



HMIPS

HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland
INSPECTING AND MONITORING

NEWS RELEASE

INSPECTION OF HMP Glenochil – 29 April to 10 May 2019

HMP Glenochil had relatively modern accommodation facilities consisting of two main residential blocks; Abercrombie Hall, which housed offence-protection prisoners and Harviestoun Hall, which housed mainstream prisoners. Areas had been refurbished to accommodate the rising trend of older prisoners requiring additional health, mobility support and social care.

With the current overcrowding pressures experienced across Scotland, the prison had been forced to expand the bed capacity from 668 to 750. Despite the concomitant reduction in single cell places, HMP Glenochil still holds a significant number of Scotland's sex offenders, older prisoners and those with an Order for Lifelong Restriction imposed.

Progress from previous inspection

HMP Glenochil was last inspected in 2015. Two recommendation areas remain an area of concern. Firstly, equality and diversity frameworks¹ are still not fully embedded. Secondly, the staff knowledge and application of the cell sharing risk assessment² process remains incomplete, which is increasingly significant with the expanded cell-sharing requirement.

A number of areas of good practice had been developed since the last inspection including the welcoming Family Centre and the management of older prisoners and disabilities. Inspectors found impressive mobility and social care facilities within Abercrombie Hall, which included adapted showers, physiotherapy opportunities, admirable social care and an innovative peer carer process. The caring and compassionate approach taken by staff when dealing with older and disabled prisoners in Abercrombie was particularly apparent.

Safety

Survey results indicated that prisoners and staff largely felt safe. There was some disconnect, however, between the survey results and the verbal perceived feelings of safety. HMIPS welcomed the recent decrease in this area, which had been significant.

Regime

The prison offered a broad range of employment and training activities in good quality, purpose-built workshops and establishment facilities. However, the employment and training opportunities were not sufficient for all prisoners who wanted to work, and not all prison populations received equitable access to match their age, ability and preference.

Inspectors were concerned with the extent of social isolation faced by non-offence protection prisoners in Harviestoun Hall, who were locked in their cell for long periods each day with very little access to any regime.

This was raised with the Governor at the time of the inspection, and a subsequent visit by the inspectorate confirmed that the Governor had immediately responded and changes had been implemented to provide time out of cell.

Relationships

¹ See Scottish Human Rights Commission synopsis and evidence throughout the standards.

² Standard 1 QI 1.6

The prison engaged positively with other parts of the prison service, social services and justice system, and was proactive in seeking to work with their local community, leading to an award winning white goods repair project.

We commend the quality of positive informal interactions in Abercrombie hall and in the activity areas, where prisoners were treated with evident respect.

Leadership

Overall, the prison was competently led and run. There was evidence of action being prioritised effectively by the senior management team, and issues being worked on until performance improved.

Equality and Diversity

The establishment recognised that there were still shortfalls in the Equality and Diversity framework. However, the senior management team and the Scottish Prison Service Headquarters recognised the need to embed a culture of support for the human rights of all prisoners, including those with protected characteristics.

Healthcare

The healthcare team at HMP Glenochil was a well-motivated and caring workforce, committed to providing a high quality of care to their patients. Positive partnership working was evident between the healthcare and SPS staff, based on an understanding and respect of each other's roles and responsibilities towards the wellbeing of prisoners. Inspectors saw many examples of the positive impact this relationship had on the prison environment, and this was reflected in conversations with patients, who told inspectors that they were encouraged and supported to be directly involved in their own healthcare.

Next Steps

HMIPS will continue to monitor, at a national and local level, the strategies to manage the population pressures and complex mix of cohorts, as well as the reduction of social isolation to comply with the United Nations Standard Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. HMIPS will continue to monitor progress in HMP Glenochil through the Independent Prison Monitors.

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.prisoninspectoratescotland.gov.uk
3. For further information please contact Kerry Love, Business Manager, at Kerry.Love@gov.scot or on 0131 244 8482/07939 980452.

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