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HMP BURE – WELL-MANAGED AND PROPERLY FOCUSED

HMP Bure has made an impressive start since it started admitting prisoners in November 2009, said Nick Hardwick, Chief Inspector of Prisons, publishing the report of an announced inspection of the Norfolk prison.

Bure is a specialist prison for sex offenders. This inspection was HMP Bure's first. Its opening appears to have happened smoothly and inspectors gained the early impression that this was a well-managed establishment with a proper focus on addressing prisoners' offending behaviour and on public protection. However, some offender management work and personal officer systems were not yet fully embedded and would benefit from further work.

Inspectors were pleased to find that:

- there was little evidence of bullying;
- a significant number of prisoners were being monitored because of the risk of suicide and self-harm, and this was done effectively;
- there were good professional relationships between staff and prisoners;
- there were appropriate and relevant services to meet the needs of older prisoners;
- induction and resettlement services were well organised; and

- activity places were effectively used, with an impressive scheduling system that programmed activity for each individual.

However, inspectors had some concerns:

- black and minority ethnic prisoners, 18% of the population, reported more negatively about their experience than the population as a whole;
- health care was good, but the provider was due to change shortly, which will need to be managed carefully to maintain standards;
- a significant number of prisoners had problems with alcohol which linked to their offending behaviour, but the interventions to address alcohol misuse were inadequate; and
- although activity places were effectively used, there weren't enough places to meet the needs of the population.

Nick Hardwick said:

“HMP Bure has made an impressive start. It is a secure and safe prison in which a well-led staff team work professionally and thoughtfully with a challenging prisoner population. However, the prison is still new and some areas inevitably need strengthening and further development.”

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

“This is a very positive first report on Bure and the Governor and her staff should be pleased with the contents. It is encouraging to see that this new prison has quickly developed a safe and respectful environment with a good focus on resettlement, all of which reduce the likelihood of reoffending.

“As part of the ongoing development at Bure, some improvements have already been made to both the availability of purposeful activity and the number of accreditation opportunities available.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

1. A copy of the report can be found on the HM Inspectorate of Prisons website from 2 March 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 announced inspection was carried out from 13-17 September 2010.
4. HMP Bure is a category C prison for male sex offenders.
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.