

**Edinburgh Prison Visiting Committee**

**Annual Report**

**Year ending 31 March 2013**



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## **Section 1: Introduction**

The past year has been the most difficult to date for the committee with continuing discussions at political and Ministerial levels about the future of independent monitoring of prisons leading to great uncertainty for the committee. The immediate impact of this has been twofold: that significant committee time has been used to engage with this process, including formal responses to consultations, informal meetings, ad hoc advice on this issue, and hosting and liaising with MSPs interested in this issue; and that the uncertain future has led to several very committed members leaving the committee.

To counter the latter we have quickly undergone a formal recruitment process to ensure we have required capacity to fulfil our statutory duties so long as is required. All new recruits are aware of the current position and our thanks go to the City of Edinburgh Council for their continuing support of this process.

Beyond these challenges, our current committee have remained diligent and committed in their duties and this report offers a headline account of the key activities they have undertaken as part of their duties.

As committee Chair I commit that we will continue these duties until we are formally no longer required to, still retaining some hope that our vital monitoring work is not totally lost. I am happy to address any queries and enquiries in relation to this report and our wider work.

I finally note the departure of long standing Chair and VC Member Fiona Garwood. Fiona led the committee admirably over a long period of time and her departure represents a huge loss of drive and experience to the group. We wish her all the very best.

Sue Cook

Chair, Edinburgh Visiting Committee

August 2013

## **Section 2: Executive Summary**

This report reminds of the statutory duties of the committee, and describes the current infrastructure, facilities and regime within Edinburgh prison. It then reports on several areas of monitoring and activity: the Listener Scheme; Prisonwatch; Education; Kitchen; Gym; Chaplaincy; Personal Officers; and Healthcare.

It concludes by identifying the number of formal visits undertaken and summarises numbers of complaints received and in what areas.

### **Section 3: Statutory Role of the Visiting Committee**

The statutory responsibilities of Visiting Committees and of their members are set out in Part 17 of The Prisons and Young Offenders Institutions (Scotland) Rules 2006 made under Section 8(2) of the Prisons (Scotland) Act 1989 (c.45). That states: *“Rules made under section 39 of this Act shall prescribe the functions of visiting committees, and shall among other things require the members to pay frequent visits to the prison and hear any complaints which may be made by the prisoners and report to [Scottish Ministers] any matter which they consider it expedient to report; any member of a visiting committee may at any time enter the prison and shall have free access to every part thereof and to every prisoner”*. A Visiting Committee is specifically charged to

- co-operate with Scottish Ministers and the Governor in promoting the efficiency of the prison;
- inquire into and report to Scottish Ministers upon any matter into which they may ask them to inquire;
- immediately bring to the attention of the Governor any circumstances pertaining to the administration of the prison or the condition of a prisoner when they consider this necessary; if the Governor has not remedied matters within a reasonable period of time, they shall bring the matter to the notice of Scottish Ministers;
- from time to time, inquire into the state of the prison premises and inspect the food and drink provided to the prisoners and if at any time they find these unsatisfactory, record any deficiencies in their minute book and send a copy to Scottish Ministers and the Governor;
- hear and investigate any applications or complaints which prisoners may make to them and report their findings to the Governor and Scottish Ministers;
- visit the prison fortnightly by not fewer than two of its members
- at its discretion inspect prison records other than personal records, prisoners' records and security manuals or other papers which have implications for security and make a note of their inspection in their minutes;
- make an annual report for the period of 12 months ending on 31 March each year to Scottish Ministers about the state of the establishment and its administration and include any advice and suggestions they consider appropriate.

## **Section 4: Description of the Prison**

### **Establishment Introduction**

Located in the west side of Edinburgh on the A71, the prison is in an area known locally as Saughton. The prison is situated in a predominantly residential area and has good transport and road links to the city centre, which provides good access both for local courts and visitors to the prison. The building of the prison started in approximately 1914 with the first prisoner being received about 1920.

Edinburgh is classed as a local or community facing prison and receives prisoners from the courts in Edinburgh, the Lothians and Borders and Fife. The prison holds adult and under 21 prisoners who are on remand or convicted awaiting sentence, and convicted prisoners serving any sentence up to life imprisonment. All prisoners on arrival spend their first night in custody in the First Night in Custody Centre prior to being allocated to their appropriate area. All prisoners attend formal induction into the prison regime.

### **Prison Capacity**

#### **Prison Capacity**

Edinburgh prison has a design capacity of 872 and has a service level agreement to provide 922 operational spaces as required from the Director of Prisons for the performance year 2012/13. Average numbers during the year have been in the range of 866-931

### **Prisoner Population**

The current configuration by prisoner type on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 was as follows:

Adult Male Remand	152
Adult Female Remand	11
Adult Male Convicted	624
Adult Female Convicted	91

72% of prisoners held have Edinburgh or Lothian and Borders postcodes. The prison also hold national population which include Women, Sex offenders and Non-offence related protections.

## **Facilities**

Edinburgh Prison has completed an extensive 10 year redevelopment programme. The estate now consists of 4 prisoner management halls (Hermiston, Ingliston, Glenesk and Ratho) plus a Segregation Unit. All prisoner accommodation is equipped with integral sanitation, personal washing facilities and power in cell. All facilities including kitchen, reception, gym, healthcare, programme, work, administration and visit facilities have been replaced during the development programme.

## **The Hub**

A purpose built facility, 'The Hub', incorporates all prisoner support services such as; Health Care, Education, Social Work, Programmes, Links Centre, Drug Support, Psychology and Chapel opened in June 2005.

## **Visitor Centre**

HMP Edinburgh Visitors Centre is located just outside the prison. It is owned by the Onward Trust and is leased to the Salvation Army who manages the centre. The centre provides support, information, a café facility and educational opportunities for those visiting the prison as well as providing the service of booking in of visitors for SPS. Additionally it continues to host and support the Families Outside caseworker.

The aim of the centre is to engage with vulnerable families in a range of ways; to provide information in relation to Integrated Case Management (ICM), Home Detention Curfew (HDC), Assisted Prison Visit forms (APVU), welfare reform advice and address more general inquiries relating to visiting the prison. The centre also has a centre chaplain who can offer spiritual advice to those in need.

In terms of health promotion the centre offers a range of healthier eating options through the cafe also working in partnership with the NHS and running weekly smoking cessation groups, oral health promotion events and health clinics.

For the past year the centre has offered a new Parent and Children Support Project geared towards supporting parents and children. This unique project uses the Curriculum for Excellence as a framework to support children's learning in its widest concept. The project uses arts as a tool for engagement and offers children the chance to take part in a citizenship programme which is fun, educational and holistic. This is run through creative group work in the centre three times per week. The visitor centre has a 'childrens corner' where most of the arts and crafts activities take place.

The centre also run thematic events for children such as 'Meet the Police' carried out in partnership with the local police. The purpose of these events is to break down the barriers between children and police where needed.

More recently, the Parent and Children's support project has begun to facilitate the Children's Visit sessions. These visits are structured educational or homework sessions in which each child has an individual learning plan (ILP) that they work on each week. The purpose of these sessions is to allow an imprisoned parent to stay or to become involved in their child's education, and be able to support them through the various ages and stages of development. This project also involves giving families 1-1 support regarding parenting issues as well as dealing with any number of the challenges that confront families affected by imprisonment. The range is substantial and often includes tax and benefit matters as well as housing and debt.

## **Prisoner Opportunities and Support**

### ***Employment***

Edinburgh has an extensive and well-equipped Training Centre, which opened in November 2005. It provides opportunities and employment for prisoners in Building Crafts such as Timber Construction, Plastering, Painting and Decorating, Bricklaying, Mono-block/Path Construction, Electrical and Forklift Driving. Additional employment is provided in support services such as Library, Laundry, Kitchens, Gardens/Grounds Maintenance, Industrial Cleaning and Domestic duties. Prisoners can also attend Living Skills and Restart which are short programmes designed to assist them to prepare for release. A new library run in partnership with City Libraries is also located in this facility.

### ***Education***

Carnegie College is contracted to provide prisoner education within the establishment, with the main focus being on numeracy, literacy and IT skills. However, other opportunities for more demanding learning and Open University studies are available. Art and Music are also on offer both acting as a door to education and an addition to other learning. Other partners including CLAN, assist with one to one Literacy tuition. The prison has a Writer in Residence working with prisoners and producing a prison magazine for prisoners.

### ***Prisoner Programmes***

A dedicated group of staff provide a range of programmes to address offending behaviour. Programmes delivered are either accredited or approved activities and include Constructs (a cognitive based programme), Rolling STOP (for sex offenders), VPP (violence prevention), Substance related Offender Behaviour programme (SROBP) and Alcohol Awareness.

### ***Links Centre***

Edinburgh continues to develop its inclusion strategy to reinforce links and working partnerships with external agencies and prisoner support services such as Job Centre Plus, Housing, Debt Advisors, Bereavement Counselling, Drug Support, Apex and HOPE.

### ***Healthcare***

The Health Centre provides a full range of prisoner care, covering normal medical requirements plus Dentist, Optician, Chiropody, Physiotherapy and Drug Testing services. Current priorities are drug treatment, dispensing Methadone (currently 150+ prisoners) and mental health provision. All three elements remain part of the primary healthcare delivery requirement in Edinburgh.

### ***Social Care***

Phoenix Futures provide addictions services on contract and operate within the prison as part of the national drug strategy offering a variety of support services for prisoners while in prison and after release through transitional care arrangements.

Edinburgh City Council provides Social Work Services on a contract basis with a focus on Supervised Release Orders, Extended Sentences, Circular 18 offenders (any offence against a child) plus any prisoner with a sentence of over 4 years. A



general duty of service is also provided as necessary to all prisoners. The Social Work team comprises One team Leader, one Senior Social Worker and 8 Social Workers plus one administrator

### ***Spiritual Care***

The prison have 1 full-time and 6 part-time Chaplains who offer a full range of spiritual services, with further support provided by a volunteer from the Salvation Army. Given the prison's multi-faith population, the services of an Imam is provided twice weekly from Edinburgh City Mosque. HOPE also provide a service from the Links Centre but this is independent from the work of the Chaplaincy team.

### ***Human Resources***

Edinburgh's current staffing complement is 415 with staff in post of 428 and the fulltime equivalent being 409 on 31th July 2013.

A wide range of staff training is delivered on a scheduled weekly basis and covers core competencies such as Control and Restraint, Suicide Awareness, Fire Safety, Health and Safety, Equal Opportunities and Respecting Individuals and Intelligence Awareness.

Edinburgh also holds the Scotland's Health at Work 'SHAW' Silver Award and maintains its coveted IIP (Investors in People) status.

### **Summary**

The prison's ability to deliver has been greatly enhanced through the provision of an establishment fit for purpose. The completion of the development work at Edinburgh has provided the most modern public sector prison in Scotland, increased its capacity and provided a platform to deliver modern 21st century services to the prison population.

HMP Edinburgh is committed to playing a major role locally in achieving Correctional Excellence, Reducing Offending and contributing significantly to a Safer Scotland

## **Section 5: Areas of the Prison Regime Reported on**

### **Listener Scheme**

This scheme is an integral element of the Prison's Suicide Risk Management Strategy.

Progress has been made on developing processes for male prisoners to access the Listeners and for Listeners to be able to fulfil these requests. While some progress has been made on advertising the scheme proactively, with Managers briefings, Coordinator briefings and updating prisoner notice boards there remains significant frustration among the Samaritans about the co-ordination and publicising of the scheme but remain committed.

There is on-going difficulty in maintaining Listeners and the numbers need to be increased at least to maintain and ensure the on-going viability of the scheme.

The female Listeners scheme was suspended in late 2012 after reducing numbers. New recruitment efforts will have to be made however the Samaritans have limited resources to do this at the present time.

There were 37 contacts during 2012, with more than 45% of these expressing suicidal thoughts. Most contacts were self-referrals.

The Samaritans visit every 3 weeks to provide guidance and support, and attend co-ordination meetings. VC members have regular informal meetings with the Listeners.

### **Prisonwatch**

PrisonWatch is a joint initiative between the Scottish Prison Service, HMP Edinburgh, and Lothian and Borders Police, enlisting the support of the community around the establishment to detect and deter crimes committed by inmates or visitors in the vicinity of the prison.

Following its launch in February 2011, a number of people have been charged with various crimes including the possession of contraband and drug offences. A 76 per cent drop in the volume of contraband entering the prison was recorded in the first six months of the pilot in Edinburgh.

The initiative has now being rolled out across the SPS estate, with 11 prisons now running the scheme in partnership with community organisations and local police authorities.

Prison Watch has also helped police gather intelligence on individuals involved in organised crime, who were attempting to continue engaging in criminal activity while in prison.

The scheme has received an award from the Butler Trust for its innovation and success.

## **Education**

As last year, the development of literacy and numeracy skills remain the top priority of the Learning Centre.

We do note that there also remains reluctance from prisoners (especially mainstream) to attend. Various efforts have been and are being made to raise awareness of this and its value to prisoners.

The concept of integrating these basic skills with vocational training, however, has been taken forward: the joinery workshop will be used to include numeracy and literacy units, and if this venture is successful, the idea will be extended to different sheds.

There is a view amongst some staff that access internet should and will become available in the coming years.

There is evidence to suggest that Distant/Open learning courses are becoming increasingly popular and, at present, there are 4 prisoners involved in Open University studies.

Staffing numbers in the centre remain good and a large number of successful events have been held. Jim Chalmers stepped down from his position as Education Manager and has been replaced by Angela Muir.

In terms of awards /qualifications, 215 SQA certificates have been gained in the past twelve months; 30 entries for the Koestler Awards were submitted ( with 17 prizes ); and 120 successful presentations were achieved at the Microsoft Academy, with 7 prisoners becoming 'Microsoft Masters' by passing 6 or 7 exams.

The Library continues to offer an important service within the prison, although there is an impression is that it is not open as much as it should be

## **Kitchen**

A new rota has been introduced to accommodate protection prisoners, as well as a comprehensive training programme (and new training manager). Plans are in place to improve hygiene through restricted access/appropriate clothing.

Appropriate arrangements for Ramadan have been made.

The committee do note the very strong management of the kitchen and associated initiatives.

## **Gym**

Weights and/weight machines have been removed from satellite gyms as SPS policy. The satellite gym in Ing 3 has been therefore been closed for over 6 months. There is a proposal to re-equip the satellite gyms with more CV machines and use some space for interview rooms etc.

That said, there is no budget in place for this and the common good fund has been used for last 2 years to try to keep equipment going. The committee would support all efforts on this front, particularly given the importance of access to purposeful activity for prisoners.

## **Chaplaincy**

The chaplaincy comprises 1 full time and 6 part time posts which are SPS posts. Chaplains represent several Christian religions including Church of Scotland and Roman Catholic. 2-3 Chaplains are available each day. The chaplaincy offers a range of services including, opportunity for worship (currently used by 70-80 prisoners), pastoral support, group programmes and one-to-one meetings.

Some issues have been identified in relation to access to the service namely: that staff are not always available to escort prisoners; that staff are not always aware of relevant issues; that access to female prisoners is restricted; and overall that the service is under-utilised, though much of this may be due to the aforementioned issues.

## **Personal Officers**

The allocation and role of Personal Officers does vary across the prison although we do note that this may well link to there being no national policy in relation to this.

All Ingliston prisoners are allocated a named Personal Officer, who undertakes a 4 x 0.5 day training. Personal Officers in Ratho fulfil the role for a number of cells: if a prisoner moves cell, their officer will change. Prisoners in Hermiston who are identified as 'enhanced ICM' are now allocated a Personal Officer. There is currently no allocation for prisoners in Glenesk.

## **Healthcare**

NHS Lothian has been providing healthcare services to Edinburgh Prison since 1 November 2011

During the earlier part of the year the VC became concerned regarding the level of prescribing concerns being raised by Prisoners. NHS Lothian has responded by introducing In-house Pharmacy Technicians. This service is now operating in the male Halls and is due to commence in Ratho, the female Hall. In addition two Nurse Prescribers are in post and another is due to commence training.

The Prisoner Focus Group is now running once per month in each area and has resulted in improved communication between prisoners and staff.

Staff are now able to take up NHS training for disease/illness care. A nurse is leading on diabetes, asthma and chronic disease care. A Specialist Nurse is in place for HIV testing. Edinburgh Prison currently has the highest number of prisoners in treatment.

The involvement of Physiotherapy in rehabilitation is on-going. A new Physiotherapist will be working at both Edinburgh and Addiewell Prison, which does not currently have a physiotherapy service. This will increase access to physiotherapy, and increased involvement with the Pain Management Clinic.

The Mental Health Development Group meets monthly. There is a full complement of Mental Health Nurses in post, along with a dedicated Psychiatric Nurse Therapist working on complex cases providing increased continuity of care.

There is concern that 7 medical sessions are currently vacant, and being covered by using Locums/NHS Staff Bank. The possible lack of continuity of care will be kept under review

Finance is now in place to increase admin support by one part-time post. The VC would support a further review to increase essential admin support to the Healthcare Team.

Concern has been raised regarding the lack of Prison Operation Staff support within the Health Centre. Tests and emergencies have caused cancellations to planned clinics. The VC has been advised that steps are currently being taken to resolve this problem.

The VC has continued to monitor the level of prisoner's complaints relating to health issues (CP3s). From 1 April to 31 October 2011, while the service was the responsibility of the SPS there were, on average, 60 per month. Since the transfer to NHS these remain reduced, with around 12 - 17 per month, with less than 5 being fully upheld. This is in part due to the introduction of the NHS Complaints Procedure. This has an initial stage of Local Resolution which is of benefit to prisoners and management as the aim is to provide resolution at the earliest stage, thereby avoiding escalation to the Formal Complaints Procedure.

During 2012/13 the VC were approached regarding 24 medical issues, mainly around delay, timing and incorrect medications. It is anticipated that the steps reported above will see an improvement with prescribing issues and both these and formal complaints will continue to be reviewed.

## Section 6: The Work of the Visiting Committee

### Training of committee

The current Committee has an experienced and knowledgeable membership and consequently the training needs and opportunities are limited. Some members have however availed themselves of opportunities to attend external conferences and talks pertaining to the Criminal Justice system thus enhancing the work of that individual which in turn has benefited the work of the Committee. All members have undertaken during the reporting year the revised Personal Protection Training devised by SPS and the changes have received favourable comments

### Visiting Committee Statistics

<b>2012/13</b>	
Recommended complement of VC members (per Rule 155)	17
Number of VC members at start of the reporting period	15
Number of VC members at end of the reporting period	11
Number of new VC members joining within the reporting period	0
Number of VC members leaving within the reporting period	4
Total number of VC committee meetings during reporting period	4
Average number of attendances at Board meetings during reporting period	9
Total number of applications/complaints received	96
Total number of visits to the prison	222
M Baker	16
L Beattie	4
S Cook	6
W Ferguson	36
F Garwood	26
D Gray	11
B Logan	6
G McNie	6
M Scotney	19
T Smith	12
G Sneddon	5
H-M Tuiwaiwai	5
J Warburton	15
F West	33
H Wotherspoon	22

## Applications/Complaints 2012/13

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Number</b>
Accommodation	2
Canteen	4
Diversity related	6
Education/training/work	17
Estate issues (conditions)	7
Family/visits	20
Food	5
Health related	23
Inter-establishment transfers	9
Personal property	10
Staff/Prisoner related	18
Miscellaneous	20
Refused or already resolved	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>

**Reporting period referred to is April 2012 to March 2013, inclusive**