

Mary Molyneux
DPA

Week Commencing: 19 June 2017
Rota Visit: 19 & 21 June 2017

As with some other members recent rota reports, I found the centre busy but quieter than on other rotas, although there was quite a bit of r40 activity late in the week. The main items of interest were around the run of very hot days over 30C at the front of the week, the charter to Albania early on Thursday 22/6 and Ramadan.

With the exception of rooms on the right hand side of the top floor on C Wing (below), I thought that the temperature indoors at the centre was either good or reasonable in all parts I visited. On the Albania charter: while there were some early indications that about half a dozen detainees would not be willing leavers, I was told by the Oscar that it went off without real incident with 20 men leaving and 3 or 4 not going. Ramadan is in the final week and the general sense is that it has gone well.

With the exception of the main floor of C Wing, I found the centre cleaner and tidier than it has been in recent months.

No formal applications, but the usual range of ad hoc queries: eg, on complaints about Healthcare and HO, getting paid work, getting a lawyer, waits for dental and hospital appointments, food, and how to get someone to talk to (ask about Talking Therapy and maybe GDWG visitor).

1. Mandatory Visits

Scheduled Wing -- C

ARUN WING	0 Application	1 SLP	1ACDT
Reviewed the ACDT and SLP files. I spent time talking with D1766 who is on ACDT and a food refusal. He has a chart over his bed where he marks off the days, since 31/5. He says he is protesting about Home Office treatment and plans to remove him to Poland. He says he has been here 25 years. He has asthma, but says that is ok for now. He complained of a toothache, but has a dental appointment for the next day. He also has a lawyer. It wasn't always easy to follow just what his immigration issue was, but he said that his lawyer had told him it would be about 2/3 weeks for a decision on the current stage. He then showed me a piece of rope in noose form from a bag on his bed, held it up to his neck and said that he would use it if things weren't satisfactorily resolved. After I left him, I told an officer about it and we went back into the room together. D1766 at first denied having the rope, but the officer was able to get it from the bag. Later that day, I saw that he had been moved to E Wing and was on constant watch.			

Otherwise the Wing was quiet and looked in good order. A Yard had shade and was cooler than others when I visited. About 20 men there with a pretty intense game of cricket going on.

BECK WING	0 Applications	3 SLP	1 ACDT
Reviewed ACDT and SLP files. Visited D2163 who is on SLP for mobility problems. Staff bring his meals from the servery. He was very positive about support he gets, but complained about what he saw as delays in getting hospital/specialist appointment. Later clarified for him with help from Healthcare.			

Generally the Wing was very quiet and calm the times I was there – although, like other Wings, there always seems a lot of noise and activity in the Wing office itself with detainee requests/demands. Interestingly, a pair of brothers were admitted when I was there. Due to fly to Poland the next day I think.

Very hot in the B Yard. Just six men in the shade, with two of them surprisingly playing keepy-uppy in that heat. I recognized one from April rota – sadly, I remembered his scars first and that he was very young: he had self-harmed slashing his chest and arm and Healthcare were tending to him when I first saw him on E Wing constant watch in April. Just 18, he had come from Afghanistan alone as a child and been in foster care, first time in detention and seemed overwhelmed then. We spoke for a bit and he seemed cheerful and said things were ok for him at Brook now and it was clear that he was mixing in with others this time. [D1606]

CLYDE WING	0 Applications	1 SLP	1ACDT
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On Monday's visit here, as soon as I got in the door I was approached by a very agitated detainee complaining about the lack of air and heat in his room. I went upstairs with an officer, who said there had been problems over the weekend but they were fixed by maintenance. It seemed to me that the rooms on right hand side of top floor were unusually still and hot – and could be even worse during the night when the door was closed. I appreciate that the roof being open can make a difference, but this seemed more than that. Rooms on the left side seemed ok with air circulating. (And rooms on top floor of D Wing with roof open were ok). The officer reported it again to maintenance. I revisited on Wednesday and it didn't seem better to me. I was told that three men had been allowed to sleep on B Wing the previous night due to the conditions. It was again reported to maintenance and also picked up with Ben/G4S at the Wednesday Board meeting.

Otherwise, it was relatively quiet. I reviewed the ACDT and SLP files. Unlike the other Wings and Centre generally, I found it to be dirty and untidy on the main level. Rubbish bins in the eating area were overflowing before lunch and bags piled up near the back door and quite filthy along the back wall behind the pool table. The stairs and other levels were better and the showers were clean. Lunch service went off without incident, with the DCM present sorting some queue jumping. More men were at lunch than I expected, and the officer said that numbers fasting for Ramadan had dropped off.

All machines were working in the laundry, but the fax machine was broken.

DOVE WING	0 App	3 SLP	2 ACDT
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Reviewed ACDT and SLP files. An orderly cleaner was on the job quickly after lunch. A detainee missed lunch due to a video-link bail hearing, but staff arranged to get a meal for him. The Wing was cleaner than on previous visits and laundry machines all working. The roof was open due to the hot weather, but it didn't seem to affect the air system there, and rooms I checked on the top floor were cool.

D Yard had about 50 men on a very hot morning. I thought that the yard looked clean and the new turf still in good shape.

EDEN WING	0	Apps	2 SLP	1 ACDT
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I spent time with the two men on constant watch: [D1766] from A Wing above and [D4] who was very tearful about being on the Albania charter as leaving a young son here.

CSU/rules 40 & 42

There was no one in CSU at the times of my two rota visits. But I asked Gareth if he could go by on Friday after his Security meeting to check on [D318] who had an extended stay. Calls during the week involved a total of 13 men going onto r40 and five uses of force.

Mon 19/6 call at 11am: [D758] off r40 and minimal use of force in presenting [D323] to Tascor for move to Wormwood Scrubs.
13.30 [D1722] who had been on r40 had gone to The Verne.
16.15 [D1225] and [D1782] for fighting in the queue outside Welfare.

Tues 20/6 at 10.35: [D1225] and [D1782] off r40.
12.19 [D1061] smashed an observation window on E Wing room. Spice involved?
14.10 Use of force/hands to push away [D1747] (?) when he was hiding medication.
Apparently, detainee called police to say that they should arrest the officer. Nothing heard from the police at that time.

Wed 21/6 at 10.45: [D1061] off r40.
18.27 [D3988] for refusing to share.
21.06 [D865] and [D3990] for a fight in the shop area. [D865] had some bleeding from a headwound and Healthcare practice is to take no chances with head injuries, so he was sent to hospital for a check. Ultimately only one stitch needed.
[D318] refusing to share and threatening to go on the netting.

Thurs 22/6 at 11.35: [D3988] was due to go to The Verne.
[D865] and [D3990] off r40.
[D318] extended – he had thrown food around and was urinating in his room.

Fri 23/6 at 14.00: Advised that [D724] had gone on r40 at about 22.15 last night. At about 12.20 today/Friday he had been aggressive to staff and was tying bed sheets around his door. In dealing with him, some force had been used.

I spoke with Gareth mid-afternoon after he had gone to CSU to see [D318] who was on a 3-man unlock. He had also caused some water damage via a sprinkler. After speaking with E Wing staff, it was decided that a visit at that time wouldn't be helpful to anyone.

20.35 [D318] had stopped his dirty protest and cleaned up and was off r40.
[D724] had been extended.

Sat 24/6 at 16.15: [D401] r40 and constant watch. Drug/alcohol dependent man in withdrawal showing erratic behaviour, including going in and out of others rooms on E Wing.
[D2034] spitting and refused to comply with Reception procedures. He had been removed on TCU charter about 12 days ago and been picked up back at Southampton.

19.10 [D1978] aggressive behaviour and smashing phone on Wing.
Emergency escort to hospital for [D401] needed to be sent there to help him stabilise on his dependency withdrawal.

Sun 25/6 at 12.20: [D401] discharged himself from hospital in early hours and was back and on E Wing constant watch. Very agitated and concerns whether he should be in detention due to his condition. Healthcare and Home Office assessing further. (Later advised had been minor use of force as he tried to get out of cuffs when at hospital.)

[D1978] extended, likely until he leaves on Tuesday.
[D2034] also extended and now on food refusal too.
[D724] off r40.
[D3989] on as punched officer in the face and use of force needed. Officer checked by Healthcare and is ok, and may press charges.
[D1717] for fighting. The other detainee is not on r40 as he was just defending himself.

HEALTHCARE

A brief visit where I got help from Michael on the status of specialist appointment for [D2163] on B Wing.

I spoke with Anton from Rapt. He said they have about 29 referrals now and next month there would be some additional staff to walk the Wings and do 'drop-ins'.

Rule 35/HOME OFFICE

Help from Simon on status of Home Office decision on r35 report for [D812]. From the HO whiteboard, the medical report went in on 30/5. There were various follow-ups and chasing by Brook HO, but as of Friday 23/6 still no HO decision. The final decision seemed to rest with a Senior Director level in Immigration Enforcement, as the detainee had no private release address and a criminal history (so couldn't go to section 4 accommodation without approval).

KITCHEN

Visited on Monday afternoon after 4pm to see the preparation of Ramadan boxes for the night. A detainee and three kitchen staff members working very efficiently to prepare and then load the hot meal boxes onto trolleys for each Wing. As noticed on C Wing lunchtime, the Kitchen confirmed that the numbers fasting/taking the Ramadan meal option had dropped off quite a bit since the start of Ramadan.

Optional Visits

ACTIVITIES

Shop was open with a queue of about 10. Noisy, but no problems.
A few men waiting in the Welfare queue had ticket numbers but complained about the wait – I explained that one of the officers was off sick. Similar complaints when I passed later.

ART ROOM

Busy and quite full. Most men were working on t-shirts. I spoke briefly with Sara and she showed me the results of the recent project to create robots from recyclables. Overall, it was a calm and upbeat environment.

BARBER'S SHOP

A queue but not open on Monday afternoon when I went by. I tried to find the paid work co-ordinator and left a note in the old Welfare office. Not sure if the barber showed up, but I did see it open on Wednesday.

CHAPLAINCY

Saw Imam Hassan on the rounds and spent some time talking with him about Ramadan and the Finsbury Park mosque area attack. I forgot to ask if there was anything special planned for the end of Ramadan/Eid.

CULTURAL KITCHEN

Did not visit.

CONTROL ROOM

Did not visit.

EDUCATION

At his invitation, I sat in on part of one of Seb's classes on English for beginners. His style with detainees is enthusiastic and encouraging, and he gets the class members working together. He showed me a sample certificate that he 'awards' to completers – it looks impressive, but sensibly (I think) leaves off reference to Brook House by name.

GYM

Not full, but busy. Plenty of loud music – from the tv. No one raised any issues with me.

IT SUITES

As discussed at the Board meeting, internet access is an issue. When I was in the main suite, about 10 men were trying to get on the net. One man had been 1 ½ hours trying to get email access. Staff said that delays/no access were an ongoing problem.

LIBRARY

Near full.

Legal Aid: The wait time for an appointment has come down to seven days (better than the nine day wait that HMIP Report was unhappy with), and with plenty of vacancies then and after. This is a positive development and an improvement on most of the first half of 2017. Maybe due to a focus on checking on whether men on the list are still actually in the centre and so having less wasted time slots?

RECEPTION / DISCHARGE

I went in and out via Reception on Monday, when it was quiet, with one man in the lounge in the morning. When I came through on Wednesday, three men had come in from different prisons for the Albania charter.

On Wednesday evening I went out through Discharge. Staff had done a lot of advance work getting personal property ready for the charter. There was an extremely satisfied customer in the waiting lounge. He had been granted bail and was waiting for his girlfriend to arrive to collect him to go back to Manchester together. He intended to mark his release and recuperate with four days at Blackpool. I think he had been at Brook for a few months.

VISIT HALL

I was here on Monday afternoon early on. Still quiet then, with three lots of visitors. Plenty of fresh fruit on the desk.

Meetings Attended

Board Meeting. Gareth attended the Security meeting on 23/6.

Upcoming Charter Flights

Dates	Destinations
28 June	Nigeria and Ghana (Sorry, I forgot to check for future flights.)

Outstanding matters to be addressed

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Points to be discussed at the next IMB meeting

IMB

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- IMB Posters and info boards: a quick check of the Wings on Wednesday, showed E Wing as the only one where both the poster and info sheet were up together and in a clear place (near the servery). No longer any poster at all on A and D Wings. On B Wing, lost in a jumble of miscellany near the fax and on C Wing propped up (helpfully) behind cable-housing for a switch.

On each Wing, there does look to be a possible spare enough notice board which could be utilised/revived. I will check/clear first.

- No App Forms on four wings – I replenished.

HOME OFFICE

- Rule 35 decision delays: D812

G4S

- Internet access status.
- Cleanliness on C Wing main level.

MARY MOLYNEUX

7 July 20

Previous week's Rota IMB Member:
Jackie Colbran

Next Week's Rota IMB Member:
Joyce Turner