HMIPS
HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland
INSPECTING AND MONITORING

Independent Prison Monitoring Bulletin
HMP Greenock
April – September 2018

6 Independent Prison IPMs

23 Prison Monitoring Visits

8 Prisoner Requests

Key Findings

- **Decency:** Independent Prison Monitors (IPMs) monitored the decency standard in some depth at the beginning of this monitoring period. They reported that staff do a commendable job in ensuring the prison functions well, despite the site, age and deteriorating conditions of some of the buildings.
- **Effective Use of Authority**: IPMs continue to reflect positively on interactions between staff and prisoners, highlighting officers welcoming nature at reception and the visits area in particular.
- **Purposeful Activity**: IPMs continue to note that sometimes staffing could be finely balanced. With some purposeful activity being closed due to sickness etc. and requested comment on this from management. IPMs also reported positively on the activity that does take place and requested an update on the progress of the life skills initiative.
- **Lawful and Transparent Custody**: IPMs spent time in reception where there appeared to be efficient processes in place. Orderly room procedures were observed in Darroch hall and provided evidence of transparent and humane exercise of authority.
- **Transitions from custody**: IPMs noted the changes to Home Detention Curfew (HDC) eligibility criteria and have enquired as to the potential impact for prisoners at HMP Greenock

Updates and Actions

- **Decency:** A further six cells have been closed in Ailsa Hall in addition to the 17 which were already out of use. A recent infection control audit conducted by the NHS saw the prison achieve 99% compliance. New carpets have been laid in Chriswell House.
- **Purposeful Activity**: Two wood sheds have closed to be cleared, cleaned, repainted, and repurposed as Life skills (Upper Floor) and Community Benefit (Lower Floor). When completed these areas will give employment / activity to more prisoners than previously. Challenges remain with numbers accessing education, but there is evidence that the system has settled as the new contract has been rolled out, and numbers are expected to rise again.
- **Progression:** All HDC decisions will now be signed off by the Governor / Deputy Governor. The new rules on eligibility will have an impact on some individuals across the SPS estate, including HMP Greenock.

- I**PM Focus in the Next Quarter**
- IPMs will continue to monitor progression transitions from custody to the community in HMP Greenock in both CIU's and Chriswell House

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