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**HMP/ YOI PETERBOROUGH - PROGRESS, BUT SOME WEAKNESSES
REMAIN**

HMP/YOI Peterborough, the only prison holding both men and women, had made progress, but there were weaknesses in staff-prisoner relationships and in meeting the specific needs of women, said Anne Owers, Chief Inspector of Prisons, publishing the report of an unannounced inspection of the prison.

HMP/YOI Peterborough opened in spring 2005.

Inspectors found:

- Procedures to ensure safety had improved, with better support in the early days of custody, and considerably improved detoxification arrangements. However, levels of self-harm among women remained high, and bullying procedures needed strengthening.
- Staff-prisoner relationships were not positive, with little interaction or support for prisoners from relatively inexperienced officers. More progress was needed in race, foreign national and diversity issues.
- Healthcare had improved, but there remained much to be done, and primary mental health services were under-resourced. The mother and baby unit was well-run.
- The quantity and quality of activity places had increased, with better allocation procedures and more skills training. However, there was still not enough activity.
- Resettlement work had improved, with the introduction of the offender management system, and better accommodation and drug treatment services. However, there was insufficient provision for the specific needs of short-term prisoners and women lifers and young adults.

Anne Owers said:

“Peterborough prison had clearly made progress since the last inspection. No area gave rise to the acute concerns that we expressed at the time of the last inspection. However, there is still considerable room for improvement, particularly in the crucial area of staff-prisoner relationships, which remains the prison’s weakest link. There is also insufficient focus on the specific needs of the diverse female population, including lifers and young adult women.”

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

“I am pleased that the Chief Inspector has recognised the progress made since the last inspection, especially in relation to safety.

“Peterborough continues to make progress. Specialised staff training and a higher staff retention level is improving staff-prisoner relations and an action plan is in place focusing on the specific needs of women.”

Notes for Editors

1. A copy of the full report can be found on the HM Inspectorate of Prisons website from 09 January 2009 at <http://inspectorates.justice.gov.uk/hmiprisons>
2. The unannounced inspection of HMP/ YOI Peterborough was carried out from 30 June - 4 July 2008.
3. The operational capacity at HMP/YOI Peterborough (men) is 624 and the number of prisoners held at the time of the inspection was 624.
4. The operational capacity at HMP/YOI Peterborough (women) is 384 and the number of prisoners held at the time of the inspection was 384.
5. The last full inspection of HMP/ YOI Peterborough took place in October 2006.
6. HMP Peterborough is a local category B prison which opened in 2005 and holds male and female prisoners. Genders are separated and never mix.
7. Peterborough is a new prison operated under a 25-year DCMF contract awarded by the Home Office to Peterborough Prison Management Ltd, which sub-contracts to the operator, Kalyx. It opened in spring 2005.
8. Anne Owers, Chief Inspector of Prisons, is available for interview. If you would like to speak to her please contact Tom Hodson in the Press Office on 020 3334 3527.