

# PRISON REVIEW OVERSIGHT GROUP JUSTICE COMMITTEE SUMMARY REPORT

## DECEMBER 2014

The purpose of this summary report is to provide the Committee with an update following the twelfth meeting of the Prison Review Oversight Group (the Group), which took place on 03 December 2014.

2. The meeting was chaired by the Minister of Justice and was attended by Group members:

- Nick Perry (Permanent Secretary, DOJ);
- Patricia Gordon (Independent Member);
- Brendan McGuigan (Independent Member, CJINI); and
- Monica McWilliams (Independent Member)

3. Department of Justice officials Sue McAllister (Director General, NIPS), Anthony Harbinson (Director, Safer Communities), Mark Adam (Director of HR & Corporate Services, NIPS), and Karen Pearson (Deputy Director, Access to Justice) attended to give supporting evidence to the group. Cheryl Lamont (Acting Director, PBNI) and Fiona Hamill (Deputy Director, DHSSPS) were also in attendance, along with Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI) inspector Dr Ian Cameron and Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) inspector Liz Colgan. Apologies were received from Richard Pengelly (Permanent Secretary, DHSSPS).

### **Progress Update**

4. NIPS Director General provided a brief overview of progress across the Programme, with the key areas of discussion focusing on:

- The secure college;
- Healthcare;
- The Joint Health and Justice Strategy; and

- The DOJ-led Strategic Recommendations.

### **Recommendations referred for independent assessment**

5. The Oversight Group agreed that the following four recommendations should be passed for independent assessment:

- PRT 08 – Alternatives to Full-Body Searching;
- PRT 21 – Integrated Discharge and Care Planning;
- PRT 37 – Community Based Pilot; and
- PRT 40 – Secure College.

6. These four recommendations were referred to CJINI and RQIA, as appropriate, for monitoring of the recommendation outcomes. CJINI (recommendations 08, 37 & 40) and RQIA (recommendation 21) will monitor the outcomes of these recommendations before reporting back to the Oversight Group with their independent assessments of the completeness of the recommendations.

### **CJINI report on recommendations**

7. CJINI reported in detail on recommendations 26, 29, 30, 31, 35 & 36. After considering the report from CJINI, the Oversight Group decided that the following recommendations could be signed off:

- PRT 29 – Data to support planning & commissioning;
- PRT 30 – Personalised custody/sentence planning;
- PRT 31 – Integrated service delivery with PBNI; and
- PRT 36 – New custodial facility for women.

8. With regard to recommendation 36, above, CJINI recommended that the Oversight Group seek further information from the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust on the provision of a medium secure acute mental health facility for women. The Group agreed that the recommendation could be signed off, but would look again at this aspect at the next Oversight Group meeting.

9. On recommendation 26 (Developing and Refreshing Staff), CJINI was of the opinion that following inspection it could not consider the current training programme to be externally delivered, as envisaged in the PRT report, to enable the recommendation to be signed off. Nor did CJINI feel that the exchange programmes in place were to the extent envisaged in the Report. NIPS Director General felt that more information could have been provided to CJINI and undertook to follow this up with CJINI. The Oversight Group agreed for the recommendation to be discussed further at the Group's next meeting; however, it was noted by the Oversight Group that, given the current financial circumstances, the Group may need to make a decision on when this recommendation should be signed off.

10. On recommendation 35 (Roll-out of Inspire), CJINI was of the opinion that, as Inspire had not been rolled out to the final eight percent of Northern Ireland and given the uncertainty around the long-term funding of the Inspire project, the recommendation could not be signed off. NIPS Director General and the Director of PBNI undertook to explore some options and report back to the Oversight Group in March 2015.

### **RQIA report on recommendations**

11. RQIA reported in detail on the following recommendation and was of the opinion that the outcomes of the recommendation had been achieved. In light of the RQIA report, the Oversight Group concluded that the following recommendation could be signed off:

- PRT 20 – Substance Misuse Clinical Audit.

12. RQIA also reported on recommendation 14 (Health Data Collection and Monitoring) and recommendation 18 (Substance Misuse Needs Assessment). The Oversight Group requested that some further information be provided on these recommendations and RQIA and DHSSPS agreed to work together on this in advance of bringing the recommendations back to the Group in March 2015.

13. This brings to 21 the number of recommendations signed-off by the Prison Review Oversight Group. A further 16 recommendations have been referred to

CJINI or RQIA, as appropriate, for independent assessment. This brings to 37 of 40 the number of recommendations either signed-off or referred for assessment.

### **Update on Equality and Diversity**

14. The Oversight Group discussed the steps that were being taken to improve the management and analysis of Equality and Diversity information within prisons. The Group focused upon the importance of training and development in this area and heard that CJINI was planning to play a role in the training for the Chairs and the Heads of Equality and Diversity meetings. CJINI undertook to report back to the Oversight Group on recommendation 10 (Equality and Diversity Reporting) at the March 2015 meeting.

### **Independent members' update**

15. The independent members of the Oversight Group continued to engage with stakeholders across the programme, reporting back in particular on meetings with members of the Independent Monitoring Boards in all three establishments; on attending staff training at the Prison Service College; and on visits to Hydebank Wood and Magilligan prisons.

### **Next meeting**

16. The Oversight Group is due to hold its final meeting in Spring 2015, with a date currently being scheduled.

**PRT OVERSIGHT GROUP  
DECEMBER 2014**