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**HMP HATFIELD – LACKING SENSE OF DIRECTION**

HMP Hatfield was performing poorly and needed more intrusive management, said Nick Hardwick, Chief Inspector of Prisons, publishing the report of an announced inspection of the south Yorkshire jail.

Hatfield is a category D resettlement prison, and has been combined, for management purposes, with Moorland closed prison. Although some processes and policies were common to both, the prisons were very different. This inspection did not find any evidence that outcomes for prisoners had improved as a consequence of the merger. Resettlement processes were not, for instance, integrated across both sites, which might have had positive benefits. Management attention was consistently – and probably rightly – focused on the larger closed prison with its more challenging population so, in many areas, Hatfield appeared to be without any clear strategic direction.

Inspectors were concerned to find that:

- there was no organised induction and prisoners spent too much time in their first week hanging about with nothing to do;
- although some good interactions between prison staff and prisoners were observed, discourteous and dismissive behaviour from staff was also witnessed;
- too many staff had little knowledge of the prisoners for whom they were responsible;

- drug use was high and there was no evidence of an effective strategy to reduce supply;
- resettlement processes were weak for a resettlement prison and staff were struggling to implement effective offender management; and
- some communal areas were shabby, with broken windows and in a poor state of repair.

However, inspectors were pleased to find that:

- prisoners said they generally felt safe, security was reasonable and there had been a welcome drop in the number of absconds;
- the amount and quality of purposeful activity was good, with prisoners unlocked throughout the core day and a good range of work, education and other activities available; and
- cells were generally in good condition and prisoners had access at all times to communal showers and toilets.

Nick Hardwick said:

“This was a disappointing inspection. Hatfield was performing poorly. It needs more effective strategic direction and more intrusive management. The prison relied upon the fact that it held low risk prisoners who appeared to just want to get through their sentence. This may not have been an unreasonable assumption but at worst it meant that risks were not effectively managed and at best that there was little proactive work to support prisoners in preparing for leading productive and law-abiding lives on release.”

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

“I agree that more needs to be done to improve the integration of the two prisons.

“More resources and staffing time have been provided in the area of resettlement and there has been a reduction in drug use since the last inspection.

“The Chief Inspector has recognised that Hatfield is a safe environment and that purposeful activity is a strength. The work, education and activities available to prisoners all help to reduce the likelihood of re-offending and help to protect the public.”

ENDS

**Notes to Editors:**

1. A copy of the HMP Hatfield report can be found on the HM Inspectorate of Prisons website from 15 July 2011 at <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/inspectorate-reports/hmi-prisons/prison-and-yoi-inspections/index.htm>.
2. HMP Hatfield and HMP Moorland have been combined for management purposes. The inspection covered both locations. We have reported on each location separately. The report on HMP Moorland, also published on 15 July, can be found at the above web address.
3. 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.
4. This announced inspection was carried out from 29 November – 3 December 2010.
5. HMP Hatfield is a category D resettlement prison for adult males and young offenders.
6. 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.