

**Independent Prison Monitoring Bulletin****HMP Shotts****April to September 2018****8 Independent
Prison IPMs****35 Prison
Monitoring Visits****26 Prisoner
Requests**

Key Findings

- **Escorted Day Absence:** During this monitoring period, a few requests received by Independent Prison Monitors (IPMs) related to decisions that had been made about Escorted Day Absence (EDA).
- **Health:** IPMs have agreed a new process with healthcare for following up any health related monitoring requests.
- **Access to belongings:** IPMs have been told that it can be difficult for people to get access to their belongings held in reception.
- **Purposeful activity:** IPMs looked at some of the activities going on in the gym, such as options for people who are over 40 and opportunities for people who may want to pursue gym based qualifications.

Updates and Actions

- **Escorted Day Absence:** The criteria that needs to be met for EDA is covered in the prison rules. IPMs found that the rules were not being breached but discovered that there was no additional guidance to assist decision makers. Therefore, the Monitoring Team think there is the potential for inconsistency. For example, EDA may be granted in one prison and not another, when the circumstances are similar. This matter will be raised with SPS Headquarters.
- **Health:** The aim of the new process is to try and gets answers for people more quickly. IPMs are aware that on a few occasions it has taken quite a long time to get back to people about health related matters they have raised with us. The team will keep an eye on timescales and progress.
- **Access to belongings:** This was raised at a recent meeting with the Governor in Charge. IPMs were told that the establishment was aware of the issues relating to people accessing belongings in reception, and it was the second most common theme of complaints received. The establishment will look into this matter.
- **Purposeful activity:** IPMs saw evidence of programmes for people over 40 and staff worked on individual programmes for people, along with some people recently starting SVQ programmes. They also heard some positive feedback about “Moving the Goalposts” a football programme that had recently taken place.

IPM Focus in the Next Quarter

- **Looking at the Standards:** The monitoring team would like to spend more time looking at life in Shotts against the HMIPS Standards for Inspecting and Monitoring, and talking to people about how well they are being met.