



Peter Clarke CVO, OBE, QPM
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24th May 2019

Dear Peter,

HMIP report on an independent review of progress at HMP Chelmsford
15th to 17th April 2019

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress report at HMP Chelmsford, whereby you followed up 9 key recommendations, from your most recent inspection in May 2018.

I am encouraged to note that you have seen progress being made in the following four recommendations, all relating to key areas of Safety and Decency:

- **Living Conditions**
Major improvements to living conditions on some of the older wings, improved cleanliness and better access to amenities were found.
- **Self-Harm**
Staff training and improved documentation had resulted in progress in improving the quality of care provided to those at risk.
- **Violence**
The number of serious assaults had reduced, providing evidence of improvements resulting from additional national & regional resources, a better resourced safer custody department and an increased range of interventions.
- **Governance of health provision**
Positive partnership working and strong leadership had contributed to the progress identified.

In respect of the 5 key recommendations where you did not find sufficient progress, I can confirm that additional action is being taken, for example:

- **Drug supply**
This recommendation was only partly agreed, as resources for the technology required are not secured to allow for full delivery. Nevertheless, up to date drug detection technology, including the use of body scanners and funding arrangements for trace detection equipment, is being explored nationally as part of a wider HMPPS programme to restore stability to the prison estate. This will inform priority areas for future investment and development, including at HMP

Chelmsford. The focus on intelligence processes, up skilling the staff group, increasing awareness of the types of drugs and their affects, together with intelligent searching and use of Mandatory Drugs Tests have all impacted on the availability of illicit articles at HMP Chelmsford. This will continue to be given priority along with increased searching, regular drug testing and further physical security improvements, including cell window encasement of cells vulnerable to throw overs and a centrally purchased archway metal detector. Further work with the men to reduce the demand is also planned at HMP Chelmsford within a newly revised Drug Strategy.

- **Prisoner consultation, applications and redress**

Work has started with the implementation of the prisoner council and focus groups, this work will continue to include governance and assurance around the Prison Information Desk workers, a review of the application and complaints system and prisoner consultation informing any local policy or process changes. Impact on outcomes is anticipated by the end of the year.

- **Time out of cell**

A re-profiling exercise will start in May 2019 for implementation at the end of September 2019 and we will review the core day to ensure it delivers the best outcomes for the men. The intention is to increase time out of cell, as well as access to purposeful activity.

- **Rehabilitation and Release Planning**

There is a clear commitment to deliver full staffing within the Offender Management Unit (OMU), to allow for development of the Offender Management (OM) role and training, this will be supported by the re-profiling exercise which has an anticipated completion for the end of September 2019. The role of the key worker will be further enhanced as full staffing figures are achieved.

The Governor, with the support of the Prison Group Director, will continue to progress the full Action Plan covering all the original recommendations.

I remain committed to ensuring continued progress against HMP Chelmsford's agreed Action Plan and I can assure you that through my operational assurance functions and the support of OSAG we continue to closely monitor the progress.

Whilst I acknowledge that there is still much work to be carried out at the prison I am encouraged that progress is being made and that our monitoring of the prison is in accord with your findings.

Yours sincerely,



Michelle Jarman-Howe

Executive Director (PSP South)

CC: Private Office and Phil Cople, Director General Prisons