University and an Honours Degree in Sports Science has been awarded. A number of prisoners succeeded in gaining employment on release courtesy of a Job Fair whilst others have had offers of employment in the construction industry when they are released.

Over the reporting year, the sport and recreation facilities have continued to be used extensively by all prisoners. The gym facilities are excellent. There is also exercise equipment in some houses and an outdoor gym for Moyola. The Sport and Recreation department provides a range of sessions, programmes and courses including resistance training, cardiovascular training, circuit training, indoor cycling, badminton, bowls, indoor tennis, soccer and walking. Programmes include individual health appraisals, introduction to all aspects of training and advice to inmates on their nutritional needs and wellbeing. Courses that are provided are Level 2 in Fitness Instructing, Manual Handling and First Aid. During the past year, partnerships have been formed with the IFA, GAA, IRFU and the Belfast Community Sports Development Network who carry out coaching sessions. IMB would wish to encourage and support continued funding for this activity for the longer term. The Board receives no complaints with regard to sport and recreation. This is due to the high quality of diverse programmes on offer, which are designed to cater for all inmates irrespective of age or fitness level. It is also a testament to the commitment of the PE staff.

The Board are pleased to report that there are more opportunities for prisoners to participate in education or work. The regime is much more prisoner-focussed than in previous years. There is a greater emphasis on prisoners being up and out of their cells and doing something constructive whether education, gym, or other work. The Board acknowledges that there are still not enough outlets by way of work, education or courses for the number of prisoners wishing to participate.

7. WORK, VOCATIONAL TRAINING and EMPLOYMENT

It can be difficult to have meaningful employment for all those prisoners who wish to avail of it but there are a wide variety of work opportunities available including: gardens, kitchens, laundry, and recycling, power-washing, wheelchair-refurbishment, valeting of prison vans in Mourne, painting, tuck shop, stores and orderly work. The staff and prisoners in the garden section of Mourne also make bird boxes, feeders and garden furniture that are sold to staff and other organisations.

The catering facility at the prison is a fairly recent build. The quality of the food served meets specifications. Every effort is made with the menus to try and accommodate all diverse cultural and religious needs. Prisoners have an opportunity through meetings of the Prisoner Forum to address comments or complaints with the Catering Manager. Staffing in the unit includes 30 prisoners who are drawn from across the population and reflect the various cultures in the prison. Prisoners enjoy working in the kitchen and on the serving areas in the houses. Delivery of the meal trolleys from the kitchen to all the houses continues to be carried out by those selected inmates who are given permission to work unaccompanied; this continues to work well.

The Board is pleased to note that a training programme is in operation where prisoners can avail of NVQ accredited training in Food Safety and Hygiene. To date, 50 prisoners have achieved these qualifications. The Board is also pleased to note that some former inmates are now working full-time in the catering industry. This year also saw 64 catering students taking part in a very successful 'Bake Off' which was judged by Michael Deane.

Prisoners also make tray bakes for sale in the canteen with the proceeds going to a charity of their choice. Since opening around three years ago, prison catering staff and prisoners have raised approximately £15,000 for charity.

Maghaberry workshops provide a range of work and vocational training which can lead to qualifications and employment on release. There is an accredited electrical workshop and a Light Engineering Workshop in the Mourne Complex as well as a very busy recycling area and a wheelchair refurbishment project that sends approximately 200/300 wheelchairs abroad to a charity each month.

A specialised area is the Braille Unit which teaches prisoners a valuable skill that can be used by outside organisations or individuals who want a book translated into Braille. The Unit provides colourful children's books which have both Braille and writing – thus enabling a sighted

person to read and a child to follow. The Unit has also provided Braille maps for various towns and Braille hymn books and bibles for churches.

The garden areas within the prison are run by dedicated members of staff and continue to be a popular working area for prisoners. The IMB continue to recommend that goods and plants produced here should be available for sale, probably in the area of the visitors centre.

There is a hairdressing studio in the Education Unit and the prisoners make appointment and attend daily sessions.

8. RESETTLEMENT PREPARATION

There are four key aims for the PREPS system:

- To encourage and reward a prisoner's commitment to the completion of his Offender Management Plan through participation in activities such as education, offending behaviour programmes, training, work placements and other constructive activities in the course of addressing offending behaviour.
- To encourage pro-social behaviour within the prison and to contribute to a better controlled, safer and healthier environment for prisoners and staff based on mutual respect.
- To prepare prisoners for release on licence or otherwise and to develop improved citizenship qualities and self-worth for effective and safe reintegration into the community.
- To reduce the potential for further offending.

PREPS is currently under review and will be known as PREPS Digitalisation Policy. To date the IMB have not had sight of any proposed changes.

The Prisoner Development Unit (PDU) is responsible for devising and monitoring the implementation of a Personal Development Plan for every prisoner. This plan has identified individual training needs, sources opportunities for the prisoner and identifies service providers. Where external agencies are the nominated provider their activity is monitored by the resettlement unit. Life sentence prisoners are based in Maghaberry and participate on various pre-release schemes in Burren House - houses where approximately twenty prisoners are accommodated on the final phase of their sentences prior to release. This unit works very well as the prisoners - whilst working, and occasionally living, in the community are strictly monitored

by staff and subject to frequent random checks to ensure they are adhering to their agreed terms and conditions.

A successful and efficient resettlement programme minimises the risk of a prisoner reoffending on release. With no supportive network in place on release, prisoners with poor coping skills frequently reoffend in order to return to prison which they regard as a 'safe' option or environment. The Resettlement team in Maghaberry work with various groups within the prison, but also rely heavily on working alongside many outside agencies. The Board acknowledges the support given by all the associated agencies in trying to provide a focused and detailed resettlement package for prisoners. The team works with both sentenced and remand prisoners, but given the number of prisoners currently held, spaces on programmes are limited.

Family support is essential for successful resettlement, so child-centred visits and the work undertaken by the Family Liaison Team and the Quakers are invaluable. The Board commends the work done by the NIPS in setting up Family Matters, which is based in Braid House.

Prisoners on the landing in Braid House get longer visits with their children and have facilities where they can prepare food for their family. These visits are very informal and are an excellent opportunity for children to spend time with their father in a more relaxed surrounding than the normal prison visit. Other support staff are on hand to talk to and support partners / wives of prisoners.

9. CHAPLAINCY

The Chaplaincy continues to provide a great service for the prison. The ecumenical approach in its day to day working for prisoners' needs is to be applauded.

In relation to practical operation of the chaplaincy, IMB have highlighted the continued failure to properly address administrative support. This present situation has been going on for far too long now and the short-term solutions often leave the NIPS exposed - especially in relation to vulnerable prisoners. This needs to be recognised and addressed as a matter of urgency.

Point of Concern

- NIPS need to recognise and find a permanent solution to this administrative difficulty as interim measures have not provided consistency or reliability.

10. RECEPTION AND INDUCTION

A snapshot of one month's 'First Night in Custody Vulnerability' breakdown reveals that of 264 committals in that month:

- 62% were drug users;

- 14% had drug and alcohol withdrawal;
- 45% had a history of self-harm; and
- 37% were subject to mental health support in the community.

It is concerning that there have been no specialist addiction team nurses available for some time. We understand that recruitment for such posts is under way. It means that a prisoner who is already on a substitute prescribing programme will continue to receive this therapy but any prisoner who comes into prison with, for example, a heroin addiction, and not in receipt of substitute therapy, will have to go 'cold turkey' which is distressing for a prisoner to go through as well as distressing for staff and all others, including IMB, working in the prison environment to observe.

The Reception area is where prisoners arrive at the prison. Those arriving for the first time can be nervous and apprehensive so the Board commends the reception staff for their calm and professional manner which helps put the new arrivals at ease. Prisoners are initially interviewed by staff at reception, searched and reviewed by a member of Healthcare staff. Every committal is met, either in reception by a peer mentor or, if they arrive late to custody, they are met the next day.

When prisoners leave the reception area, they are taken to Bann House for induction - which usually lasts a few weeks. Induction programme includes Fire Safety, Gym Induction, Educational Assessment by Learning and Skills, AD:EPT Induction and an awareness of Housing Rights, Samaritan Listeners Scheme, Family Officer Induction and Barnardo's Family Matters, plus a meeting with a member of the prison chaplaincy team.

The Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NIACRO) is also involved in programmes for prisoners nearing the end of their sentence and to give advice in areas such as employability skills, CV writing, housing and benefits. NIACRO works with the Belfast Metropolitan College in a four week programme for prisoners nearing end of their sentence.

11. SEPARATED PRISONERS

Following the Steele Review in 2003, the UK Government accepted the recommendation that Republican and Loyalist prisoners with paramilitary affiliations should be housed separately from each other, and from the rest of the prisoner population on a voluntary basis within Maghaberry Prison.

The Board acknowledges that separated Republican and Loyalist prisoners benefit from a full regime like the rest of the prison population. The number of separated prisoners in both houses continues to decrease.

Educational opportunities for separated prisoners continues to improve and has been externally reviewed. Some prisoners are studying for an Open University Degree. IMB will follow up on the implementation of the recommendations from the external review in the coming year.

12. TUCK SHOP

The tuck shop remains a crucial and integral part of the prisons operation. It provides prisoners with extra products of their choosing by way of a weekly delivery. As previously reported, prisoners believe that tuck shop prices are high. The Board has been advised that prices are subject to contract which is reviewed annually. It will continue to monitor the situation. The IMB welcome the current initiative which is looking to increase prisoners' wages in order to meet the rising costs of items in the tuck shop.

13. VISITS

IMB recognise that Maghaberry Prison goes beyond Prison Rule 68 in relation to the prisoners receiving visits. Visits take place in the Main Visits area. As visitors arrive, they are subject to testing by a passive drug dog and at least three prison officers supervise the area. Visits are held six days a week, with several sessions per day taking place. In total, there are thirty two tables in integrated visits, which hold a maximum of three adults plus two children per table. Separated prisoners have their own area and take it in turn - mornings and afternoons for visits.

The visitors' arrival area endeavours to present a 'family friendly' image and during the summer holiday period, additional activities are organised for children. There are child-centre visits every Saturday for fathers to spend time with their children.

Visitors can leave money, personal items, etc. at the reception area as they are coming in for their visit. All items being brought in for the prisoner will be taken and searched before they actually reach the prisoner. This seems to be an ongoing problem over the years as there are recurring complaints regarding the time it takes for parcels to get from the Reception area to the prison.

Point of Concern

- IMB have asked NIPS to review the absence of shelter for visitors who have to walk from the visitor's centre to the prison. We observe young mothers pushing buggies or hand

holding toddlers as well as persons with a disability who do not have access to private transport, making this journey in inclement weather.

14. THOSE AWAITING DEPORTATION / EXTRADITION

A persistent issue is the inability of the Home Office to process, in a timely manner, the removal of sentenced prisoners from Maghaberry to detention facilities elsewhere while deportation orders are served or extradition proceedings are heard. NIPS can be required to hold onto these individuals for some time post sentence completion. This has caused disruptive behaviour and tension among other prisoners. Abrupt withdrawal of a deportation order on a Foreign National Prisoner within hours of sentence completion makes nonsense of Rehabilitation processes, not to mention release/discharge schedule for the individual. Such actions by a third party do not contribute to the humane treatment of prisoners and brings discredit on the offending party. It further compounds the already difficult task of the good running of a high security prison.

MAGHABERRY BOARD MEMBERS 1 APRIL 2018 - 31 MARCH 2019

IMB Member	Status	Appointed	Resigned/Term completed
Andrew Heyes	Member	10/06/13	29/08/18
Ian Hackney	Chair	01/04/16	
John Denvir	Member	01/04/16	
Lynn Nevin	Member	10/06/13	
Margaret McCauley	Member	05/07/10	31/03/19
Mary McMahan	Member	01/04/16	
Patrick McGonagle	Vice Chair	20/05/13	
Valerie McConnell	Member	05/07/10	31/03/19