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HMP LINDHOLME – SOLID PROGRESS

HMP Lindholme had made improvements in safety, and provided plenty of purposeful activity, said Nick Hardwick, Chief Inspector of Prisons, publishing the report of an unannounced inspection of the South Yorkshire jail.

Lindholme is a large category C training prison which also has responsibility for the adjacent immigration removal centre. A previous inspection showed significant shortfalls in safety. This inspection found a much safer establishment which was busy and purposeful, although a number of areas required further improvement.

Inspectors were pleased to find that:

- there was good care for those at risk of self-harm and a robust approach to violence and bullying;
- security had improved, reflected in a reduction in the levels of substance misuse;
- staff-prisoner relationships were positive;
- 90% of the population were engaged in some form of purposeful activity, and there was a reasonable amount of work and vocational training and good education provision; and
- most aspects of offender management were sound.

However, inspectors were concerned to find that:

- a combination of limited resources and staff absences had impacted on some aspects of diversity, including provision for black and minority ethnic prisoners, foreign nationals, prisoners with disabilities and older prisoners;
- there remained a need to reinforce the strategic management of resettlement; and
- the quality of catering was poor.

Nick Hardwick said:

“Commendably, staff and managers had addressed most of the weaknesses in safety that had concerned us on our previous inspection. Lindholme also remained an appropriately busy and purposeful training prison. However, there remained plenty of scope for further improvements, for example in diversity, catering and resettlement. The overall picture is one of solid progress.”

Michael Spurr, Chief Executive Officer of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), said:

"I am pleased the Chief Inspector recognises the progress being made at Lindholme in this report. The report highlights the good work being done in relation to offender management, security, purposeful activity, and the positive staff-prisoner relationships.

"Enabling prisoners to have access to a range of activities and workshops reduces their chances of reoffending on release, thereby protecting the public."

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

1. A copy of the report can be found on the HM Inspectorate of Prisons website from 22 June 2011 at www.justice.gov.uk/inspectors/hmi-prisons

2. HM Inspectorate of Prisons is an independent inspectorate, inspecting places of detention to report on conditions and treatment, and promote positive outcomes for those detained and the public.
3. This unannounced short follow-up inspection was carried out from 18-20 January 2011.
4. HMP Lindholme is a category C training prison for adult males.
5. Please contact Jane Parsons in HMI Prisons Press Office on 0207 035 2123 or 07880 787452 from 0915 to 1415 Monday to Friday if you would like more information or to request an interview with Nick Hardwick.