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**RIVENDELL UNIT FOR YOUNG WOMEN COMMENDED**

The Rivendell Unit at HMP New Hall, which holds 17-18 year old young women, is an essentially safe and respectful place, with impressive purposeful activity and good resettlement arrangements said Anne Owers, Chief Inspector of Prisons, in a report into the first inspection of the facility.

The unit is a dedicated 26 bed facility for 17 and 18 year old young women, situated in the grounds of HMP New Hall, near Wakefield, Yorkshire, one of three such facilities within the prison system.

Inspectors found that:

- Incidents of self harm were high, but were managed with care
- Use of force was high, but reducing; however, a new and comprehensive approach to behaviour management was needed
- Relationships between staff and young women were good, and young women found their personal officers helpful
- Young women spent plenty of time out of their cells and were able to engage in a wide range of good quality purposeful activity, with particularly good education and vocational training. However, physical education and evening activities were limited, and outdoor facilities poor
- Mental health services were good, but primary health services were poor

Anne Owers, Chief Inspector of Prisons said:

“It is depressing that we incarcerate significant numbers of young women but, faced with this reality, Rivendell unit, along with the other units of the same type, is to be commended for its safe, decent and purposeful environment.

“Staff on the unit showed considerable care and support for the often damaged and challenging young women in their care, and made commendable efforts to address the risks and needs they presented.”

Phil Wheatley, Director General of the Prison Service said:

" I am pleased that the Chief Inspector has acknowledged the hard work and dedication shown by the Governor and staff at New Hall in making the Rivendell Unit a positive environment for rehabilitating these young women, and this very good report is a credit to their efforts."