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**HMYOI WERRINGTON – SUSTAINED PROGRESS,
DESPITE CHANGING POPULATION**

HMYOI Werrington remains an essentially safe, respectful and purposeful establishment, despite taking in a less settled remand population, said Nick Hardwick, Chief Inspector of Prisons, publishing the report of an announced inspection of the young offender institution near Stoke-on-Trent.

Werrington holds sentenced young people up to the age of 18 and has recently begun receiving those on remand. It is undertaking particularly good resettlement work with its young people.

Inspectors were pleased to find that:

- strip-searching on arrival was no longer routine, with the level of search for particularly vulnerable young people based on a risk assessment;
- despite the arrival of a less settled and more disruptive remand population, violence had not increased;
- those at risk of self-harm were well cared for;
- young people spent plenty of time out of cell and were able to access a good range of education and vocational courses, leading to some useful qualifications;
- health care was much improved; and

- the strategic management of resettlement had improved and release on temporary licence was well used to support young people's reintegration.

However, inspectors were concerned to find that:

- reception remained cramped and was inadequate to cope with the increased throughput;
- although violence had not increased, bullying and low-level intimidation required further work;
- young people did not have daily access to showers; and
- relationships between staff and young people varied and personal officer work required improvement.

Nick Hardwick said:

“Werrington has undergone a partial change of role to take remanded young people and adjusting to this new and less settled population has proved a challenge. However, the establishment has sustained the generally safe, respectful and purposeful environment that we have previously commended and it is particularly pleasing to see that resettlement work has continued to develop. There is scope for further improvement, but managers and staff deserve credit for what has been achieved.”

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

“This is a positive report and I am pleased the Chief Inspector found Werrington a safe, respectful and purposeful establishment. His comments on education, healthcare and resettlement provision are also welcome.

"The Governor and staff are working hard to minimise bullying and low-level intimidation, to improve staff-prisoner relationships and address issues with facilities.

"All these actions, combined with already the effective resettlement highlighted here, will reduce the likelihood of reoffending and thereby protect the public."

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

1. A copy of the report can be found on the HM Inspectorate of Prisons website from 27 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 7-11 March 2011.
4. HMYOI Werrington holds sentenced and remanded young men up to the age of 18.
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.