

**Independent Prison Monitoring Bulletin**
HMP Dumfries
January – March 2018**5 Independent
Prison
Monitors****12 Prison
Monitoring
Visits****4 Prisoner
Requests**

Key Findings

- **Lawful and Transparent Custody:** Monitors observed prisoners returning from court and noted a humane process being followed quietly and efficiently.
- **Purposeful Activity:** Provision of education appeared to be returning to more normal levels after the change of contract, and Monitors reported fuller classes during their visits.
- **Visits:** There is excellent provision for families and friends of prisoners. The refurbished visits room provides excellent space for children of all ages to feel as comfortable and welcome as possible.
- **Transitions to Community:** The links centre often appeared quiet and Monitors were informed this is due to less STPs being in the prison, and therefore fewer visits from outside agencies. Monitors requested comment on the use of the links centre.
- **Personal Safety:** Monitors noted the continued prevalence of NPS and information relayed to them regarding safety incidents during the quarter. Monitors commented positively on the procedures in place and the swift and professional response they observed.

Updates and Actions

- **Purposeful Activity:** Prison management continued to seek improvements in prisoner engagement in education, particularly in literacy and numeracy. It was estimated around 30% of prisoners attended classes but it was frequently the same 30%. Staffing had increased and HMP Dumfries were working closely with library services at Dumfries and Galloway Council.
- **Personal Safety:** There had been recent issues with NPS within the establishment. It had resulted in violent incidents and they were becoming more time consuming for the staff.
- **Decency:** New clothing stock will go out to all prisoners on 1st July. A store person is now in post to oversee allocation of items. The reception area is due to be upgraded to better protect prisoner's dignity.
- **Transitions to Community:** There has been a review of appointment booking systems for the Link Centre. More staff are now working there, enabling additional appointments. The new Discovery programme is being delivered in HMP Dumfries, and there are 50 eligible prisoners who will now go on the waiting list.

IPM Focus in the Next Quarter

- Monitors will look at various standards in the next quarter and continue to follow up on requests relating to programme availability and progression.
- Monitors to attend Orderly Rooms where possible, which are held in C1