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**HMP MOORLAND – POOR STAFF-PRISONER RELATIONSHIPS
UNDERMINE SOME SOLID STRENGTHS**

Relationships between staff and prisoners were very poor at HMP Moorland, said Nick Hardwick, Chief Inspector of Prisons, publishing the report of an announced inspection of the south Yorkshire jail.

Moorland, a category C training prison for adults and young offenders, has been combined, for management purposes, with Hatfield open 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. In some areas the inspection found that, because the data relating to both sites was combined, it was not possible to identify and therefore address issues that were specific to either location.

A month before this inspection, a serious disturbance had caused significant damage to HMP Moorland. The prisoner survey which informed the inspection was undertaken shortly before the disturbance. This report does not explain, nor excuse, why the disturbance took place, but does describe what was happening in the prison before and after those events.

At HMP Moorland, inspectors were concerned to find that:

- prisoner perceptions of relationships with staff were poor and little positive interaction between staff and prisoners was seen at key times, though relationships in specialist units such as segregation were better;
- a third of prisoners surveyed said they felt threatened and intimidated by staff;
- the culture was too punitive and restrictive, with a high use of force, often involving young adults;
- data that might have informed an assessment of overall security had not been analysed: no attempt had been made to understand the reasons behind a 20% increase in security intelligence reports in the six months prior to the inspection;
- prisoners had little confidence in the system for dealing with racist incidents;
- many cells were shabby, covered in graffiti and holding two prisoners when they had been designed for one; and
- resettlement provision was insufficient and inconsistent.

However, inspectors were pleased to find that:

- there was a enough good quality work, education and training for most prisoners;
- there were good violence reduction measures in place and care for those at risk of self-harm or suicide were generally effective;
- segregation staff treated prisoners respectfully and reception and induction arrangements were very good;
- drug use appeared to be low;
- health care services were improving; and
- the resettlement accommodation services provided by Shelter were particularly good.

Nick Hardwick said:

“Moorland had some solid strengths on which to build. Learning and skills provision, a much improved health service, the accommodation function by Shelter, the apparently low availability of drugs and good specialist functions such as reception and segregation, all stand out as positive features of the prison. However, intelligence was not used effectively to identify trends or patterns of concern and this, combined with very poor staff-prisoner relationships and weak resettlement provision, threatened the prison’s ability to hold prisoners safely and securely while working to reduce the likelihood of their reoffending on release.”

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

“I recognise the concerns raised by the Chief Inspector, but also welcome the positive aspects in the report.

“The Inspector recognises the good quality work, education and training undertaken by the prison. In addition, the work to reduce drug use, violence and self-harm all helps to reduce the likelihood of re-offending and thereby protect the public.

“Since the inspection the Governor and staff have worked to improve staff-prisoner relations. Measures have also been put in place to improve the integration of adults and young offenders.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

1. A copy of the HMP Moorland 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 Moorland and HMP Hatfield have been combined for management purposes. The inspection covered both locations. We have reported on each location separately. The report on HMP Hatfield, 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 Moorland is a category C training prison holding male adults 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.