

## **Inspection of Brook House IRC w/c 07/11/16 – Pre inspection report**

### **1. Hotel**

#### **Holiday Inn Gatwick Worth**

Crabbet Park, Turners Hill Road, Crawley

RH10 4SS

Tel: **DPA**

### **2. IRC information:**

#### **Address:**

Perimeter Road South

London Gatwick Airport

Gatwick

RH6 0PQ

**DPA**

**Director:** Ben Saunders

**Deputy Director:** Steve Skitt

**Unlock roll 31/10/16:** 392

**% of Ex FNPs:** 40-50%

**Date of last inspection:** June 2013

**Outcomes at last Inspection:** 3,3,3,2

**IMB Chair:** Jackie Colbran

**Healthcare Provider:** G4S

**Activities Provider:** G4S

### **3. Liaison Officer:**

Stewart Povey (DCM)

### **4. Timetable**

#### **Monday**

09.45-10.45, Groups x 3 (Hindpal, Deri & Martin)

- 1 x mixed
- 1 x Nigerian
- 1 x Pakistani

11.00-11.15 Team meeting (all to attend)

11.15-11.30 SMT briefing (all to attend)

11.30-12.15 Groups debrief

## Thursday

9.30am - Meeting between the CI and the Director

10.00am - CI to be given a tour around the centre by a uniformed member of staff

12.30 Lunchtime meeting between CI, Director, SMT

2pm onwards: Inspection team deliberations and determination of judgments

## 5. General

I have advised the centre that inspectors may start arriving from 08.30am. You will be met either by the liaison officer or by Loraine Higgins (Director's PA), taken to the base room to drop bags off and then taken to security to be put on the trakka system so you can draw keys.

We are based in the board room, directly upstairs from the gate. Getting online was patchy. ***Please note – during the week one visit most of us found our suite key would not work properly in the board room door. In order to avoid having to go next door to the control room and ask for help, as I did several times, I recommend not locking the door. The room is in a staff only area and the director has cleared this.***

There is a staff dining room which we are free to use (cash). The board room is not located near a kitchen, but I was told that a fridge will be provided in the base room for the main inspection week.

Parking: this is available at the centre but is limited so please car share when possible. You will need to go past the first set of barriers (visitor parking) to the second set and press the buzzer to be let in. This is a car park for SMT and immigration staff, and we should have some spaces in there.

## 6. Week One report

### Context:

Brook House and the neighbouring centre Tinsley House are collectively known as Gatwick IRC. One SMT is responsible for both. However Tinsley house is currently closed for a major refurbishment, including the development of family pre-departure accommodation to replace the Cedars facility. A number of detainees have been moved up to Brook House as a result.

G4S run Brook House. The contract was due to end in May 2017, but due to delays in the tendering process a further year has been added to the contract.

Staff retention has been a challenge to the centre this year. A number of experienced staff left to take up posts at the airport, and as a result there is a relatively high proportion of new and inexperienced staff at the centre.

A week ago Ofcom visited the centre and removed the mobile phone boosters the centre had purchased, because a number of other providers said they were causing interference with their services. As a result we can expect detainees to raise the issue of poor mobile signal in certain parts of the centre.

During the pre-inspection, force was used against a detainee (details sent to Colin) who had become aggressive and had pushed a member of staff. The detainee was relocated to the seg and Rule 40 documentation completed. Copies of use of force documentation were not yet available. He had markers for repeated violence and racially/homophobic offending. He had arrived at the centre on 30th October. A health screen pro forma said he had no special medical needs. However, the health assessment completed in relation to the use of force said he was receiving anti-psychotic medication. There was a written note on the print out of his detainee record saying he was a risk to women.

We observed the good management of an incident which took place in the yard on C wing whilst a large group of detainees was playing football. A number of staff arrived and through de-escalation were able to manage the incident without using force.

The segregation unit is located through a gate at the far end of E wing, and has 6 cells. The environment remains largely the same as at the last inspection. On 31<sup>st</sup> Oct there was one detainee in the unit who been held there on Rule 40 since 28<sup>th</sup> Oct (details sent separately to Colin) for smashing up his cell.

### **Residential Units**

Unlock is at 8am and lock up at 9pm. Four roll counts are undertaken daily, two of which (lunchtime and tea time) detainees are locked up for.

As at the last inspection there are four main wings: Arun, Beck (induction), Clyde and Dove. The accommodation remains very prison like; detainees are in double cells (staff are instructed to call them rooms but they are definitely cells). All rooms on the ground floor have had a bunk added to make them a triple, although these additional 60 beds are not currently being used. Cells have integral toilets but they are poorly screened, some are dirty and they have no lids or seats. The units, and many communal areas smell strongly of smoke.

In addition there is Eden wing, a smaller unit with 13 double rooms, the purpose of which seems a little unclear. It was labelled as a pre departure wing at the last inspection but this is no longer the case. For example, during week one there was a serving prisoner held there, a number of men with challenging behaviour, plus three men on constant watch (there are two constant watch cells on E wing). We were told that detainees disputing their age may also be held there. Each detainee had an individual risk assessment to determine their level of access to the regime.

### **Equality, Diversity and Faith**

There is a designated diversity manager (Conway Edwards), who leads on consultation and work with the over 55 age group, the 18-21 age group and those with disabilities. I was told all work around other protected characteristics is undertaken on a one to one basis.

There is a monthly Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity meeting, which detainees can attend. There a number of diversity detainee orderlies, and designated diversity liaison officers.

All DIRFs are investigated by Conway, and quality assured by Michelle Brown (functional head). There have been around 9 in the year to date, and tend to relate to allegations of racism by staff. All serious allegations involving staff are investigated by the PSU.