

Brook House IRC Independent Monitoring Board

Board Meeting Wednesday 15th November 2017

Preboard session: Marion Trendle, Deputy Director and Principal Social Worker at Sussex Partnership, talking on MAPPA and PREVENT

Security were to attend but were unable to find us (!) – will try again next month

IMB	Home Office	G4S
Mary Molyneux (MM)	Paul Gasson (PG)	Lee Hanford (Lee)
Gareth Jones (GJ)	Alec Holton (AH) Minute taker	
Jackie Colbran (JC) Lui Hui (LH)		
Elisabeth Markwick (EM) Dick Weber (DW) Louise Gledhill (LG)		
Joyce Turner (JT) Gilly Gajdatsy (GG)		

1	<u>Apologies for Absence/ introductions</u> No apologies.	
2	Review Statutory Visit Reports- Prior to minute takers arrival Corrections to the minutes last meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alec Holton was present for HO. Addition to September Minutes - Item 15 AOB – Panorama Investigation – MM top of page 6 “MM explained that she had broken down all the allegations/ incidents from the advance letter received from the BBC and all Board members who were on rota duty at relevant dates had reviewed their reports and notebooks and forwarded any reports to her which showed IMB monitoring of particular issues. Also MM had reviewed all Board minutes for the time period. These reports/ evidence held by the IMB would be kept in the IMB office in case it was required in the future. 	
3	Review of Minutes of 15th November 2017 JC asked everyone if they approved of the new minutes’ format Heena had designed – affirmative. New UoF Scrutiny Panel rota members to monitor as appropriate Fridays 14.00 Potential Litigation cases – how can they be monitored? Issue raised by JC at IRE Chairs’ Forum. Michelle Smith to discuss with Alan Gibson as to whether data could be included in the G4S/HO combined report. LG followed up concerns from last month re Rule 35 claims from D643 Spoke to AH in Home Office - “continued detention justified”. Annual Report – MM and JC to take forward plans for 2017 AR Complaints Monitoring	Closed Ongoing C/fward Closed Closed Ongoing

4	<p><u>Monthly Reports from Home Office and G4S</u></p> <p>Lee Hanford for G4S</p> <p>Talked about a difficult month for G4S month as regards staffing with increased violence specifically between Afghanis and Albanians. There was a difficult Albanian Charter. G4S is not happy with the "no notice" charters – he thinks the policy lacks transparency and affects the relationship of trust staff try to build with detainees. PG explained some of the policy behind this including last minute representations and that the detainees have already been given notice of a removal window.</p> <p>There had been an increase in UOF much due to Mr D3442 a detainee with severe health problems. Board members noted some excellent work by G4S staff in keeping Mr D3442 safe. Lee had held a meeting with stakeholders. Topics raised included improved ways of working, low staffing and liaising with staff members about contracted hours' scheme. A few Tinsley staff had complaining of being cross deployed, but many had then applied for extra hours. Overall response has been positive and exceeded expectations. His plans included increasing front line DCM staff with an advert already gone out and appointing a senior Residential Manager. A new head of safeguarding will start on December 11th.</p> <p>Updated on staffing post-Panorama – of those given written warnings only one was reinstated and had his HO accreditation authorised. Has also met with the Minister, Brenden Lewis. Discussed the complications around the case of Mr D3442 (above) with Hibiscus and learnt about the Gill Dando Institute and how help can be offered to vulnerable detainees (eg those at risk of human trafficking) on their return to their home countries. The Stephen Shaw visit has been very positive all round including a very good report on Rule 40 reviews.</p> <p>Kate Lampard will be on site for 3-6 months preparatory to writing a report on the centre. Lee mentioned an increase in searches, particularly for hooch now the festive season is approaching. Much of the centre is being re-decorated. In particular there is to be deep abrasive cleaning of sanitary fittings and the addition of inundation points for fire hoses to doors in detainees' rooms. This work, which requires a wing to be closed starts 17/11 with B wing and is hoped to be completed by 9th Jan. The IT suite is in the process of being upgraded. Lee believes teething problems have now been sorted out but will check.</p> <p>GJ asked if there was a Prevent policy in Brook House to assist detainees considered vulnerable of terrorism grooming. Neither PG nor Lee was aware of one.</p> <p>PG for Home Office</p> <p>Spoke about the Pre Departure Team going live and how the HO will be divided in two teams - PDT and Compliance. Liz O'Brien the new SEO coming in to run the PDT team with Simon Levett the new HEO. Alec Holton covering Simon Levett's old post in compliance team as acting EO. PG confirmed he will be leaving his current job role as HEO Immigration Manager (expect chocolate for next meeting) and the role will be covered by Rob Gibson HEO Immigration Manager at Tinsley House until appointments are made.</p> <p>The Board noted that Healthcare had failed to provide the figures required for the combined report.</p> <p>EM Raised a questions about Voluntary Returns. Are detainees still able to access forms as welfare were working more directly with HO? Will that continue? PG Discussions are ongoing and he hopes to give an update for next meeting as it seemed to work well.</p> <p>JC Raised a query about longest serving detainees, one particular detainee came up is D1706 who is refusing to comply with ETD and High Commission interviews, so what do the HO do with detainees refusing to comply?</p>	<p>Lee to follow up</p> <p>Update</p> <p>?</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DW Spoke about the impact of failed removals due to Tascor not providing an escort. Tascor is fined but not enough to be make an impact. Should detainees affected be awarded part of the fine as compensation? • EM Raised concerns of detainees being a long time in transport • JC The mental health recommendations were only partially accepted. She continues to raise the suggestion of some sort of informal person who could talk to detainees about their health issues for early resolution. • GJ Brought up length in detention and how the Board could monitor them more closely like Heathrow IRCs. He suggests rota members make a point of talking to the detainees on the longstay list. JC was encouraged to hear the talk by the HO Gatekeeper at the IRE Workshop. PG suggested that Liz O'Brian would be a good person to talk to the board about the role of the Gatekeeper. 	BDO Action
7	<u>Chairs Letter</u> As read	
8	<u>Complaints</u> D3286 discussed above	
9	<p><u>Training</u></p> <p>GJ Thanked LH for his suggestions re an email address for detainee access. JC has been in contact with the Dover chair about their email [Update: the Dover member who set up their system is seriously ill so will be unable to help].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care for members not to expose personal mobile nos. • Access needed by all members • JC suggests data protection issues can be circumvented because the detainee would be choosing to give info – members would avoid doing so in their replies. • DW supports a system that allows phone alerts when IMB are in (suggested by Michelle Smith). • MM suggests an easy user name such as brookimb • LH Automatic replies will acknowledge calls • EM Concerns about needing to come in every day. • JC suggests a publicity campaign to launch it <p>LH To set up email address and an archive for the new account so that records can be kept of usage.</p> <p>MM - Review of monitoring guidelines as topic for the next BM. She circulated the National Monitoring Framework with some suggested "homework" to prepare for the session.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual report MM is preparing guidelines for AR contributions to be circulated shortly and is asking for contributions to be submitted by 24/1/18. <p>Personal Protection LH and LG still need this training</p> <p>Future training sessions: Michelle Smith/ Hibiscus/ Liz O'Brian</p>	<p>Action LH</p> <p>Action BDO Action BDO BDO</p>
10	<p><u>Membership</u> DW informed the board there were no responses to the recruitment campaign run by the Secretariat. Discussion on how to advertise the post took place. EM has circulated the magistrates. JC spoke to the Imam re possible recruits. DW has asked Sect. to proceed with a new campaign.</p> <p>Due to work pressures LG announced it had been agreed with the Sect she would take a sabbatical from 1/1/18.</p> <p>DW said he had decided to make a definite date for his resignation – 28/2/18</p>	Follow up

11	Duties		
	23/10/17	Gilly Gajdatsy	
	30/10/17	Joyce Turner	
	6/11/17	Louise Gledhill	
	13/11/17	Dick Weber	
	20/11/17	Gareth Jones	
	27/11/17	Lui Hui	
	04/12/17	Elisabeth Markwick	
	11/12/17	Mary Molyneux	
	18/12/17	Gilly Gajdatsy	
	25/12/17	Louise Gledhill (EM 30&31/17	
	1/1/18	Jackie Colbran	
12	AOB JC drew attention to that the recent imbnews stating members are not supposed to access cjsm outside the UK. [Another suggestion from Michelle Smith which I forgot to mention – a survey of a group of detainees to include in AR Meeting: Scrutiny – GJ , Diversity - ? EM		Action

CHAIR'S LETTER November 2017

Dear Board Members

Panorama has continued to be the Centre's main focus – I can use the same opening phrase again – while trying to ensure that all continues to run smoothly. That goes as much for the IMB's monitoring and efficient operation as for G4S and the Home Office. Forum, IRE Workshop, Stephen Shaw Review, meeting with Michelle Smith, Second Secretary of State.....it has been a busy month!

IRE Workshop

As I said elsewhere, Panorama and Brook might just as well have been the title as the subject cropped up so often through the day. Joyce, Gareth and I attended. Jane Leech said some nice things about the quality of our rota reports and I think it was Stephen Kershaw, Director of Strategy who referred to us as the still small voice reminding that not all was bad at Brook House. From my point of view James McGinley speaking about the Gatekeeper role introduced by the HO as a result of the Shaw Report to oversee casework decisions was very useful and maybe we can ask Paul to comment at the BM. Joyce may have other points to raise.

IRE Forum

This triennial meeting of IRE chairs took place as usual at the MoJ. I have already circulated notes. Panorama, of course, was a theme and there was a strong feeling of support and understanding from the other chairs. The Verne chair noted they had been asking transfers from Brook about their experiences and all bar one said their treatment had been fine. Michelle Smith was representing Alan Gibson and undertook to take forward the issue of how we can monitor litigation cases.

Stephen Shaw Review

We knew there was to be a follow up visit to Brook when Stephen would want to talk to the IMB but a final date and time was agreed only the day before, when I was at a funeral in Leeds. Having tried Dick it was really too late to ask anyone else to come along so I went alone. The main focus of his review is to see how far his recommendations of Jan 2016 have progressed. And, of course, Panorama came into it. I pulled together as much info as I could in the time a/v and we had an amiable discussion. My main point was that there had been gradual progress pre-Panorama on his recommendations (think the work on vulnerable adults; Rule 40 policy; Pre-departure Team; weekly Disruptive Detainee phonecall). And then, post-Panorama the disruptive effect of staff loss, demoralisation etc etc. One thing I particularly bemoaned was the continuing absence of some more advanced mental health training for officers, especially on E wing, at the very least to bolster their confidence and self-worth as they deal with some really ill detainees. And then I listed the steps the board were taking. He was already well aware of much that was happening in the centre.

Second Secretary of State

Following Hugh Ind and Michelle's visit to our September meeting I was contacted by the Second Permanent Secretary, Patsy Wilkinson, interested in hearing about the IMB role and our working relationships with G4S and the Home Office. Dick and I are due to meet her on Monday afternoon.

IMB Publicity in Brook House

Juls has asked all departments to provide new posters for the wing noticeboards after the re-decs. It is an opportunity to rethink how we communicate with detainees. Michelle Smith had some suggestions to make and Mary and I have been looking at the present poster to accompany the mug shots. She will be liaising with Juls. The proposed email address for detainee use could also be advertised there. Dover offered help with setting one up and if anyone else has any good ideas please..... I believe the confidentiality aspect will be covered because it will be the detainees choosing what they write – it might just be a “please contact me” and telephone number. The rota person would pick it up and could simply phone back (taking precautions to protect your own number) in the first instance to see how urgent the matter is. I think it is worth a try and is a move to the tech way of doing things. There is also the idea of a mass text message “your IMB member is on site today”

Visits/Budget

Following on from the above it came as a surprise to Stephen Shaw and Michelle Smith that the number of visits board members can make to the Centre are laid down in our annual allocation. This year we were allocated 193 visits, increased by 3 for a serious incident earlier in the year. Obviously, deducting board meetings does not leave a lot for rota visits and yet the DSO on R40 talks of visits within the first 24-hours of a detainee being put on R40/42. I think I may have put the cat among the proverbial as Stephen Shaw is going to raise this with our new President Dame Anne

Owers and I expect it will be discussed in Home Office circles. In the meantime I am investigating exactly how many R40s go over the 24 hours, as our impression is that it is not many.

IMB Annual Report 2016

The Minister's answers to our recommendations were circulated and we need to dedicate a short bit of the meeting to looking at these together.

Mary is working hard on getting us into a good place to tackle the 2017 report and will be able to update us on our way forward.

Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group

This is finally due to take place at their Horley office on Tuesday. Mary, Louise, Dick, Elisabeth and Jackie will be representing us and GDWG will have five of their members as well. We will be able to see their operation and discuss subjects of mutual interest.

Les Miserables at HMP High Down

This was a most enjoyable evening. 11 of us attended the performance at HMP High Down. Not everyone might have been in tune but their enthusiasm was manifest and the performance excellent. The meal afterwards allowed us to meet spouses and partners, who so often have to answer the phone to us so it was great putting faces to names. Thanks to Gilly, Gareth and Roy for making the arrangements.

Just one apology so far from Lui so looking forward to seeing most of you.
Jackie