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HMP HULL – A LOCAL PRISON WITH GOOD OUTCOMES

HMP Hull was achieving some good outcomes for a local prison, particularly in activities and resettlement work, said Dame Anne Owers, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, publishing the report of an inspection into the Humberside prison.

Inspectors found that Hull felt more like a training prison than a busy, transitory local, and that there were some impressive resettlement community links. There were some concerns about safety.

Inspectors found

- A high proportion of prisoners, particularly recently-arrived and vulnerable prisoners, had felt unsafe. More resources were needed for safer custody work, to identify and deal with bullying and ensure good suicide prevention procedures.
- In spite of the age of some of the buildings, communal areas were commendably clean, but some of the cells in the older buildings were far too cramped for two men to eat and live
- Relationships between staff and prisoners were appropriate and positive..
- Healthcare had improved considerably, although there were some concerns about primary mental healthcare.
- There was some extremely innovative work on diversity and race, but not enough support for foreign nationals
- The level of activities at Hull was commendable, with spaces for nearly 80% of prisoners. Some vocational training was excellent, but the quality and scope of education needed to improve.

- There was good work in resettlement, which needed to be coordinated.

Anne Owers said:

“Overall, Hull was achieving some good outcomes for a local prison, particularly in activities and resettlement. There was evidence of commitment and innovation and, with only a few improvements, the prison could be performing well in these areas. The physical environment in the older part of the prison will remain a challenge, but the good relationships between staff and prisoners provide a sound basis for proactive work.

“The area of most concern was safety, where attention was needed to the basics of safer custody, as well as the development of innovative approaches. With that proviso, it was easy to see Hull becoming a high-performing local prison.”

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

“This is a very good report which recognises the achievement of managers and staff at Hull in providing an effective and purposeful regime.

“Providing a safe environment for staff and prisoners remains a priority at Hull, and additional resources have been dedicated to this work since the inspection. The low levels of assaults and incidents at Hull are testament to the effectiveness of this work.”

Notes for Editors

1. The full report can be found on the HM Inspectorate of Prisons website from 9 June 2009 at <http://inspectors.justice.gov.uk/hmiprisons>.
2. The announced inspection of HMP Hull took place from 10-14 November 2008.
3. The operational capacity at HMP Hull at the time of the inspection was 1,038.
4. The last inspection of HMP Hull took place from 28-30 November 2005.
5. HMP Hull is a local category B prison for adult and young adult males. Hull is a large local prison on an extensive site, holding a mixed population of mainstream adult prisoners, young adults and vulnerable prisoners.
6. Anne Owers, Chief Inspector, is available for interview. If you would like to speak to her please contact Nicole Valentinuzzi in the Press Office on 0203 334 3547.