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**HMP FULL SUTTON – COMMENDABLE WORK IN CHALLENGING CIRCUMSTANCES**

HMP Full Sutton has made significant progress but some concerns remain, said Nick Hardwick, Chief Inspector of Prisons, publishing the report of an unannounced inspection of the Yorkshire high-security prison.

HMP Full Sutton, one of five dispersal prisons in England and Wales, holds some of the country's most serious offenders in conditions of highest security. Our 2007 inspection found much to be commended, but noted weaknesses in safety and called for improved relationships between staff and prisoners, without which neither stability nor dynamic security could be ensured.

Inspectors were pleased to find that:

- Full Sutton's rigorous security procedures were very good, proportionate and calibrated to the range of risks faced;
- safety arrangements had improved, with satisfactory suicide and self-harm prevention work and more robust anti-violence work;
- appropriate steps were being taken to address the misuse of prescription drugs;
- relationships between prisoners and staff had improved, supported by a good personal officer scheme and an impressive mediation initiative;

- the chaplaincy worked sensitively and effectively to support Muslim prisoners while challenging attempts at radicalisation;
- the quantity and quality of purposeful activity had continued to improve; and
- resettlement arrangements were properly focused on addressing the needs of long-sentenced prisoners with very high levels of risk.

Inspectors were, however, concerned about:

- some of the arrangements for dealing with the most challenging and difficult prisoners such as an inadequate regime in the segregation unit and the continued confused approach to behaviour management;
- the use of special accommodation, mechanical restraints and strip clothing that may not always have been appropriate; and
- despite satisfactory diversity structures, Muslim and black and minority ethnic prisoners reported much more negatively than non-Muslim and white counterparts on a range of issues.

Nick Hardwick said:

“This is an essentially positive report on a high security prison tasked with holding some of the country’s most serious and dangerous offenders. It does so with a rigorous but thoughtful approach to security. Safety had generally improved, although the management of aspects of the most challenging prisoners required review. There had been impressive progress in developing the quantity and quality of purposeful activity. Relationships between most staff and prisoners had also improved, but the prison needed to address the negative perceptions of Muslim and black and minority ethnic prisoners. Overall, managers and staff at Full Sutton are to be commended on their work in very challenging circumstances.”

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

"This is a positive report. It demonstrates that the Governor and staff at Full Sutton are managing long term prisoners very effectively on behalf of the public.

"Significant progress has been made since the last inspection in the areas of safety, purposeful activity and relationships between staff and prisoners all having improved. Work is in hand to address the other issues raised by the Inspection."

ENDS

**Notes to Editors:**

1. A copy of the report can be found on the HM Inspectorate of Prisons website from 15 March 2011 at [www.justice.gov.uk/inspectors/hmi-prisons](http://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 full follow-up inspection was carried out from 27 October – 5 November 2010.
4. HMP Full Sutton is a high-security dispersal prison holding 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.