



Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board at HMP Leeds

**For reporting years
January 2021 – December 2022**

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Introductory sections 1 - 3

1. Statutory role of the IMB

The Prison Act 1952 requires every prison to be monitored by an independent board appointed by the Secretary of State from members of the community in which the prison is situated.

Under the National Monitoring Framework agreed with ministers, the Board is required to:

- satisfy itself as to the humane and just treatment of those held in custody within its prison and the range and adequacy of the programmes preparing them for release
- inform promptly the Secretary of State, or any official to whom authority has been delegated as it judges appropriate, any concern it has
- report annually to the Secretary of State on how well the prison has met the standards and requirements placed on it and what impact these have on those in its custody.

To enable the Board to carry out these duties effectively, its members have right of access to every prisoner and every part of the prison and also to the prison's records.

The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) is an international human rights treaty designed to strengthen protection for people deprived of their liberty. The protocol recognises that such people are particularly vulnerable and aims to prevent their ill-treatment through establishing a system of visits or inspections to all places of detention. OPCAT requires that states designate a National Preventive Mechanism to carry out visits to places of detention, to monitor the treatment of and conditions for detainees and to make recommendations for the prevention of ill-treatment. The IMB is part of the United Kingdom's National Preventive Mechanism.

2. Description of the establishment

HMP Leeds is a category B local prison originally built in 1847 for approximately 600 men, women and children, although the operational capacity is now 1110 male prisoners (July 2021).¹ The prison serves men from the local community who are on remand or convicted by the West Yorkshire courts. It is situated on a main transport route overlooking the city centre which is approximately 1 mile away.

There are four Victorian and two modern wings which were added in 1990, one of which is dedicated to vulnerable prisoners. Another wing an incentivised drugs free living facility. There is also a complex care unit, a social needs unit, a first night wing and a segregation unit. Remand prisoners are not accommodated separately from those who are convicted.

¹ Figures included in this report are local management information. They reflect the prison's position at the time of reporting, but may be subject to change following further validation and therefore may not always tally with Official Statistics later published by the Ministry of Justice.

There is a multifaith centre, a gym, libraries and kitchens as well as workshops and educational facilities.

Healthcare is provided by Practice Plus Group.

Educational services are provided by Novus – Foundations for Change.

Estate management is provided by Amey.

Prisoner transport is the responsibility of Geo Amey.

Visitor facilities are provided by the charity Jigsaw.

Resettlement services include Catch 22 and Tempus Novo.

The prison population reflects the diverse community it serves. The majority of prisoners are in the 30 – 50 age range but there are significant numbers of older prisoners as well as younger men. The majority of prisoners are white British but about a quarter of prisoners come from black, Asian or other minority ethnic groups, including Travellers and non-British white men.

3. Executive summary

3.1 Background to the report

3.1.1 The Board was limited in its monitoring capabilities by both Covid restrictions at the beginning of the reporting period, and the number of IMB members (three at the end of the reporting period). This report reflects those limitations and therefore is not in-depth. Applications to the IMB have taken up the majority of our rota time, attendance at meetings and reviews has been very limited, and those areas that have not been monitored are not included in this report.

3.2 Main judgements

How safe is the prison?

3.2.1 Generally the IMB considers the prison to be a safe place for the prisoners detained within its walls. However, the number of self-inflicted deaths in custody during the reporting period is of concern and the IMB is aware that the prison takes this very seriously. Recommendations from the Prison and Probation Ombudsman's reports into deaths in custody have been accepted by the prison and any recommendations have been implemented.

3.2.2 There has been an uncommonly high number of incidents, particularly throughout 2022, where doors and gates have been left unsecured by staff, which poses a risk to the security of the establishment. Where they have been identified, those responsible have been given a verbal warning by the Governor. The IMB is informed that there is no-one who has had to be spoken to twice.

How fairly and humanely are prisoners treated?

3.2.3 Staff are expected to treat prisoners with care, dignity and respect and, for the most part, this expectation is met, even under the most trying of circumstances. It is noted though that a significant number of applications received by the IMB are related to the perceived behaviour of staff towards prisoners (e.g., staff being indifferent to their concerns, not responding to requests, speaking to prisoners

inappropriately etc.). Applications which could and should be dealt with by wing staff are often not followed through and prisoners are frustrated in their efforts to resolve issues.

3.2.4 Additionally, IMB members have observed staff members swearing both at prisoners and in general conversation. It does not set a good example to prisoners and falls short of the stated aim of treating people with respect. Board members who have witnessed this, have raised the matter with the Governor who has given assurances that this behaviour will not be tolerated.

3.2.5 As referred to in matters for the Minister below, the view of the Board is that sharing of small cells originally built for one and with limited access to fresh air, where prisoners must eat, sleep and use the toilet facility is both undignified and unhygienic. The Board is aware there is no resolution to this in the current accommodation unless the prison population falls significantly.

How well are prisoners' health and wellbeing needs met?

3.2.6 Healthcare, in all its forms, compares well with the service prisoners could expect in the community. Inspections have reported no significant issues with the delivery of healthcare in the prison. Covid saw the introduction of in-cell phones, which enabled triage appointments to be done via telephone rather than in clinics. Thus, clinic appointments are used more effectively for those who require face-to-face consultations. In respect of mental health provision, there appears to be an increasing number of prisoners who would perhaps be better placed in mental health facilities in the community, if such provision were available in sufficient quantity!

3.2.7 However, healthcare constitutes a significant number of the applications received by the IMB; usually the subject matter is medication. The IMB has built a good working relationship with healthcare managers and staff and we are confident that prisoners' concerns are dealt with in a timely and appropriate manner.

3.3 Main areas for development

TO THE MINISTER

3.3.1 Yet again, the IMB must raise the issue of inappropriate accommodation for prisoners. Sharing small cells that were built for single occupancy is difficult at the best of times. Prisoners sharing a cell with someone they do not get on with or have different values or beliefs from is often a recipe for trouble and prisoners have little or no choice about who they share a cell with. In some cases, this leads to threats, fights or assaults and prisoners can feel very fearful. Of course, this is the minority of prisoners and most do accept that this is how it has to be. Added to this is the ignominy of sharing toilet facilities within the confines of a small cell where meals are eaten.

3.3.2 Prisoners who are sentenced to indeterminate sentences for public protection (IPPs) remain in limbo regarding release dates and the ever present concern regarding recall to prison if they are released. The IMBs at Leeds and other prisons in the Yorkshire and Humber region have done some work looking at the overall situation for IPPs who are often bottom of the pile when it comes to undertaking offence related work or educational or vocational training because others with fixed release dates take priority. Thus, there is often little evidence to indicate a prisoner's reduction in risk, which adversely affects their chances of gaining release.

It is noted that during the preparation of this report, the government has looked at the situation of IPPs in prison and has concluded that, at this time, there will be no significant change to the current system, leaving IPP prisoners feeling that there is very little hope for them. The impact on their mental health remains to be seen but several IPP prisoners in Leeds have declared that they see no future for themselves.

3.3.3 There remain a significant number of men remanded or sentenced to prison with severe mental health issues. Prison staff, who are not trained mental health nurses, deal with these prisoners as best they can but prison is arguably not the right place in which these prisoners should be held. The continuing shortage of mental health places in the community indicates that this problem will not go away. Is the Minister able to confirm whether or not there are any plans for further diversion schemes to ensure that prisoners with mental health needs get the treatment and care they need outside of the prison system?

TO THE GOVERNOR

3.3.5 In respect of self-inflicted deaths in custody, is there more that could be done to reduce the likelihood of such incidents happening again?

Evidence sections 4 – 7

4. Safety

4.1 Reception and induction

4.1.1 Prisoners are received from West Yorkshire courts and from other prisons, and the reception area has clear procedures and facilities in place for checking property, reviewing prisoners' health and mental wellbeing and screening for illicit items that may be secreted about their person. Anyone found to be secreting an item will be taken directly to the segregation until such time as the scan is clear. This is a preventative measure to ensure that drugs or other illicit items are not taken into the wider prison where they could be used or distributed to others with all the attendant risks that may pose.

4.1.2 The Board's previous report raised the concern of short sentenced prisoners (i.e., those serving less than seven days) for whom prison serves only as a short disruption to their lives and cannot offer the opportunity to address change. The Minister's response in September 2021 indicated that, following plans outlined in the future regime design (FRD) project, there would be, amongst other initiatives, a bespoke unit on B wing to house short sentenced prisoners and that 'one-to-one support including additional support from the Probation Service' would be available, although this appeared to be aimed at those serving 10 months or less. Although this was implemented briefly, the pressures of the prison population and Operation Safeguard have meant that B wing has reverted to being a mainstream wing. Consequently the plight of short-term prisoners has not improved.

4.1.3 Induction for prisoners generally takes place the day after they are admitted, as the reception process can be lengthy and may run late into the evening. For most of 2021, induction took place in cell doorways to avoid the risk of spreading Covid and only returned to classroom groups towards the end of that year.

4.2 Suicide and self-harm, deaths in custody

4.2.1 Over the reporting period (2021 and 2022) there were 24 recorded deaths of prisoners at HMP Leeds. Of these, 14 were due to natural causes, seven were apparently self-inflicted and three were of unknown cause. All the deaths have been subject to investigation by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO) and final reports have been written for most of these. Recommendations have been made which have been accepted by the prison and the Board has monitored outcomes where it has been able to.

4.2.2 There were 627 acts of self-harm in 2021 and 547 in 2022 (down on the figure of 675 for 2020). Included in these figures are some prisoners who have self-harmed more than once. Reasons given for self-harm incidents include not having any vapes, not receiving medication, feeling depressed or having other mental health issues.

4.2.3 Listeners are trained by the Samaritans volunteer team at Leeds and can be called upon by prisoners needing support at all hours of the day or night. There is a constant need to train new listeners as prisoners in that post leave the prison either on transfer or at the end of their sentence.

4.3 Violence and violence reduction, self-isolation

4.3.1 In 2021 there were 200 prisoner-on-prisoner assaults, 132 prisoner-on-staff assaults and 627 incidents of self harm. 2022 saw an overall decrease in these figures with prisoner on prisoner assaults down to 177, prisoner on staff assaults 101 and self harm incidents 547. Prisoners are managed through challenge, support and intervention plans (CSIPs), safety intervention meetings (SIMs), mediation and the adjudication process.

4.4 Use of force

4.4.1 There has been no recorded use of batons or PAVA in the reporting period.

4.5 Preventing illicit items

4.5.1 One concern is that as the prevention of illicit drugs coming into the prison improves, there is a rise in the concealing and trading of prescribed medication. Officers supervising the prisoners at the pharmacy hatches must be alert to the likelihood of concealing medications and challenge prisoners where necessary.

5. Fair and humane treatment

5.1 Accommodation, clothing, food

5.1.1 The accommodation at HMP Leeds is dated and unsatisfactory. Prisoners have to share cells which have little access to fresh air. Windows are limited in how far they can open and cells can be either stiflingly hot in the summer months or very cold in winter. Toilets and handwash basins, although partitioned off from the main part of the cell, allow very little privacy for the men and it has long been a concern of the IMB that the facilities are in such close proximity to where the men have to eat their food (i.e: in their cells).

5.1.2 Each wing has sufficient showers for all the men to have a daily shower, although the time allowed is short if they have to make telephone calls, fill out applications etc within the same period. Wing cleaners ensure that showers are kept reasonably clean at all times.

5.1.3 Work to replace the roof on E and F wings began, finally, in 2022 after years of leakage in bad weather. It was not uncommon to find buckets to catch rain water on the stairs and on the ground floor of those wings with little regard for health and safety.

5.1.4 Personal clothing and prison issued uniform is laundered on the wing, whilst bedding and towels are sent via stores to HMP Wealstun for laundering. A big problem in 2022 was that a number of the washers and dryers on the wings were out of use, either needing replacement or new parts. This involved a large financial outlay and took some considerable time to be resolved. The IMB received several applications regarding this and men were increasingly frustrated at not having anywhere to either wash or dry their clothes, although there were arrangements for laundry to be done on other wings where possible.

5.1.4 Prisoners receive three meals per day. Food is cooked in the prison kitchens and transported to each wing in heated trolleys. Dietary requirements are catered for whether it be for religious, health or personal reasons. Prisoners get a good

selection of menu choices and each monthly menu is illustrated with diagrams for those whose first language is not English. There are no menus available in other languages.

5.1.5 Despite the very limited budget for meals for prisoners, the lack of a catering manager for most of 2021 and the difficulties posed by Covid restrictions in addition to the more recent rises in costs, the kitchens have produced over 3000 meals per day in the most trying of circumstances. The catering manager and his staff are to be commended and it is a testament to their work that the number of applications received by the IMB which relate to the meals provided has been negligible (2 in 2021 and just 1 in 2022). Portions are of a good size and waste appears to be minimal. Of some concern is the budget overspend, which we understand must be clawed back in the next financial year when every indication is that food prices will continue to rise.

5.2 Segregation

5.2.1 The segregation unit at HMP Leeds has capacity for 21 prisoners in total. There are two special accommodation cells (not used in the reporting years) and one constant watch cell. All cells have a toilet and handwash basin and there are separate shower facilities. There is a dedicated segregation staff team who are regularly praised for the work they do by the prisoners they are responsible for. Our observations recognise the positive attitude together with a robust approach to unacceptable behaviour which is demonstrated by staff on a daily basis. Adjudications are held in the unit daily.

5.2.2 As Covid restrictions have eased, IMB members have been able to monitor the work of the segregation unit more closely. All men are seen daily by the duty governor, healthcare staff and chaplaincy. The IMB sees and speaks with all men on the unit at least once per week although there are very few issues raised with us. As stated in our last report, there are men with serious mental health issues who wait significant periods of time for transfer to more suitable accommodation. Where it is appropriate, they may be moved to the complex care unit but, whilst this can offer a greater degree of interaction with both staff and other prisoners, it cannot provide the specialist mental health care that is needed. This is not the fault of the prison but rather a lack of mental health places in special hospitals or the community.

5.3 Staff-prisoner relationships, key workers

5.3.1 Staff-prisoner relationships are generally deemed to be satisfactory but applications to the IMB in the past two years show that staff/prisoner concerns are the third highest subject area after healthcare and property. Whilst it is often difficult to establish the truth in these matters, prisoners are encouraged to use the prison complaints procedure or use a discrimination incident reporting form (DIRF) where appropriate. The most serious allegations may be referred to the Governor, the Ombudsman or the police.

5.3.2 In respect of key workers, planned sessions may be lost as staff are required to cover other duties due to staff shortages as a result of bed watches, training, leave, sickness, deployment etc.

5.4 Equality and diversity

5.4.1 Issues relating to protected characteristics should be dealt with by submitting a discrimination incident reporting form (DIRF). These are dealt with separately from prisoner complaints (Comp 1s). Unfortunately the IMB has not had the opportunity to monitor the process for DIRFs during this reporting period.

5.4.2 Transgender prisoners are well and sensitively managed within the prison. Following the framework on dealing with transgender prisoners, multidisciplinary meetings examine risk, support, and specific requirements. Also, transgender support panels within the community continue to scrutinise the work being done in the prison.

5.4.4 There are a number of immigration detainees being held at HMP Leeds. In 2021, there were 194 prisoners of interest to the Home Office and 21 detainees held for immigration matters only.

5.4.5 Various celebratory days have been held to honour different groups within the prison population and beyond, including Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History month, Black History month and Holocaust Remembrance Day. Prisoners are encouraged to participate and many do.

5.4.6 For every prisoner with a disability, personal escape and evacuation plans (PEEPs) are in place. The PEEP list is distributed to all wings and departments within the prison and is updated on a regular basis. Whilst there are lifts and stair lifts for those with restricted mobility or wheelchair users, it is of concern that some of these do not function due to breakdown and the unavailability of parts to repair them. On general location, there are a limited number of cells which have been adapted for wheelchair users. Often cell doors are too narrow to accommodate a wheelchair and usually have a 'lip' on the floor, meaning that men have to get out of the wheelchair, fold it up and somehow negotiate getting it and themselves into their cell. Other issues arise inside the cell such as the height of shelves, lack of a table or chair other than their wheelchair and access to windows to regulate fresh air flow. The IMB was instrumental in highlighting the issues faced by wheelchair users and some changes were made.

5.4.7 Equality champions are selected from each protected characteristic, for example race or sexual orientation. They are volunteers who attend monthly forums and highlight issues (Afro hair combs being put on the canteen sheet was one such issue). Each member of the senior management team is responsible for a single protected characteristic.

5.5 Faith and pastoral support

5.5.1 Chaplains represent the Anglican, Catholic and Muslim faiths. In addition, there are part-time representatives from the free churches, Quaker, Sikh, Hindu and Jewish faiths, and Jehovah's Witnesses. There is no specific provision for Rastafarians or the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (previously known as Mormon). Three prisoners work as orderlies with the chaplaincy team.

5.5.2 There have been staff absences throughout the period affecting routines. The retired Catholic priest for Sunday mass was among the sick. A new priest from the cathedral was recruited but this meant mass had to be moved to Saturday instead of Sunday, because of his availability. This created some problems for detailing escort staff.

5.5.3 Since July 2022 a group of 7 – 12 men have met each week in the vulnerable prisoners unit for contemplation, led by the Quakers. The peace, kindness and thoughtfulness of the meeting has impressed the prisoners: they say it is calming amid the clamour and chaos of wing life.

5.6 Complaints

5.6.1 There were 2,500 complaints received from prisoners in 2021 and 2,386 in 2022. The majority of these were answered on time. Figures indicate that prisoners on E and F wings submitted the most complaints and that, overall, the main areas for complaints were:

- 1) Residential
- 2) Property
- 3) Cash/Finance
- 4) Staff issues

5.7 Property

5.7.1 Property continues to be a significant issue for prisoners, whether it is in respect of property lost on transfer, property misappropriated by fellow prisoners or misplaced in cell moves, property sent in which does not arrive, property in stored property which cannot be accessed, or compensation claims for property. The IMB can liaise with IMBs at other establishments in respect of property which does not arrive with the prisoner but often it is a lengthy process with variable outcomes. The number of applications received by the IMB regarding property either within the establishment or on transfer from another prison or location has risen quite dramatically in 2022 (see table below in section 8) with no apparent reason.

6. Health and wellbeing

6.1 Healthcare general

6.1.1 Practice Plus Group (PPG) provides healthcare for the prison. It employs 85 staff, including GPs, pharmacists, nurses, assistants, mental health workers and a dentist. A new head of healthcare was confirmed in post in October 2021.

6.1.2 Adjustments have been made to physiotherapy, occupational therapy and podiatry contracts. Staff are contracted to attend sessions for triage and to advise. Assistants are employed to help with daily activities and exercise, which are reviewed weekly.

6.1.3 A recent Care Quality Commission inspection was undertaken which was positive and there were no recommendations.

6.1.4 Two nurses are available to deal with men in reception. There is also a health care assistant (HCA) and a mental health worker in the evenings. Reception can be stressful with new men anxious or angry about their imprisonment. Prisoners may arrive from other areas late at night and are tired and do not engage with medical staff.

6.1.5 The healthcare manager spends time monitoring reception and also encourages all healthcare staff to consider their own wellbeing by taking breaks, having fresh air and moving from their desks. Breakfast clubs and a perimeter walk have been introduced.

6.2 Physical healthcare

6.2.1 Hospitals liaise with the nursing team before a prisoner moves from hospital back to prison. If the treatments required cannot be provided, after their arrival a failed discharge is marked and the patient is sent back. It can be hard to explain to hospitals anxious to clear beds that the wing is no more than a social care unit and cannot provide anything other than the most basic medical interventions.

6.2.2 The use of in-cell phones on the main wings has helped to reduce the numbers of appointments where the prisoner did not attend (DNA). A consultation over the phone can triage the importance of an appointment or answer a query to alleviate the problem of escorts and waiting in the clinics. Staff are pleased with the efficiency of the telephone contact. Men prefer to get immediate attention to their worries about symptoms. About a quarter of consultations begin this way.

6.2.3 The in-house pharmacy of 28 staff can provide the medications required. There are two pharmacists. Problems sometimes arise when men claim to have been on doses of medication which they have not maintained outside. They recall their need for it once in prison. Every prescription, especially critical ones, must be confirmed and safe. This means a patient might get a lower dose of the drug until his history has been checked (e.g. a holding dose of 30ml methadone rather than 70ml). Medications will not be prescribed for men who are thought to be secreting drugs until such time as the scanner shows them to be clear.

6.2.4 The healthcare provision within the prison compares favourably with what is available in the community. Information about what services are provided is in leaflet form and further information is on the prison video channel.

6.2.5 Healthcare is the subject of the most applications received by the IMB: 27 in 2021 and 46 in 2022. The head of healthcare, her deputy, or other members of the nursing staff are always most helpful when we address prisoners' concerns to them and we find that, more often than not, issues have already been dealt with appropriately.

6.3 Mental health

6.3.1 There is a small mental health team at HMP Leeds and the significant number of men with mental health issues feels quite overwhelming on occasion. Priority must be given to those with the most severe conditions. Liaison and diversion (L&D) services have been contracted until 2024 to identify these prisoners at court and to seek to divert them from custody. It is therefore unfortunate that there are insufficient places available for these men to be safely and appropriately accommodated outside of the prison system.

6.4 Social care

6.4.1 The social care wing (H3) has 16 cells and a palliative care suite. This means that 24-hour nursing care is available. Prisoners are transferred from other prisons in the region which do not have this facility. Prisoners with significant mobility issues, eating problems or long-term health conditions are accepted onto the wing.

6.4.2 Prisoners on the social care wing are encouraged to take advantage of the outdoor exercise yard each afternoon. However, if the weather is inclement, or for the more disabled men, exercise is taken around the corridors of the wing rather than outside.

6.4.3 Close connections have been established with the local hospice for end of life planning and care. Some prisoners, however, prefer to end their days among familiar faces in H3 rather than attend the hospice.

6.5 Exercise, regime

6.5.1 Prisoners have regular access to the gym and sports hall with each wing being timetabled separately. Workers, enhanced prisoners and Muslim prisoners also have their own times and days for exercise. The physical training instructors (PTIs) try to ensure that every ability is catered for. They have produced instructional videos, shown on the prison video channel, to promote healthy lifestyles and encourage prisoners to undertake exercise in their cells in addition to the opportunities to attend the gym.

6.6 Drug and alcohol rehabilitation

6.6.1 A Wing is the specific incentivised substance free living (ISFL) wing. The prisoners who opt to go to A wing must agree to abide by the rules imposed to maintain the stated aims of the wing.

6.6.2 Prisoners who wish to engage with the Inclusion drug and alcohol recovery team (DART) are able to do so. Prisoners are seen within five days of reception and there is a review of progress at 13 weeks for those who engage with DART. Narcotics and Alcoholics Anonymous both run support groups and there have been a small number of successful completions within this reporting period. Harm reduction and substance awareness are topics that are regularly addressed by updated information edications and challon the prison video channel.

6.6.3 Training days about addiction, promoting recovery, blood-borne viruses, and support for withdrawal have been held for staff. Feedback was that it was necessary and should, if possible, be spread throughout the whole prison staff. Unless officers understand the nature of the trauma and problems prisoners face on release, they cannot usefully support them.

6.7 Soft skills

6.7.1 Peace Education (preventing conflict), Tackle it (domestic violence), Andy's Mans Club (suicide prevention), and Catch 22 (gang and violence reduction), are some of the organisations working within the prison by providing sessions. One involved doctors visiting to provide information on caring for stab wounds. Prisoners run Andy's Mans Club, for example, themselves once a week.

6.7.2 Prisoner information desk (PID) workers are trained by the information, advice and guidance (IAG) team. Selected by wing staff, men are taught about information, advice and guidance. This leads to a qualification after which prisoners are available to fill any vacancies on the PID desk. Once established, PID workers play an important role on the wing and are relied upon by both staff and prisoners to impart the correct information.

6.7.3 The prison competed in the RHS Windlesham trophy which judges prison gardens. It entered a small area and was advised it should have entered the whole estate as the judges were very impressed by it all.

7. Progression and resettlement

7.1 Education, library

7.1.1 Novus – Foundations for Change – runs education and the library.

7.1.2 There are two libraries within the prison staffed by a manager, two full-time and one part-time members of staff. Following the restrictions imposed by Covid, all sessions are now restored in full. The computerisation of the library and membership has helped encourage use of the libraries and statistics show that more men are borrowing books than before the pandemic restrictions. The library holds a good selection of both fiction and non-fiction books and also has a significant number of foreign language books for those for whom English is not their first language.

7.1.3 A book club has been set up on F wing during the reporting period with about twelve men attending. Amongst the authors whose work has been chosen to be read are Stephen King, George Orwell, Roald Dahl, Terry Partchett and Bill Bryson.

7.1.4 The installation of £150,000 worth of cabling and machines for linking up with distance learning has improved the educational facility. A teacher can use a David Attenborough programme for example, to provide learning and discussion presentations. These new systems have helped communication between prisons as prisoners transfer out of Leeds and information about their levels of achievement and rate of progress are speedily transferred between establishments

7.1.5 Education classes are held either in the morning or in the afternoon with prisoners attending one session per day. The only exceptions to this are those studying to become PID workers or those doing construction and catering, where the courses are full-time.

7.1.6 Attendance at classes is not always 100%. This can be due to prisoners being unwell, or because of serious incidents on a wing resulting in a lack of escorting officers. Non-attendance is always followed up by activities staff and records are kept up to date.

7.1.7 Some coursework may be completed in cell. Men wishing to take individual courses can apply to the Prison Education Trust through the hub manager. Falconry and English Literature Open University courses were successfully applied for during the reporting period.

7.2 Vocational training, work

7.2.1 Prisoners can work in laundry, kitchens, recycling (waste management), tea and food packing, textiles and cleaning. Much of the work is repetitive and opportunities for other contracts for work is limited by the lack of space and the Victorian facilities. For some, there are opportunities for employment on release with one of the contracted employers.

7.2.2 As with education, prisoners attend work in either the morning or afternoon. This means less opportunity to become well skilled in some work, like textiles. Men work a full-time regime in orderly or cleaning roles, however. This has caused some confusion over timetables for gym use for full-time workers. It also means that, for those only working half a day, wages are less so that there is less to spend on their weekly canteen, whose prices are rising.

7.2.3 Q Branch, set up to carry out small works outside the Amey contract, involves three staff and five prisoners. The trusted prisoners have experience of painting and other trades from outside prison. They have improved cells and offices, have cleaned up after floods or destructive episodes and receive a bonus when they clean after a dirty protest. They have built robust furniture in the segregation unit.

7.2.4 Q Branch built the aviaries which house the birds of prey (snowy owls, a Harris hawk and a barn owl) to a high standard. The RSPB were impressed with the work and have brought injured birds to be restored to health. More aviaries are being built to accommodate birds from another prison. Staff and prisoners work together to care for the birds. The therapeutic value of handling animals has been observed when particularly stressed prisoners have calmed during work with birds. Ten prisoners were selected by safer custody to work with the birds. Eight of them have benefited from the handling and management tasks they have experienced.

7.2.5 Outside work also includes looking after chickens (although the avian flu outbreak meant poultry was brought inside). Planters containing flowers, fruit trees and herbs decorate outside areas. Money raised from the sale of hanging baskets, vegetables and salad produce is put back into new projects like the wildlife meadows. A swarm of bees was acquired in summer 2022 and the prisoners were taught how to manage them by a visiting beekeeper.

7.2.6 The Lock-In provides meals and snacks each day for staff and is run by four or five prisoners working unsupervised. This is a trusted position as the prisoners are responsible for handling cash and ensuring that health and hygiene good practice is maintained at all times. A popular innovation came with the introduction of a take-away service for the prisoners. This has required a more diverse skill set for the Lock-In workers as they have to collate and finance orders in addition to catering for the orders and delivering them. This has been a great success and is very popular amongst the prisoners able to use the scheme.

7.3 Family contact

7.3.1 The charity Jigsaw, works in partnership with the prison to keep prisoners and their families connected. It aims to make the experience of visiting HMP Leeds a positive one, creating a safe secure environment and recognising the importance of maintaining family ties for those in custody.

7.3.2 Jigsaw has produced a 40-page visitor information booklet, explaining the visits process and details of regulations, facilities and money, as well as prison jargon.

8. The work of the IMB

At the beginning of 2021, there were five Board members, comprising three dual Board members (i.e., who are also Board members at other prisons) and two new members who required mentoring. By the end of that year three new members had been appointed but three had left the Board. In 2022, we again had resignations from two of the new members which left two dual Boarders and one member in his first year.

As a consequence, monitoring has been severely limited until such time as we have new members.

Board statistics

Recommended complement of Board members	16
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	5
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	3
Total number of visits to the establishment	129 (2021) 165 (2022)
Total number of segregation reviews attended	Not recorded

Applications to the IMB (including via the 0800 telephone line)

Code	Subject	Previous reporting year 2020	Current reporting year 2021	Current reporting year 2022
A	Accommodation, including laundry, clothing, ablutions	14	5	23*
B	Discipline, including adjudications, incentives, sanctions	8	6	11
C	Equality	1	9	8
D	Purposeful activity, including education, work, training, library, regime, time out of cell	5	5	9
E1	Letters, visits, telephones, public protection restrictions	8	11	15
E2	Finance, including pay, private monies, spends	6	9	9
F	Food and kitchens	1	2	1
G	Health, including physical, mental, social care	14	27	46
H1	Property within this establishment	6	5	29
H2	Property during transfer or in another establishment or location	2	6	16
H3	Canteen, facility list, catalogue(s)	2	0	0
I	Sentence management, including HDC, release on temporary licence, parole, release dates, recategorization	11	6	8
J	Staff/prisoner concerns, including bullying	35	24	37
K	Transfers	3	0	7
L	Miscellaneous, including complaints system	0	15	23
	Total number of applications	116	130**	242**

*includes 11 applications received on the same day regarding laundry facilities on the wing.

**includes multiple applications from a small number of prisoners.



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