



March 2009

020 3334 3530

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEFORE 00.01 18 MARCH 2009**

### **HMP COLDINGLEY – SUSTAINED PROGRESS**

HMP Coldingley had in general sustained progress and remained one of the better training prisons in the country, said Dame Anne Owers, Chief Inspector of Prisons, publishing the report of an unannounced short follow-up inspection of the training prison in Surrey.

Inspectors found:

- Prisoners generally felt safe and bullying was not a significant problem. The flow of drugs into the prison had apparently been stemmed.
- The antiquated automatic night sanitation system meant that some prisoners were reduced to using pots and bottles.
- Staff-prisoner relationships were generally good, supported by a sound personal officer scheme. However, the incentives scheme, the management of diversity and support for foreign nationals needed improvement.
- Activities provision was satisfactory and was due to improve with the opening of new accommodation. The range of vocational courses was limited and relatively few prisoners were obtaining qualifications.
- There was no current resettlement strategy, but resettlement work was well managed and addressed most of the resettlement pathways. However, there was a lack of offending behaviour programmes, which was a serious obstacle to prisoners progressing through the system, especially those serving indeterminate sentences.

#### **Anne Owers said:**

“HMP Coldingley had sustained much of the progress that we recorded on our last visit. It remained commendably safe and staff-prisoner relationships were generally good. There was sufficient purposeful activity and efforts had been made to adjust this to the needs of the increased number of short-stay prisoners. Work on most of the resettlement pathways was reasonable.

“Inevitably, there were areas that required further improvement and development, for example replacement of the unsatisfactory night sanitation system and an increase in the number and range of offending behaviour

programmes, but overall Coldingley remained one of the better training prisons in the country.”

**Phil Wheatley, Director General of the National Offender Management Service, said:**

“I welcome the Chief Inspector’s recognition of the good work at Coldingley and I join her in congratulating the Governor and staff on sustaining much of the progress made from the previous inspection.

“This good work will ensure that we are protecting the public effectively by reducing the likelihood that prisoners will re-offend when they are released.

“I am confident that Coldingley will continue to provide a safe and respectful environment and build on the progress made. Action is being taken to further improve and develop on areas recommended in the report.”

### **Notes for Editors**

1. A copy of the full report can be found on the HM Inspectorate of Prisons website from 18 March 2009 at <http://inspectors.justice.gov.uk/hmiprison>
2. The unannounced short follow-up inspection of HMP Coldingley was carried out from 8-10 September 2008. The last full inspection of HMP Coldingley took place from 14-18 November 2005.
3. The operational capacity at HMP Coldingley is 392.
4. Coldingley was opened in 1969 as a category B industrial training prison. It changed its role to category C prison in 1993.
5. Anne Owers, Chief Inspector of Prisons, is available for interview. If you would like to speak to her please contact the Press Office on 0203 334 3530.