



Independent Prison Monitoring Bulletin
HMP YOI Polmont
April to September 2018



7
Independent
Prison IPMs



30 Prison
Monitoring
Visits



12 Prisoner
Requests

Key Findings

- **Purposeful activity:** Independent Prison Monitors (IPMs) agreed that they had witnessed an increase in purposeful activity taking place in Polmont, compared to what they had seen before. Some of this had been taking place on the halls which was thought to be positive. However, there still does not appear to be enough for people to do during the day, and IPMs think that some people are still locked up for too long.
- **Staffing:** IPMs were told on a few occasions that there were not enough staff on shift to offer a full regime every day. The team raised this at a recent meeting with the Deputy Governor in Charge.
- **Gym equipment:** IPMs found that it seemed to take a long time for gym equipment to be repaired, especially when the equipment is in the wing gyms.
- **Time in cells:** IPMs found that some people were still spending long periods locked in their cells, because places were not available for them on halls that could provide them with a full regime. At this point in time this is affecting people on protection as there does not seem to be enough space for them.

Updates and Action

- **Purposeful activity:** At a recent meeting with the Deputy Governor, the Team were given figures that showed the number of hours people were involved in purposeful activity had gone up. IPMs think this is good, but everyone agreed there was still work to do and that opportunities to be involved in purposeful activity could be increased. The team will continue to monitor progress in this area.
- **Staffing:** IPMs were told that whilst high staff sickness levels were challenging for everyone a clear staff shortage protocol was in place. Before any regime is restricted a risk assessment is carried out and it has been agreed by Senior Management. IPMs were told that regimes are not restricted very often. IPMs were told making sure full regimes ran and that staff who are off sick are properly supported was a priority for Polmont. The team will continue to monitor progress.
- **Gym equipment:** It is not clear why it is taking so long for some gym equipment to be repaired. The Deputy Governor agreed to look into this matter and report back to IPMs.
- **Time in cells:** Due to an increasing number in the protection population for young men, there has been an overspill into another area to cope with the numbers. Work is in progress to complete a full population review. The team will continue to monitor this.

IPM Focus in the Next Quarter:

- The HMIPS Prison Inspection Team will carry out a full inspection of Polmont at the end of October 2018. Once IPMs have the final report they will put together a monitoring plan to follow up on the findings.