

Prison Visit – HMYOI Parc

Summary of Harris Review Visit

This summary reflects the experience and observation of the members of the Harris Review that visited the establishment on 31 July 2014. They do not reflect changes that have happened since that date.

Background

Type of prison	HMP & YOI Parc is a Category B local prison housing approximately 1336 male adults (convicted only), young adults (convicted only) and young people (convicted and remand).
Operational Capacity	1336
Harris Review Attendees	Lord Toby Harris, Meng Aw Yong, Matilda MacAttram Tom Shaw
Date of Visit	31 st July 2014
Details of relevant self-inflicted deaths	None in scope
Relevant health care provision	G4S Medical Services

Meeting with Janet Wallsgrove (Director)

Their most recent HMIP inspection recommended they work on young adults' strategy. This recommendation was accepted and Parc is working on an 18-24 year old strategy. Janet considers Parc has sufficient resource in the safer custody function. This includes two counsellors / Interventions staff and a dedicated unit for higher risk cases. Admissions staff are drawn from within a wider safer custody team and there is a complex case manager for the most difficult cases. Safer custody issues are discussed daily at the morning operational meeting which is chaired by the Director or Deputy Director. Specific challenges or issues relating to people considered to be at risk are discussed here in order that the wider team is aware of these issues.

A large proportion of those on ACCT are repeat harmers (typically around one third). There is a difference in the management of ACCT process for young people (15-17 year olds) due to age and vulnerability factors and for this reason more precautionary ACCTs are raised due to information which is being provided from the community. There are some occasions where inaccurate or incomplete information is passed by sending establishments. But Parc has a team that will go out and chase the information, which is largely successful.

An offender manager will determine the sentence planning, a personal officer will provide a point of contact for the prisoner, and the case manager of the ACCT is responsible for the overall management and safety of the prisoner. Mrs Wallsgrove was very keen to encourage all prisoners subject to ACCT procedures access to purposeful activities, and they had a particular focus on art and other creative activities. Parc trialled Skype so foreign national prisoners could have better contact with their families. There were protocols in place and Parc were satisfied with how it was working and wanted to roll it out to other prisoners, however a NOMS directive ended this initiative.

Meeting with a Samaritans Volunteer

The Samaritans Volunteer described how Samaritans visit Parc for around 90 minutes each week and prisoners must complete an 8-week training course to become a Listener. There are a good number of volunteers who want to be Listeners, which enable the Samaritans to pick the most suitable. Listeners work on a rota and two Listeners respond to a call; a caller cannot ask to speak to a specific Listener.

Confidentiality is of vital importance and the caller must give consent for any details to be passed on. Prison officers can subtly alert the Samaritans to a vulnerable prisoner but the prisoner must call for the service. Calls are recorded and classified on a scale of zero to three, zero meaning slightly distressed and three meaning suicidal. These are recorded by each wing and figures can be compared. The Samaritans Volunteer was unable to identify any particular trends in the calls.

Induction Unit

Arrivals spend a minimum of three days in the induction unit, where new arrivals complete 'a do it profile', which is a peer support run computer test to find out if they have any learning difficulties and what additional support they might need. A nurse will assess them and an operational officer will construct a specific plan¹.

Invisible Walls and lunch with Listeners and Safer Custody staff

Parc work with a large number of schools and provide a point of contact for children with a parent or sibling in prison (Invisible Walls – you have the leaflet and DVD). The Listeners did think there was a taboo around calling a Listener and it could be associated with a kind of weakness. The Listeners took their responsibility very seriously and thought that call tended to be common in the evenings.

Staff were keen to open an ACCT if there was a sign of risk. The staff we spoke to recognise the value Listeners could add.

Health

G4S manage their own contract with GPs. Concern that as the population of the prison has increased the funding for mental health has remained constant. Depression needs greater

¹ Subsequent to the visit, the Review was informed that this relates to those prisoners located in the Safe Custody Unit and not the main Induction Unit

attention and having swift access to psychological support is key. Information sharing was not identified as an issue in the Health wing, who use system 1. They have a supported living plan for more vulnerable prisoners, which is developed by the health unit and owned by the security staff. This plan is not used in other prisons so can be lost when a prisoner transfers out of Parc. The GP had concerns about over prescription in other prisons and in the community. The GP has ownership of the quality of their contract and increased autonomy.

Complex case management and family liaison

The FLO will liaise with a new arrivals family and ensure a point of contact. Any concerned family members or friends are put straight through to the FLO via the switchboard. An ACCT is opened if the family raises concerns.

Transitions

Parc has a under 18 YOI on site, which accommodates 15-17 year olds and over 18s with 6 months to run on a DTO. Young people that will transfer to the adult side are given induction activities, which include a tour around the adult site before they move. Young people seem to like the move; the adult site is less violent. Young adults are put under 72 hour observation when they arrive in admissions at the adult site. There is a behaviour assessment before the move and young adults are given sufficient funds to call home post transfer. The under-18 YOI staffs do follow-up visits to assess the young adult after the transfer.

Segregation

Adjudication happens every day and a judge comes every three weeks for serious cases. An officer from segregation will go to the residence blocks to monitor the progress of prisoners who have been recently moved from segregation. Those in segregation still have access to offending behaviour courses and they are also encouraged to undertake in cell work and one to one interventions where risk factors allow.