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**HMP WOLDS – PROGRESS MADE AND PERFORMING WELL**

HMP Wolds, in East Yorkshire, has progressed since the previous inspection and is performing reasonably well across the board, said Anne Owers, Chief Inspector of Prisons, publishing the report of a short unannounced inspection into the prison.

Wolds remained a reasonably safe prison with little recourse to the use of force. Effective work was being done on both suicide and self-harm prevention.

Accommodation was satisfactory, but population pressures had led to the doubling of prisoners in inappropriate conditions. Prisoners spent a lot of time out of cells and efforts had been made to improve the quality and quantity of purposeful activity.

Inspectors also found that;

- Staff-prisoner relations were good, but more work was needed to support the incentives and privileges scheme, in addition to gaining prisoner confidence in the applications and complaints systems. Marked progress in the support of foreign national prisoners was evident, although more work was needed to improve race equality issues.
- Strategic management in resettlement had also experienced a significant improvement, although a thorough analysis of the risks and needs of prisoners required further work. Access to the offender management system had resulted in an impressive array of resettlement and reintegration services. However, there was evidence that work needed to be developed with life-sentenced prisoners.
- Greater emphasis was placed on learning and accredited training, linked more closely to employment opportunities in the community.

Anne Owers said:

“Staff and managers at Wolds deserve considerable praise for building on the strengths that we identified in our previous inspection and for acting on those areas that we identified as requiring improvement. Inevitably, there is more to do, but this is a positive report on an improving establishment.”

Hilary Campbell, Regional Offender Manager for Yorkshire and Humberside, said:

" I am pleased that the Chief Inspector has acknowledged the hard work and dedication shown by the Director and staff at Wolds in making the prison a positive environment for rehabilitating prisoners, and this very good report is a credit to their efforts."

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

1. A full copy of the HMCIP report into HMP Wolds is available from <http://inspectors.justice.gov.uk/hmiprisons/>
2. The short unannounced inspection took place between 17-19 September.
3. Anne Owers has limited time available for media interviews. Please call 0207 210 8803 to arrange an interview.

**ENDS**