

**Brook House IRC Independent Monitoring Board**

**MEETING Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

SS said officers are regularly used as it is easier than using Language line. PG said that the HO also use their officers to interpret. In a small centre everyone knows who is on duty and who speaks what language.

### **EM week of 06/03**

Drew attention to 2 officers who had been on constant watch all day on Tuesday. Questioned the processing times in reception - saw a group of detainees who had arrived 19:15, a considerable time before the incident kicked off on Monday night who were asleep on sofas in reception when she left the following morning at the end of the incident.

She had attended Brook through Monday night and again Tuesday night for the two netting incidents related to the Jamaican charter.

### **DW week of 13/03**

Observed a detainee being discharged that morning and praised the professionalism of the Tascor crew when they successfully transferred him despite his active attempts to prevent his return to prison. DW commented on a slow response from nurses called to the detainee's collapse, real or feigned.

**Live Fire Exercise 17/3** to test initial stages of a fire incident attended by JC and GJ. Real smoke pumped into dojo area setting off fire alarms. A dummy and a live victim. At the debrief the brigade liked the grab pack but suggested a liaison officer for quick explanations; future fuller exercises including Tinsley before it reopens; fire officers to receive key training. A good exercise.

### **SS and PG leave meeting**

#### **Item 6 Annual Report**

JC advised the report will be ready to go to the Secretariat by the end of the week, once the last corrections have been made.

#### **Item 7 Chair's Letter**

ATPR Notes have now been circulated. GJ suggested the board highlights the areas where it needs to concentrate over the next 12 months and put it as an agenda every 3 months to check on progress. Next review – to go on June agenda.

**Annual Conference** held the preceding weekend. GG will circulate her notes.

#### **Item 8 - Complaints**

JC displayed a few complaints and PSU investigation replies to the board members. One referred to problems booking visits and it was suggested members keep this in mind on rota visits.

#### **Item 9 Training**

- GJ - Spaces available on 14/09/17 for the NTRG training at Kidlington.
- A risk assessment of the board's activities is still pending.
  - LG's offer re a MAPPA speaker GJ/LG to follow up for April meeting
  - Flight Monitors JC to follow up for May Meeting

#### **Item 10 Membership** - No items raised

#### **Item 11 Duty Availability**

27/3/17	Lui Hui	
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03/04/17	Joyce Turner	
10/04/17	Mary Molyneux	
17/04/17	Gareth Jones	
24/04/17	Elizabeth Markwick ??	
01/05/17	Louise Gledhill	
08/05/17	Dick Webber	
22/05/17	Jackie Colbran	

### **Item 12 AOB**

**Chaplaincy 3-monthly meeting** JC reported the issue with space was raised in regards to the Mosque at Tinsley and daily prayers at Brook had been raised by Zeeshan. With regard to Tinsley and the multi-faith room he is going to talk to IMB there. With regards to Brook we can continue to monitor. There does seem to be an issue with use of corridor during prayer times. The number at prayers now regularly spills out. Aramark uses the area to cross through while doing laundry and other staff also use it. He was pleased that G4s is paying for a new carpet for the mosque.

**Skype** JC circulated a reply from the minister to the Forum Chair's letter about Skype. While the body of the letter was the HO standard position there was a handwritten addition by the minister re a possible pilot eg at the Verne.

**New Claims Forms** After months of warning the new system for expense claims is finally operational. It will require electronic completion. If any members have a problem with this let the Chair know so some solution can be arranged.

### **CHAIR'S LETTER March 2017**

Dear Board Members

It is daffodil time again which means to me that the Annual Report has to be on its way! Debbie Weston has agreed to come and talk to us about the HO project, so we will kick off at 12.00 as usual. Please remember that the meeting will be held in the Home Office Meeting Room this week. Apologies so far from Mary, who is STILL enjoying Australia but not for much longer, and Elisabeth.

It has been a busy week for our rota member Elisabeth who nobly turned out for serious incidents associated with the Jamaica charter both Monday and Tuesday nights. Though the Command Suite was not officially opened on the Monday the incident was run from the Control Room and the national C&R team arrived. As trouble was foreseen Gareth arrived to help out on the Tuesday night after a full day at a conference in Warwick, so we were on hand when the second incident occurred and the Command Suite was opened soon after 21.00 pm. Tuesday was played as a waiting game as the detainees only wanted to ensure they missed the flight. Huge thanks to Elisabeth and Gareth for their willingness and stamina.

The Jamaica charter was a good opportunity to interact with the Flight Monitors Group. They have a lot to teach us about how to monitor discharges. Lou Lockhart-Mummery offering to come and address a BM is excellent.

### **IMB Annual Report 2017**

This real team effort is now complete and ready to go off to the Secretariat in the week ahead. It is a huge piece of work, representing our efforts as monitors through the past year and what we have observed. Unfortunately for G4S and the HO our draft arrived on their desks at the same time as the HMIP final report. Once it is with the IMB Secretariat there will be a month before it is published and we can go public.

#### **ATPR**

We are planning to circulate the notes from the January meeting this week and perhaps need to look at how we are doing with our action plan at the April BM. Several of the items were mentioned in the AR as things we will be looking at in the current year. I shall be missing both the April BM and the Chairs' Forum while I am in Argentina and am very grateful to Dick for "volunteering" to take over. This might be something he wishes to pursue in my absence.

#### **IMB Annual Conference**

There was a bit of a mix-up as our booking somehow went astray but all came right in the end and Gilly is going as our no 1 delegate on Saturday 11/3 and thus will be able to give us an account of how it went on Wednesday.

#### **Training**

A huge shame that Kidlington had to be cancelled at the last moment. Absolutely not Gareth's fault. The C&R lot don't know their 23s from their 24s. It looks like we are on again for September but our BDO can inform further on Wednesday. We agreed at the last meeting that we would do some work on the Monitoring Guidelines framework to see if there is something glaring we are missing in our practise. Didn't somebody volunteer Mary in her absence?

#### **Solicitor's request for information on Mr [D3397]**

I am waiting for the Secretariat to come back on this. It has gone to the MoJ solicitors which apparently takes a week. Please, if anybody can find any reference in their notebooks to having come across him on Rule 40, sat in on a review, spoken to him while on E wing or discussed his situation with healthcare, officers, etc please let me have it. I cannot see any reason why we would be prevented from answering the solicitor so will need the info sometime.

Looking forward to seeing you all

Jackie