

Jackie Colbran

Week Commencing 22/5/17
Rota Visits: 25 & 26 /17

1. General Comments

The population stood at 438 on Wednesday midnight. The number of staff has adjusted to the operational requirement of 3 officers per wing as some have departed to Tinsley which is now open and ramping up daily. Wing offices appeared very busy with a constant flow of detainees making requests. Presumably this is a result of population increase and the staff reduction. Despite the pressures I observed officers were treating detainees with courtesy and good humour. Parking has improved. Ramadan was due to start Saturday am and final preparations were being made through the week.

Phonecalls: from 7.20 am Monday to 22.20 Tuesday there were 12 calls and from then on it slowed down to an odd one or two. Many, though not all, were associated with the Tuesday night charter to Nigeria/Ghana, and a number of the calls reported the use of force.

22/5 [D52] refused to comply with a move to E wing for positioning and bit an officer who attended hospital.

23/5 One man jumped onto the netting pre-charter but came off after 20 minutes as all he wanted was to use the fax, which was facilitated and he left as planned.

23/5 [D812] was being moved as part of a planned removal at 00.35 but had a weapon and threatened to take his life so he was moved with a fully kitted team and handcuffs. He was put on constant watch and I spoke to him Thursday (see below).

[D2553] was on R40 Tues evening having been found hiding on the wrong wing, delaying roll count by an hour.

40 minutes later [D1978] was on R40 with use of force for threatening detainees and a visits' officer and refusing to walk to CSU – he was verbally abusive and spat (see below).

By Wed morning everyone was off R40 and there was only one further call 28/5 about [D3741]

[D3741] being moved on R40 and UoF for resisting a move to E wing for a flight. He was awaiting heart surgery but was deemed medically fit to fly and in fact was compliant when he departed the following morning.

Mid-week a Safer Custody manager reported that R40s were running at an average of 2 per day.

2. Mandatory Visits

Scheduled Wing: C

ARUN WING	2 Applications	2 ACDT
The ACDTs was [D2660] (opened 2/5) and [D865]. I reviewed both.		
While on the wing a detainee became very irate when he was told there were no phones. His was broken and he needed to communicate with his solicitor as he had an immigration interview the following day. The wing officer rang Reception to be told there were none a/v until later in the day. I spoke to the Oscar about it and it was obviously a more widespread problem.		

BECK WING	0 Applications	3 ACDTs	1 SLP
The ACDTs were [D612] and [D1321] with a new one just being opened for new arrival [D3742]. The SLP was for [D1311] with mobility issues. There was also a Raised Concern for [D2889] who had received bad news.			

The stairs could have done with a thorough sweep into the corners and the showers had lots of sachets and bits of paper on the floor but otherwise the wing was tidy.

The wing office was busy. Phones were an issue again with detainees coming to the office to ask when they were going to get one. Officers tell me they require 5/6 phones per day for new arrivals but these are not available until there have been sufficient departures to release enough. They are spending time phoning reception to find out if any have arrived. My impression was that this is an issue across the centre at present.

CLYDE WING	0 Application	2 ACDTs
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D1527 (Rm 208) has been on an ACDT since 20/3 when it was opened in HMP. In the past he has been on c/w, saying he wants to kill himself. He is due a travel document interview 30/5. He is not eating from the servery but is buying food from the shop eg 22/5 he bought salty peanuts and coke. HC are not concerned with his health at the moment but HC, HO et al want to prevent things deteriorating. He is refusing to engage with nurses, refused permission for an SLP to be opened. The HO is intending to ask him if he wants to sign a life directive ie if he refuses, which is likely, then treatment can be given if it becomes necessary. One to keep our eye on too. The showers and laundry were spotless and the courtyard pretty good. The new DSM was in attendance at lunch service and obviously has high aims to make his wings good. I mentioned a detainee was smoking up by the pool table and he whizzed off. The food looked appetising. Detainees I spoke to were not unduly impressed but then hamburger and chips is not really S India cuisine – they had their jar of super-hot chilli on the table to spice it to their taste. I picked up a couple of apps for the HO speedy removals team and passed them on. As I was about to leave the office there was a lot of very angry shouting and door banging outside from a detainee who wanted immediate attention. I was pushed out of the way quite roughly as he went for what he wanted despite the officers saying he had to wait till 13.30. He was hugely apologetic when I went back to make the peace the following day – referred to me as collateral damage. The lesson I learned – not to get in the way of an angry man.

DOVE WING	0 Applications	1 ACDT
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When I walked round the wing the laundry was tidy though the showers had lots of empty sachets on the floor. It was mid-afternoon, everyone was out and about and the office was unusually quiet – just a detainee talking to an officer about life.

EDEN WING	0 Applications	2 ACDT (1 CW)
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On Thursday there were 3 detainees in isolation after vomiting attacks but they were to be moved back to normal location once the GP had given the OK. As above I spoke to the c/w **D812** who was up and about and very affable. His complaint was that he has been in detention for 19 months, has applied for bail but the address was not acceptable to the HO and he just wants a resolution to his case one way or the other. I spoke to Heena later – there are complicating factors. **D812** initiated a conversation with me, which I found quite confusing. He is being kept on E wing for medical observations and was due to see the psychiatrist that day.

CSU	0 Detainees	
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There had been considerable activity earlier in the week but on the day of my visit (25/5) there was no-one.

HEALTHCARE

With the re-opening of Tinsley agency nurses are being used again to cover gaps, though long-term ones. Some recently appointed nurses have left, finding the job not what they had expected, so despite HC's best efforts recruitment continues. Chrissie is Brook HC manager with one awaiting confirmation for Tinsley; Emily, Jo and an RMN (awaiting confirmation) are senior nurses and then there is the body of nurses. Sandra's role is oversight of the three centres - Brook, Tinsley and Yarlswood. This last is taking up 2 days of her week at present as there are still problems to resolve there. I said my recent session with a new nurse had been very productive and Sandra would be happy to lend us a senior nurse to talk through issues close to our hearts.

KITCHEN

Preparations for Ramadan are complete. The change this year addresses last year's problem when the boxes were returning to the kitchen dirty and kitchen staff had to wash them to start them heating before they could get on with their other work. This year arrangements have been made for paid workers to wash the boxes in the servery areas on each wing and get them to the kitchen by 11.30, which leaves time to get them properly hot. Friday evening Muslims will

receive a cold box of breakfast to eat before the fast starts at daybreak and from then on they will receive hot and cold boxes each evening.

3. Optional Visits

ACTIVITIES

ART ROOM

Not visited.

BARBER'S SHOP

I observed a detainee giving another a haircut outside the gym.

CHAPLAINCY

The imams in particular were much in evidence as final preparations were made for Ramadan. I was told everything possible was in place for the start of the fast Saturday morning.

CULTURAL KITCHEN

Not visited

CONTROL ROOM

Not visited

EDUCATION

Seb was in the middle of a discussion group relating to the start of Ramadan. It sounded very complicated – some were attentive, some less so.

GYM

Busy at the times I passed.

IT SUITE

Not visited

LIBRARY

Not visited

RECEPTION / DISCHARGE

Officers report that 15 had left on the Nigeria charter. From their perspective all had gone smoothly, though in the centre there had been some issues with detainees. Flight monitors were in attendance (Lou) who reported that two detainees left in waist restraints. When I passed on Thurs there were 4 detainees leaving, 1 in reception and 3 in the waiting room.

SECURITY

I went to Security with a query from the flight monitors about a detainee who went out on the last Albania flight. The Tascor escort had expressed concern that despite his mental state he had been kept in CSU on R40 for a number of days. Security were most helpful and able to give assurances that he had been kept in CSU for his own protection as his behaviour had been provoking a strong reaction from fellow detainees. The HO had exceptionally authorised extensions to his R40 as his RDs were imminent. I thought it was praiseworthy of Tascor to have reported their concerns.

There have been a lot of good NPS finds this week, largely coming in through the post. A large amount was found inside speakers which came in as property.

THE SHOP

There was an orderly queue of 6 when I passed Fri afternoon and the area was quiet. Everyone was probably outside enjoying the sunshine.