

## **HMP NOTTINGHAM : PROGRESS, BUT PROBLEMS REMAIN**

HMP Nottingham is an improving prison, hampered by unsuitable accommodation and too little activity for prisoners, said Anne Owers, Chief Inspector of Prisons, publishing the report of an announced inspection into the prison.

The report particularly commended the positive relationships between prisoners and staff, an improved healthcare service, and the extremely effective resettlement work: among the best seen in local prisons. 93% of prisoners were released to a recorded address, and drug services were good.

However, the report also recorded:

- Some accommodation that was 'too old, too cold and unfit for purpose'. Its planned refurbishment was essential and overdue.
- Insufficient activity and time out of cell for prisoners, and too little opportunity for them to acquire skills and education
- The need to improve suicide prevention, anti-bullying and detoxification, especially in the light of previous suicides and self-harm

Anne Owers said:

" Nottingham is an improving prison. It still has much to do, but with the new accommodation, continued strong management direction, and staff commitment, this improvement can be continued and sustained".

Phil Wheatley, Director General of the Prison Service said:

"I agree Nottingham is an improving prison and I am pleased that the Chief Inspector has acknowledged the many good areas of work in the prison.

"Since the Chief Inspector's visit significant improvements have been made to the time prisoners spend out of cells, including introducing additional periods in the evenings and at the weekend.

"The anti-bullying policy is currently under review, with the aim to introduce intervention programmes and support groups. There has already been a great deal of work put into suicide and self-harm

prevention with a significant increase in the number of staff trained in new care procedures."

### **Notes for editors**

1. The announced inspection of HMP Nottingham took place on 21 - 25 February 2005.
2. Nottingham is a category B prison holding adult male and remand and sentenced prisoners.
3. Its last full inspection was carried out in 1998, with a short unannounced inspection taking place in September 2000.
4. Inspectorate reports and releases are available at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/justice/prisons/inspprisons>

5. For an electronic copy of the report or to request an interview with Anne Owers, please call 020 7035 4381.