

**Independent Prison IPMSing Bulletin**
HMP Kilmarnock
April – September 2018**6 Independent
Prison
IPMs****27 Prison
IPMSing Visits****18 Prisoner
Requests**

Key Findings

- **Lawful and Transparent Custody:** The Separation and Reintegration Unit was noted to be busy during this period, although staff appeared confident in their work in this area. Adjudications were observed to be running smoothly despite the complexities involved in managing some of the cases.
- **Decency:** Independent Prison Monitors (IPMs) commented on the condition of some of the showers in F Wing and some repairs that may be required to showers in H Wing. IPMs noted that servery upgrades were due to be undertaken in the coming months.
- **Personal Safety:** IPMs noted a greater number of prisoners on protection at times during this period, with the subsequent impact on the regime. It was also noted that a detailed review of the Safer Custody arrangements had taken place across the establishment. IPMs observed a prisoner being transferred to a secure hospital, and commented that this was done professionally and humanely, with updates and explanations provided regularly to the individual.
- **Health and wellbeing:** IPMs understand from the NHS, Serco staff and prisoners that prevalence of NPS continues to be a concern for the health and wellbeing of everyone in the prison.
- **Staffing:** IPMs noted that staffing levels and absence were raised as a continuing pressure by some staff in the establishment.

Updates and Actions

- **Personal safety:** Prison management confirmed the increase in protection prisoners and the challenges associated with this. There is now a dedicated protection work shed, which will allow for better access to the regime. Some innovation in this area include the appointment of a Violence Reduction Co-ordinator and the implementation of an Anti-Bullying strategy.
- **Decency:** The issues raised by IPMs regarding the showering facilities in F Wing and H Wing have now been resolved.
- **Health and wellbeing:** New flooring and IT points in the health centre have enabled an increase in clinics, which should impact on waiting times. Some changes to the dispensing of drugs such as Gabapentin and Pregabalin will have some impact in the prison also. Current waiting times of three weeks for mental health appointments and 26 weeks for dental treatment show improvements in this area. Although NPS continues to be an area of concern there has been no notable increase in use within the prison. HMP Kilmarnock have invested in a new piece of machinery capable of detecting illicit substances.
- **Staffing:** Prison management advised that 17 PCO vacancies would be filled by mid-November and sickness absence will continue to be managed in line with policies.

IPM Focus in the Next Quarter

- IPMs will focus on the education and purposeful activity provision at HMP Kilmarnock.