

**Brook House IRC Independent Monitoring Board**

**MEETING Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2017**

**Pre-meeting session: Alan Collins and Lee presenting on the Samaritans' work**

**IMB**

Jackie Colbran (**JC**)

Lui Hui (**LH**)

Gareth Jones (**GJ**)

Gillian Gajdatsy (**GG**)

Joyce Turner (**JC**)

Dick Webber (**DW**)

**Home Office**

Paul Gasson (**PG**)

Rob Gibson (**RG**)

**G4S**

Juls Williams (**JW**)

**Item 1 Apologies for absence / introductions**

Elisabeth Markwick, Mary Molyneux, Louise Gledhill, Ben Saunders.

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

**Item 3 Review of minutes of the 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 2016 meeting.** **RG, PG & JW join.**

**EM** has continued to track Mr's long delay at Sutton Police Station with Simon's help from 14.00 on 7/11 until 02:00 9/11, finally arriving at Brook at 04.10. The journey itself took 2 hours but the wait at the police station post-decision was 15 hours. As per action **JC** raised at Forum. **EM to update at March meeting.**

Posters from Dover – It remains undecided how or whether to move forward. **GJ** looking into it. **GJ to update at March meeting.**

**JW** to give update on NPS related incidents, RAPT and EDB in the G4s report.

The legal challenge re [D3434]'s continued detention at Brook House when he needed treatment for his mental problems. **JW** confirmed that as per the judge's instruction a bed was found and [D3434] was released to hospital. **CLOSED**

**MM week of 19/12** – had asked if were possible for HO to break down the number of Rule 35s into type on the joint report. **PG** confirmed that it was not possible at this time though could provide the info in specific instances. **CLOSED**

**MM** The w/l to see legal aid is now 31<sup>ST</sup> Jan for the next available appointment. Looking on the screen in the library not all solicitors are attending 4 times per week. **PG** has made enquiries to find out how often legal aid are attending Brook and is awaiting a response. **CARRY FORWARD**

**LG week of 26/12** – had noted there was no Russian version of the complaints form. **PG** said the demand for Russian does not justify the cost. Detainees can submit a complaint in any language on any piece of paper and the HO will have it translated and will respond. **JW** to ensure all staff are aware. **CLOSED**

**LG** could arrange a MAPPA speaker if the board wished. **CARRIED FORWARD**

**GJ week of 2/1** – Gareth spoke to someone who has been waiting for a section 4 address for 2 days short of 12 months. **Action Gareth to provide further details.**

#### **Item 4 Monthly Reports from Home Office and G4S**

##### **JW for G4s**

There has been an overall reduction of NPS related incidents especially in regards to medical responses. There has been some good work in reducing the flow of NPS into the centre especially through visits. NPS is still being used but the thought is that it is being used more behind closed doors at night so G4s staff are less aware unless medical help is required. Discussions have been held with Police in regards to potential legislative changes in regards to legality of possession of NPS. **DW** believes that possession in a custodial setting has been illegal for some time but **JW** needs to clarify the legal position as may not be that clear cut.

There are now weekly Excessive Disruptive Behaviour (EDB) meetings, an Alan Gibson initiative, which are proving helpful. Managers from across the IRC estate dial in to discuss detainees who are particularly difficult to manage, allocating a RAG rating and decisions made as to where they are most suitably located.

**PG** agreed that these were useful as they give an estate-wide view of disruptive detainees to the individual IRCs and allows DEPMU to better manage the workload of each IRC.

The work on the fence sensors is coming to an end and installation should be completed by Friday 17/02. This would then go through a phase of testing and risk assessing before going live and removing staff from supervising the courtyards.

Action plans have been put in place on the back of the HMIP report with each DD given individual plans for their areas of responsibility. **JW** is responsible for making improvements to activities; including improved use of activity rooms, and education looking to implement accredited courses.

Update given on a complex food refusal case who has now been released after 33 days. **JC** commented on the good work of HC, G4S and HO staff managing this case.

**JC** raised question about increased levels use of R40 and use of force in the month. **JW** explained that some of these were due to a small number of detainees being in R40 on more than one occasion.

##### **PG for HO**

Heena has now been promoted to EO at Brook House and replaces Zakia who moved on promotion to Croydon.

Immigration interviews have increased significantly as a result of the Pre-Departure Team pilot. The pilot team are headed up by D Weston, with the increased team of engagement officers working out of the G4s admin office and the support officers remaining in the immigration office. Paul maintains responsibility of the contract side of the HO work with Simon, Heena and Rob. D Weston to give pilot update at March meeting. 4 new support officers have started in the last couple of weeks and some of these will be going to Tinsley when it reopens.

**DW** signalled the high proportion of R35 applications that are successful and are being released.

#### **Item 5 Review statutory Visits' Report**

**GG week of 23/1** raised concern around detainees having access to bedding, sheets and pillows in particular. **JW** There is a stock of these available in the stores and on the wings. The shortfall tends to happen when detainees move wings and do not take their bedding with them. Staff to be informed of where stock is located. **JW** aware of a shortage of pillowcases, which are on order.

**DW** asked is it envisaged there will be any problems in regards to staff numbers when Tinsley House reopens and staff are redeployed. **JW** explained no issues expected some staff will be freed up as the need to staff court yards will stop and there are ongoing ITCs.

**JT week of 30/1** asked how often clean sheets are supplied to detainees. **JW** confirmed bedding changed every week.

**JT** asked for clarity around detainees working in the laundry area. **JW** explained that detainees are only employed to keep the area clean and not to wash items for detainees. It is the responsibility of the detainee to wash their own clothes. This was implemented due to issues with items of clothing going missing which put the detainees cleaning them in a difficult position. Aramark do have 2 detainees allocated to them for the laundry of bedding only.

**JT** raised concerns about the induction process as she had noticed detainees with limited English skills failing to understand the video and not being offered an alternative. **JW** stated Michelle Smith is in process of obtaining induction information in 16 languages and officers need to be reminded to check language ability.

**JT** noted A2 landing has been found in an unsanitary state of more than one occasion especially around the bin area. **JC** also mentioned an issue with the D wing servery in the current week. **JW** confirmed that a deep clean had taken place on the servery and he will reiterate the cleaning policy with wing officers who are responsible for ensuring tasks are properly executed.

**JT** asked about the barber who was removed from paid work after refusing to return to the HMP estate. He is currently working on a voluntary basis and has completed his sentence. **PG** explained that refusal to transfer is considered non-compliant and so cannot work, as per the DCO. The HO risk assesses all detainees on their suitability for detention in the IRC estate and he will check to see if this has been done for this detainee.

**LH week of 6/2** asked for an explanation of the process for investigations where detainees have been fighting, especially where there was a lack of CCTV evidence. **JW** gave an explanation of the processes and procedures and said he would keep an eye on a specific case mentioned by **LH**.

**LH** noted that he walked on to one of the units just as a confrontation was taking place and at one point felt that he may have been at risk. PST training was discussed with **GJ** to supply available dates.

**LH** had checked and the IMB is mentioned in the handbook in a number of languages a/v in the Reception waiting area.

### **JW and PG leave meeting**

### **Item 6 Annual Report**

**JC** asked if IMB members would like to see individual contributions before they were edited. Consensus was that IMB members were happy for **JC** adapt as required.

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

**DW** to chair the April BM and attend the April Chairs' Forum instead of **JC**. **JC** to inform Forum that **DW** will attend.

The position in regards to radios and alarms was agreed at the ATPR and alarms are now a/v in the office drawer.

#### **Item 8 Complaints**

A complaint that has been escalated to PSU was shared with meeting for information.

A complaint from [D447] will be looked into by JC as felt the original complaint was not answered in the reply.

JC attended HO complaints training course on the new DSO and has handouts if required by members.

#### **Item 9 Training**

GJ to email board in regards to observing C&R training at Kidlington.  
A risk assessment of the board's activities is still pending.

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

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

20/2/17	Gareth Jones	21/2/2017 TCU Germany TBC 23/2/2017 Albania
27/2/17	Louise Gledhill	28/2/2017 Pakistan
6/3/17	Gillian Gajdatsy	08/3/2017 Jamaica
13/2/17	Dick Webber	16/3/2017 Albania
20/3/17	Elizabeth Markwick	21/3/2017 Pakistan
27/03/17	Lui Hui	28/03/17 Nigeria / Ghana
03/04/17	Joyce Turner	TBC
10/4/17	Mary Molyneux	TBC

#### **Item 12 AOB**

JC the flight monitors group is now looking to liaise and cooperate with IRC IMBs. She will send round some further info later and the group Chair is willing to come and talk at a board meeting.

#### **CHAIR'S LETTER February 2017**

Dear Board Members

There is now no doubt that 2017 is well under way now. G4S management are busy preparing their bid for the new contract. The latest I heard re the population increase is that the fire regulations will not be signed off till the end of this month, a pre-requisite before there is any tripling. Likewise, the re-opening of Tinsley is almost certainly not going to happen before May. There has been a lot of activity and heavy machinery over the past weeks while the courtyard upgrade proceeds.

#### **IMB Annual Report 2017**

This is the first time in my years of involvement with IMB ARs that I have had such a terrific set of contributions from board members and somehow you all managed to do it within the deadline. Heartfelt thanks. They could have stood alone perfectly as written. As usual I cannot resist fiddling around with words. Obviously there is overlap, plus I am very conscious of the push from the Secretariat to make it as concise as possible. One or two of you have made reference to the draft HMIP report

but since this is not public till possibly after our own I have weeded out references. Perhaps I can check this back with you.

### **ATPR**

Safely accomplished for another year – thanks to all who were able to participate and with particular thanks to Gareth for setting it all up, and manfully making it through the meeting when he must already have been feeling bad. My overall reading is that the board feels pretty good about it itself as a whole, while not afraid to criticise and suggest ways it can improve. Visibility of IMB round the centre, monitoring of detainee induction, monitoring of healthcare and the effect of population increase on resources were top of our list; plus some good ideas of how we can improve our practice. Notes of the meeting will be circulated as soon as possible.

### **Personal Safety**

The decision for the IMB not to carry radios was re-confirmed at the ATPR on the grounds of ensuring we appear independent of centre staff. We still have the formal risk assessment to complete. However, through the good officers of Loraine and the generosity of G4S, we now have 3 neat little personal alarms which I have put in the top drawer in the office desk.

The idea would be to take one and return it at the end of your rota visit if you wish to carry one; three means if someone forgets and takes it home it is not the end of the world.

### **Officer of the Month**

You will all have seen Ben's message confirming that DCO Tamzine received the Employee of the Month award for her persistence in helping a detainee get back to Rumania in time for his father's funeral. It was Loraine's initiative but we had picked it up as worthy of note.

### **IRE Chairs' Forum Jan 17**

Notes have already been circulated of the main issues raised. Positive comments in bail reports is being looked at by an HO team; Skype is being trialled at the Verne; the new IMB governance structure – subject of much debate last year – will be going ahead in 2017 with the appointment of a Chair and management board to replace the present NC President.

### **IMB Annual Conference**

Gilly is going as our no 1 delegate on Saturday 11/3 with voting rights and me as 2<sup>nd</sup> or back-up though I am very happy to cede my place to anyone else who would like to go.

### **Training**

Debbie Weston has agreed to come and talk to us about the HO project in March. We also need to talk about the trip to Kidlington set for Friday March 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Flight Monitors**

Since the Flight Monitor Group went on a formal footing and Lou became chair links have started to join up properly between her group and the rest of the IRE IMBs. There are specific things she is suggesting we can look out for when monitoring a

discharge and things of which we can inform her group when they are monitoring a flight. She has said she is very happy to come and talk to us. To be discussed.

The meeting will start at 12.00 with a presentation from the Samaritans. I have already had apologies from Elisabeth, and Mary, of course. Thankfully, Dick is better. Anyone else?

Looking forward to seeing you all

Jackie