

**Independent Prison Monitoring Bulletin**
HMP Open Estate
April to June 2019**8 Independent
Prison
Monitors****13 Prison
Monitoring
Visits****3 Prisoner
Requests****Key Findings**

- **Progression:** IPMs discussed the management of 'Schedule 1 Offenders', and concluded that they were treated fairly and given as much assistance to progress in the open estate as possible, including access to external work placements.
- **Purposeful Activity:** IPMs observed a number of prisoners undertaking grounds maintenance work, and were pleased to see that it was not just prisoners on community placement that benefit from work opportunities. IPMs felt that the grounds were looking well, and that it is testament to the hard work of the prisoners, and to the staff who train them.
- **Equality:** IPMs observed staff engaging with older prisoners at the gym, and concluded it was a very positive initiative to have older prisoners address their health and fitness.
- **Fair Treatment:** IPMs observed a prisoner being escorted to the holding cell, and noticed that this was being done humanely and with respect. It appeared that staff were working on maintaining a good relationship with this prisoner in what was a potentially a difficult situation.

Updates and Actions

- **Transition to the community:** Prisoners have again complained to IPMs about the lack of availability of hostel places for homeless prisoners accessing 'home leave' (staff confirmed that this is an issue). Concerns include how a lack of community access may adversely affect their chances of securing parole. Senior management are working to improve the situation.
- **Substance Misuse:** Substance misuse reportedly continues to be a problem at the establishment. IPMs did however see evidence of the efforts made by both NHS and SPS staff to mitigate the problem: The 'new admissions' wing for those more vulnerable to substance misuse is viewed as an excellent facility.

IPM Focus in the Next Quarter

- IPMs will determine the impact of an increasing population upon prisoners' access to work, community placements, hostel accommodation, etc.