



HMIPS

HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland
INSPECTING AND MONITORING

NEWS RELEASE
INSPECTION OF COURT CUSTODY PROVISION, PAISLEY SHERIFF COURT
ON 4 MARCH 2019

Inspectors found the CCU to be an efficient and effective facility with staff that were clearly motivated, well led and working well as a team. Staff/prisoner relationships were professional, compassionate and respectful, resulting in a range of good practice including careful and appropriate cell allocation.

Staff maintained good levels of supervision and had a thorough and compassionate approach to the risk of self-harm, distress and suicide. The staff were highly visible and approachable; and took account of the varied needs of those they were responsible for. Prisoners with distinct vulnerabilities could be located in an observation cell with a glass front, which allowed staff to safely monitor the prisoner from a discreet area, hidden from the gaze of the main corridor. Movement was well controlled, safe and secure.

All of the cells in the CCU were accessed via a staircase. To assist those with restricted mobility, the Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service had agreed with the service provider that a witness room located beside each of the custody courts could be utilised as a holding area when required.

Prisoners where English was not their first language could readily access translation services.

A small number of the Personal Escort Records (PERs) from Police Scotland did not have the age of the prisoner recorded or the appropriate box selected for identified risk, when there was risk clearly documented elsewhere on the record. In addition, two prisoners whose PERs were recorded as 'keep separate' due to domestic abuse offences, had been transported by GEOAmev in the same van.

Despite the clean and freshly refurbished cells, there was unfortunately offensive graffiti on the doors, seating and ceilings. In addition, deactivated urinals within the cells and the lack of sanitary bins caused a potential biohazard. Inspectors have been advised that since the inspection, sanitary bins have been installed.

Finally, increasing the use of video-conferencing capability between the prison and the court would, in addition to financial savings, have significant benefits; reducing the transport and custody risk, the numbers of prisoners attending for short procedural court appearances, and the inconvenience suffered by the prisoner from long hours of travel or detention for a very brief court appearance.

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.prisonssinspectoratescotland.gov.uk
3. For further information please contact Kerry Love, Business Manager, at Kerry.Love@gov.scot or on 0131 244 8484.