



26 July 2011

020 7035 2123

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEFORE 00.01, THURSDAY, 28 JULY 2011**

### **HMP LOWDHAM GRANGE - IMPRESSIVE**

HMP Lowdham Grange has made commendable improvements despite a significant growth in population, said Nick Hardwick, Chief Inspector of Prisons, publishing the report of an announced inspection of the Nottinghamshire jail.

Lowdham Grange is a privately managed training prison which we have previously commended. The prison had expanded significantly since its last inspection and had taken a large number of potentially challenging prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection. To its credit, it remained an impressively safe and decent establishment with plenty of activity and a sound focus on resettlement.

Inspectors were pleased to find that:

- prisoners reported feeling safe, early days were well managed and violence reduction arrangements were robust;
- those at risk of self-harm were well cared for;
- security was proportionate, use of force had declined and drugs were less of a problem than at similar jails;
- staff-prisoner relationships were good, and the level of staff turnover had fallen significantly;

- accommodation was generally excellent;
- prisoners spent plenty of time out of cell, and there was a sufficient quantity of work and education; and
- resettlement had improved.

However, inspectors had some concerns:

- some mentally ill prisoners spent too long in the segregation unit;
- the 'zero tolerance' approach to misbehaviour, while achieving good outcomes in terms of safety and good order, raised questions of fairness;
- health care required investment commensurate with the growth in population;
- work with the large number of foreign nationals and smaller number of disabled prisoners was underdeveloped;
- there was too little vocational activity for a training prison; and
- an intensive accredited programme to address substance misuse was badly needed.

Nick Hardwick said:

“It is commendable that Lowdham Grange continues to improve, develop and innovate. It has done so despite a significant growth in population and an increase in the numbers of potentially very challenging prisoners. There are, of course, a number of areas where further improvement is required, but overall this inspection found Lowdham Grange to be not only a safe and decent place, but also among the most impressive category B training prisons in the system.”

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

"I am pleased that Lowdham Grange has continued to improve since its previous, positive inspection. The Director and his staff have managed an expansion in population while continuing to provide a safe and decent environment with good resettlement work. Arrangements for dealing with violence are also robust.

"This Director and his staff should be very encouraged with this inspection report."

ENDS

**Notes to Editors:**

1. A copy of the report can be found on the HM Inspectorate of Prisons website from 28 July 2011 at: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/inspectorate-reports/hmi-prisons/prison-and-yoi-inspections/index.htm>
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 14-18 March 2011.
4. HMP Lowdham Grange is a long-term category B establishment for convicted adult males. It is run by Serco.
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.