

Brook House IRC Independent Monitoring Board

MEETING Wednesday 15th March 2017

Pre-meeting session: Debbie Weston on Home Office project

IMB

Jackie Colbran (JC)

Lui Hui (LH)

Gareth Jones (GJ)

Gillian Gajdatsy (GG)

Joyce Turner (JC)

Dick Webber (DW)

Home Office

Paul Gasson (PG)

Heenaxi Patel (HP)

G4S

Steve Skitt (SS)

Item 1 Apologies for absence / introductions

Mary Molyneux, Elisabeth Markwick, Ben Saunders.

Item 2 Review Statutory Visit Reports prior to minute taker's arrival.

Item 3 Review of minutes of the 15th Feb 2017 meeting. PG, HP & SS join.

Mr [REDACTED] long delay at Sutton Police Station update. EM understands Tascor has now been fined for their failure to collect him for 15 hours. **CLOSED**

Posters from Dover GJ is now in touch with the Dover chair to take this forward.

Legal challenge to Mr [REDACTED] continued detention at Brook House when he needed treatment for his mental problems. JC circulated the letter authorising the IMB to release its records. This is now in the hands of the IMB Secretariat to seek advice from the Govt Solicitor before the board takes any action. Board members who have not already done so to please check their notebooks for any reference to Mr [REDACTED]. PG stated that there is a larger case going on in regards to the time spent in CSU.

How many times a week legal aid solicitors are supposed to attend raised by MM in view of the increasing waiting lists. PG said he is still awaiting a formal response but in the meantime to avoid delay and reduce waiting times for appointments G4S now prepares a reserve list to make maximum use of solicitors' time in the centre.

Someone who has been waiting for a section 4 address for nearly a year. Due to his illness GJ thought the moment to follow this up has passed but he understood from Simon L that the situation had not been as straightforward as represented.

Item 4 Monthly Reports from Home Office and G4S

SS for G4s

HMIP report was published last week with positive remarks for Brook. There has been some good work in reducing the flow of NPS into the centre especially through visits.

The weekly Excessive Disruptive Behaviour (EDB) conference meetings are continuing and proving helpful in allowing IRC managers and DEPMU to have an estate-wide view of disruptive detainees. SS mentioned the roll out of prison remand cases where they are managed by the offender manager to free prison beds, but nothing has been actioned so far.

The work on the courtyards has finished, awaiting risk assessment and approval from the Home Office and the D wing garden looks good.

The rise in assaults on staff in Jan- Feb is being investigated.

The extra beds have now been authorised and the numbers are going to be ramped up by 10 a week starting from Monday 13th March.

PG for HO

Acknowledgement of the positive HMIP report particularly for safety and welfare.

An update on the 3 Jamaican detainees who disrupted their RDs on the charter by jumping on the nets. One has now left on a charter, the ring leader is moving to the Verne and one will soon have RDs.

Third Country Unit (TCU) A second charter to Germany removing detainees whose first place of record was Germany went well.

Commencing enforced removal to Somalia.

PG to be absent 10/4-2/5 on business connected to the retender. His position as HO manager will be covered by Simon L.

Carl Knightly the SEO will be leaving this month to work in another area of the HO.

Recruitment for EO at Tinsley has gone out today.

He updated on the longest serving detainees and advised that several cases are nearing resolution. **JC** shared her difficulties in calculating reliable figures for an average length of detention for the purposes of the Annual Report. Correct average figures would require determining the length of stay of each detainee as they left the centre and these records are not currently kept. After discussion with HO and board members it was agreed to use figures for a specific point towards the year end.

Item 5 Review statutory Visits' Report

JC week of 13/2 Induction records are not always completed – members to monitor. Concerns over the treatment of detainees when they are not well enough to get out of bed. A detainee had complained he was told he had to attend HC in person and an officer was unhelpful.

GJ week of 20/02/17

- 1- The music system in Gym reported. **SS** stated new system has been ordered.
- 2- He had noticed the education rooms shut at the week-end. Is it due to lack of resources/funding. **SS** said they are currently recruiting for 2 more teachers and plans are in place to work on a new curriculum. Work is also going on to secure the IT equipment to prevent damage by detainees.
- 3- Concerns raised on the number of days in R40 of D3404 **PG** explained the DSO justifies R40 surrounding the prevention of disruption/failed RDs for blades cases.

LG week of 27/02 asked about the use of officers to interpret for detainees.