

**Prisons in the Yorkshire and Humberside area are delivering encouraging results in the face of population pressure, according to new figures published by the Prison Service.**

The latest regional performance results from the region's prisons, measured against Key Performance Indicators and published in the Prison Service annual report, show that without exception the region's prisons met their education and resettlement targets in the year 2003-4.

The figures also show the region's prisons producing good results in delivering offending behaviour programmes, particularly at HMPs Everthorpe, Hull and Lindholme.

However, population pressures, particularly at the region's busy local prisons such as HMP Leeds, affected performance in areas including overcrowding and the rate of positive mandatory drug tests (MDT).

**HMP Everthorpe** achieved 82 completions of offending behaviour programmes against a target of 58, and the establishment's MDT rate failure of 6.3% was substantially lower than the target of 14%

**HMP Hull** achieved 100 completions of offending behaviour programmes against a target of 96, and a Mandatory Drug Test failure rate of 7.8% against a target of 12.0%. However, expansion activity resulted in an average of only 15.8 hours/week purposeful activity per prisoner against a target of 16.3.

**HMP Lindholme** achieved 153 completions of offending behaviour programmes against a target of 96, although the rate for serious assaults reached 2.39%, above the target of 2.10%

**HMP/YOI Moorland** saw a MDT failure rate of 5.3% against a target of 10%. Its delivery of 399 Basic Skills (Level 2) qualifications was the highest in the country, and that of 6021 Key Work Skills qualifications was the second highest.

Steve Wagstaffe, HM Prison Service area manager for Yorkshire

and Humberside said:

"Overall I am pleased that this year's annual report reflects a very solid performance from prisons in Yorkshire and Humberside. I am particularly pleased with the performance in areas such as security, where once again there were no escapes from prisons, resettlement, where many prisoners obtained the opportunity of employment on release, education in basic skills and offending behaviour programmes. The relatively low level of assaults at a juvenile establishment such as HMYOI Wetherby is also encouraging and reflects well upon staff/prisoner relationships there.

"However, we are not complacent about the performance of prisons across Yorkshire and Humberside. Although local prisons across the country suffer more than others from drug supply problems because of the nature of their populations, the failure rate for mandatory drug tests at HMP Leeds remains very high and we are taking steps to try to address this, including a strategy to reduce the supply of drugs by rigorous searching and intelligence using the recently introduced area team. Assaults at HMP Lindholme are also high, although this owes much to some inappropriate accommodation which is difficult to supervise and soon to be demolished and replaced by a modern safer and more secure wing."

**Notes to editors:**

Full details are available on the HM Prison Service website - [www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk](http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk).

Overall during the past year, the Prison Service met nine of its fourteen KPIs (Key Performance Indicators):

- There were 15 escapes from prisons and prison escorts compared with 17 in the previous financial year and no Category A escapes since 1995.
- There was only one escape from escort per 39,377 prisoners, compared with the target of one escape from escort per 20,000 prisoners.
- The average staff sickness rate was 13.3 days against a target of 13.5 days.

- The rate for timely delivery of prisoners to court (a new KPI) was 82% against a target of 81%.
- In the resettlement sphere, 32,592 prisoners had a job, education or training outcome within a month of release, 12% more than the target of 29,044.
- 5.5% of staff were from a minority ethnic group, exactly meeting the target of 5.5%.
- Education targets were significantly exceeded in most areas:
  - Prisoners achieved 103,583 Work Skills awards compared to the target of 52,672.
  - Prisoners achieved 43,731 Basic Skills awards compared to the target of 34,482.
  - Within this, the KPI for delivery of Basic Skills Level 2 qualifications was narrowly missed, with 13,338 completions against a target of 13,648.
- 9,169 offending behaviour programmes were completed. Within this, the target of 1,168 sex offender treatment programme completions was not achieved, but the actual figure of 1,046 is the highest ever figure for completions.

The Prison Service failed to meet five key performance targets - although it improved performance against four of those missed compared to 2002/3:

- The rate of positive mandatory drug tests was 12.3% against the target of 10%.
- The rate of self-inflicted deaths was 135.9 per 100,000 prisoners against a target of 112.8. This represents a small improvement on the rate for 2002/3.
- The provision of purposeful activity was an average 23.2 hours per week against a target of 24 hours, although this also represents an improvement on the previous year's performance.
- The average rate of doubling, or the number of prisoners held two to a cell designed for one, was 21.7% against a target of 18%.
- The rate of serious assaults was 1.54% against a target of 1.20%.

