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HMYOI WARREN HILL – GETTING BACK ON TRACK

HMYOI Warren Hill is rising above its recent problems and getting back on track, said Nick Hardwick, Chief Inspector of Prisons, publishing the report of an unannounced inspection of the young offender institution in Suffolk.

In 2010, Warren Hill suffered a serious disturbance and lost half its accommodation. On top of this, much needed new buildings suffered accidental water damage which has delayed their opening. This inspection found that Warren Hill had seen a number of improvements.

Inspectors were pleased to find that:

- Warren Hill was reasonably safe and young people at risk of self-harm were generally well cared for;
- use of force was generally appropriate and substance use was not a significant problem;
- plans were being made to refurbish the damaged wings;
- relationships between staff and young people were good;
- learning and skills provision was good, and most young people spent a good deal of time out of cell; and
- the strategic management of resettlement had improved and there were appropriate offending behaviour programmes.

However, inspectors were concerned to find that:

- reception and first night accommodation remained unacceptable, but would, it is hoped, shortly be replaced by new buildings;
- young people were still routinely strip-searched on arrival;
- more work was needed to address bullying;
- some young people spent too long in segregation;
- some poor behaviour went unchallenged; and
- there was a need for further work to address negative perceptions among black and minority ethnic young people.

The separate Carlford Unit continued to provide an important resource in housing a small number of long-term sentenced young people.

Nick Hardwick said:

“Warren Hill was at something of a crossroads at the time of the inspection; work had not yet started on refurbishing the accommodation damaged in the recent disturbances and some much needed new accommodation had not come on stream because of accidental water damage. Nevertheless, this inspection found a number of areas of improvement and much to commend at Warren Hill. It is to be hoped that the establishment will be allowed to move swiftly on after a very difficult period and return to being an important part of the young offender secure estate.”

Michael Spurr, Chief Executive Officer of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), said:

"I am pleased to see that Warren Hill continues to make significant progress and that the Chief Inspector recognises the work that has been done to create a safe environment.

"Despite the challenges since the November disturbance Warren Hill continues to provide good education, resettlement and offending behaviour programmes, all of which help to reduce the likelihood of re-offending and thereby protect the public."

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

1. A copy of the report can be found on the HM Inspectorate of Prisons website from 4 October 2011 at <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/inspectorate-reports/hmi-prisons/prison-and-yoi-inspections/index.htm>.
2. HM Inspectorate of Prisons is an independent inspectorate, inspecting places of detention to report on conditions and treatment, and promote positive outcomes for those detained and the public.
3. This unannounced full follow-up inspection was carried out from 9-13 May 2011.
4. HMYOI Warren Hill holds remand and convicted young people up to the age of 18, covering courts from Northampton to the South of England.
5. Please contact Jane Parsons in HMI Prisons Press Office on 0207 035 2123 or 07880 787452 from 0915 to 1415 Monday to Friday if you would like more information or to request an interview with Nick Hardwick.