



HMIPS
HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland
INSPECTING AND MONITORING

News Release
Full Inspection of HMP Shotts

Like the rest of the Scottish Prison Service, HMP Shotts had faced significant challenges over the last few years from the global pandemic. Staff shortages were evident across the establishment with healthcare delivery, access to employment, staff training, staff and prisoner engagement and evening activities detrimentally impacted. This was compounded by a period of significant incidents prior to the inspection, mostly substance related, that had affected the confidence of the prison. The national introduction of photocopying of prisoner mail, however, has led to a clear and welcome reduction in drug related incidents, and prisoners also reported they felt safer.

HMP Shotts is the first public sector prison in Scotland to install a digital 'kiosk' system. The kiosk reduces administrative burdens for staff and enables prisoners to exercise control and independence by making requests electronically e.g. choosing their meals. HMIPS welcomes this initiative and looks forward to seeing this innovation extended into the cellular accommodation and rolled out across the estate.

HMP Shotts houses the National Integration Centre which holds approximately 60 adult male offenders who are in the initial stages of a long or life sentence and prepares them for eventual movement to mainstream prisons. We saw evidence of constructive relationships between prisoners and staff. As in the 2017 report, it was encouraging to see the operation of a Personal Officer scheme at its best.

Despite staffing constraints, HMP Shotts are to be commended for increasing the offending behaviour programme delivery during COVID-19 and for the resumption of education and chaplaincy activities. We would nevertheless now strongly urge the early resumption of a return to a full regime.

Unfortunately, the significant and sustained pressures on healthcare staff and the detrimental impact on patient care resulted in a grading of 'Poor' for NHS Lanarkshire, but we nevertheless recognise the considerable efforts made in difficult circumstances by staff within HMP Shotts and the North Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership to support the healthcare needs of patients in HMP Shotts.

The waiting list for prisoners to progress to the National Top End meant prisoners were delayed in progressing through their sentence. This problem is not exclusive to HMP Shotts and must be addressed by the SPS with a matter of urgency.

Echoing the 2017 inspection report, we were concerned that long-term prisoners were released back into the community from HMP Shotts without any formal opportunity to develop key life skills as part of preparation for release during their sentence.

We were concerned that the Senior Management Team and a number of other management posts had been occupied on a temporary promotion basis for over two years; this was not conducive to stability and longer-term planning, so we urge the SPS to secure some more permanent arrangements as soon as possible.

We made 65 recommendations in total, but we encourage the SPS and NHS to focus on 13 key recommendations. For the NHS the key recommendations focus on improving medical cover, pharmacy provision and support for those with long term health conditions. For the

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SPS, apart from stabilising the management team, the key recommendations cover issues such as actions to reduce violence, promoting Equality and Diversity and anti-bullying strategies, and improving access to opportunities to progress.

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland, Wendy Sinclair-Gieben was appointed in July 2018.
2. On publication the report can be found at www.prisonsofscotland.gov.uk
3. For further information please contact Kerry Love, Business Manager, at Kerry.Love@gov.scot or on 07939 980452.

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