

**Independent Prison Monitoring Bulletin**
HMP Inverness
January to March 2018**8 Independent
Prison Monitors
(Monitors)****15 Prison
Monitoring Visits****11 Prisoner
Requests****Key Findings**

- **Health and Wellbeing:** Concerns over mental health service staffing were raised again this quarter. Monitors were informed by some SPS officers of their concern that the level of mental health need among the prisoner population has put staff under pressure, and that additional mental health staff are needed. Monitors are aware that this issue is being addressed and recruitment is underway.
- **Purposeful Activity:** Monitors visited the off-site visitor centre, and noted that it seeks to provide a productive and supportive service to families of prisoners. At the time, centre staff noted that it was not as well attended as they would like. They are trying to increase the use of the centre through widening the services and activities available, and through publicising the centre more widely.
- **Purposeful Activity:** Monitors observed some visitors passing through security to attend visits, noting that the process was well managed: Security measures were applied in a courteous and effective manner, with clear explanations given by staff in relation to the stages of the process.
- **Decency:** Monitors found that the bedding provided to prisoners appeared to be of good quality, and the system for cleaning and replacing bedding is efficient.

Updates and Actions

- **Purposeful Activity:** Prisoners have complained about the space available for family visits. Monitors understand that there is little that can be done given the restrictions of the building, but were pleased to hear that the visits system was under review to identify how it could be improved.
- **Organisational effectiveness:** Recently reported issues around a shortage of SPS staff improved in the reporting period. The establishment achieved a full complement for the first time in a number of years.

Focus in the Next Quarter

- **Purposeful Activity:** Monitors will seek updates on the review of the visits process and discuss the visits experience with prisoners. They will also seek updates on planned improvements with the off-site visitor centre.
- **Health and Wellbeing:** Monitors will look at what is being provided to prisoners in preparation for the implementation of the SPS Smoke Free Prisons policy which comes in towards the end of the year.
- **General:** Monitors will also continue to run focus groups with prisoners in order to identify issues for future monitoring activity.