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HMP NOTTINGHAM: PROGRESS UNDER PRESSURE

HMP Nottingham had made progress, especially in accommodation and education, in spite of population pressure, said Anne Owers, Chief Inspector of Prisons, publishing the findings of a short unannounced follow up inspection of the local prison.

Inspectors found that

- Unacceptable accommodation had closed, and remained closed, in spite of population pressures; though some new cells were overcrowded and insanitary
- Prisoners' time out of cell had improved, as had the quality and quantity of education, though prisoners without jobs or education still spent too much time locked up
- First night and induction arrangements had improved, though the reception area was unsuitable; there were effective procedures for managing self-harm and bullying
- There was good resettlement work, though more needed to be done with families and many indeterminate-sentenced prisoners remained stranded at Nottingham because there were not enough spaces in training prisons.
- Progress had been made in preventing drugs entering the prison, and detoxification and treatment had improved.

Anne Owers said:

"Nottingham has progressed since our last visit. This is due both to the opening of new accommodation and facilities, and to the prison successfully sustaining the generally safe and decent atmosphere we commended previously. Despite the current pressures, Nottingham has also managed to improve the quantity and quality of education, as well as maintaining a focus on resettlement. The challenge for managers and staff will be to sustain this progress, particularly as Nottingham will have almost doubled in size by the end of the current development programme".

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

“The Chief Inspector rightly recognises the considerable and continuing progress being made at Nottingham, and I commend the governor and his staff for their work to provide a safe and positive environment. As work in other areas develops, such as the increased provision of work that will aid resettlement, I am confident that Nottingham will play an increasingly vital part in reducing reoffending.”

Notes to editors

1. A full copy of the HMCIP report into HMP Nottingham is available from <http://inspectors.justice.gov.uk/hmiprisons/>
2. HMP Nottingham is a category B local prison holding adult male remand and sentenced prisoners
3. HMP Nottingham has an operational capacity of 550.
4. The short unannounced follow-up inspection took place between 15-18 October 2007.

Anne Owers is available for media interviews. Please call 0207 210 0675 to arrange an interview.