

## Annual Report for Grendon and Springhill 2023-24

HMP Springhill is a category D open prison holding 334 prisoners. The site is made up of a number of wooden huts and some newer pods. Pods are quick deployed single ensuite rooms and are fairly temporary and used to provide quick accommodation in times of need. The huts are more established and generally hold 22 prisoners in mostly double rooms. They have a kitchen, showers, toilets, and a living area, all of which are shared on the hut. T hut is our only brick-built building holding 17 and is run as a drug and alcohol recovery unit.

The population at Springhill has varied throughout the year due to some accommodation being taken off line for fire improvement work. This resulted in a reduction in our overall roll of approximately 100. We have now built this back up to around 320 and will be full in a number of weeks. We have a further 41 pods coming online in June/July, and this will not increase the population but will allow for less sharing of rooms. Further expansion has been discussed and you will be aware this is at the planning stage. This would increase our roll by approximately 120, making 454 in total.

Springhill does not take any prisoners convicted of sexual offences but does have all other offences. The focus is to resettle prisoners back into the community by helping them find employment, accommodation, and other skills to facilitate the transition between prison and the community. We have approximately 100 prisoners currently in employment in the community each day.

Each prison has a set of performance targets and a comparator group. There is external and internal scrutiny via audits and inspections. Springhill was last inspected by His Majesty's Inspectorate (HMiP) in May 2022 where it achieved a good report for a prison just coming out of COVID restrictions, scoring good or reasonably good across 3 of the 4 measures. The measures are Safety, Respect, Purposeful Activity and Resettlement and Release Planning. There was further work to do making sure prisoners were kept actively employed. This work has progressed well in the two years since inspection. In performance Springhill sits well within the comparator group and is in the top third for key measures including assaults, employment, accommodation, and drug taking. Absconds were 0 in the reporting year 23-24.

Staffing in Springhill has remained good. A national campaign to recruit prison officers has meant that we have had more than our requirement. We have had shortages of operational support grades (OSG), nurses and education staff. The shortages with OSGs has meant that our increased prison officer numbers have not been as beneficial as we would have liked. Staff sickness remains low, and retention is good although higher leavers than it was perhaps 10 years ago.

HMP Grendon is a category B closed prison that holds 233 prisoners across 6 small residential wings. Each wing operates as a therapeutic community and the prison is the only wholly therapeutic prison in the country. Prisoners engaging in therapy look at all aspects of their life including offending, lifestyle, relationships, and substance misuse. We have had one wing closed on rotation now for 2 and a half years for much needed fire improvement work and there is approximately 18 months to go before completion and the wings all reopen. Grendon is a national resource meaning that prisoners come from all over the country and prisoners generally spend a considerable time in Grendon, the minimum being 18 months, but generally approximately 4 years. Grendon takes all offences.

Like Springhill, Grendon is subject to the same internal and external scrutiny. HMiP visited Grendon in May 2023 and found that Grendon was performing well scoring good in 3 of the measures and again further work to do on keeping prisoners actively employed. This work is again well underway.

In its comparator group Grendon generally sits top or very close to the top - given its complex population and prisoner needs this is a very good outcome. Grendon has very low levels of assaults, drug taking, and self-harm compared to the comparator group. Grendon does not release many prisoners into the community, approximately 6 each year, but prepares them for life in lower category prisons.

Similar to Springhill, Grendon suffers with the same issues around recruitment of specialist roles or those roles which are at the lower end of the pay scale.

Whilst the planned new prison will sit on our land, we have had little involvement in how it will be built or managed. We expect work to start towards the end of the year creating a boundary fence between us and the site, but I only know what is provided publicly about this.

I have been the Governor at Grendon since February 2024 but have previously been a manager there up until 2016. I have worked at a number of prisons and have moved back to Grendon to be closer to home. I was the Governor of Littlehey prison for 3 years prior to February. In my tenure at Grendon and Springhill I want to do many things, this includes:

- Addressing the actions highlighted by HMiP.
- Improve community connections, give back to the community by providing community work for Springhill prisoners.
- Opening up a community shop where prisoners and the community can buy and sell their produce.
- Improve the physical environment at Springhill making the garden look beautiful again.
- Offer use of our space to the community where possible and look at joint areas for everybody to enjoy.
- Work with you all to provide reassurance that we value our place in your community and want to do the right thing.