

**PRISON REVIEW OVERSIGHT GROUP
JUSTICE COMMITTEE SUMMARY REPORT**

SEPTEMBER 2014

The purpose of this summary report is to provide the Committee with an update following the eleventh meeting of the Prison Review Oversight Group (the Group), which took place on 10 September 2014.

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

- Nick Perry (Permanent Secretary, DOJ);
- Richard Pengelly (Permanent Secretary, DHSSPS)
- 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 Gareth Johnston (Deputy Director, Access to Justice) attended to give supporting evidence to the group. Cheryl Lamont (Acting Director, PBNI) and Heather Stevens (Director of HR (HSC), DHSSPS) were also in attendance, along with Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI) inspector Dr Ian Cameron.

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;
- Leadership and development;
- Healthcare;
- Performance measures; and
- Alternatives to full body searching

Recommendations referred for independent assessment

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

- PRT 26 – Developing and refreshing staff
- PRT 29 – Data to support planning & commissioning
- PRT 30 – Personalised custody/sentence planning
- PRT 31 – Integration of service delivery with PBNI
- PRT 35 – Roll out of Inspire for women
- PRT 36 – New custodial facility for women

6. These six recommendations were referred to CJINI for monitoring of the recommendation outcomes. CJINI will monitor the outcomes of these recommendations before reporting back to the Oversight Group with its independent assessment of the completeness of the recommendations.

CJINI report on recommendations

7. CJINI reported in detail on recommendations seven (halfway house/step-down facilities) and 24 (operating model), which were referred for independent assessment at the June 2014 Oversight Group meeting. CJINI was of the opinion that the outcomes of the recommendations had been achieved, concluding that in the Inspectorate's view the recommendations could be considered complete. The Oversight Group agreed with this assessment and the recommendations were officially signed off.

Final review and closure of PRT Programme

8. The Oversight Group agreed that, following the closure of the Programme at the end of March 2015 and the transfer into business as usual of those items that would see delivery over the longer term, the Group would reconvene in autumn 2015 to review progress. The Independent Members and CJINI confirmed that they were content to continue their roles in the monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations until that point.

Independent members' update

9. The independent members of the Oversight Group continued to engage with stakeholders across the programme, reporting back in particular on visits to NIACRO, Hydebank Wood and Maghaberry.

Next meeting

10. The Oversight Group is scheduled to meet again on 03 December 2014.

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