

Annual Report for Grendon and Springhill 2024-25

HMP Springhill is a category D open prison holding 335 prisoners. The site is made up of several wooden huts and some newer modular pod buildings. Pods are quick deployed single ensuite rooms and are 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. The hut is our only brick-built building holding 17 and is run as a drug and alcohol recovery unit. The prison is aging and we are working with the Ministry of Justice on plans to hopefully replace some of the old accommodation.

The population at Springhill has varied throughout the year with a higher-than-normal turnover rate, due to some government initiatives to manage the overall prison population. This has included early release schemes and a Temporary Presumptive Recategorisation Scheme (TPRS). TPRS was an urgent measure designed to facilitate the presumptive recategorisation of prisoners from category C to category D to make the best use of the prison estate. TPRS has not impacted the usual recategorisation processes which must continue as normal.

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 approx. 50 prisoners currently in employment and education 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 within the three years since inspection. In performance Springhill sits well within the comparator group for other Open prisons and is in the top third for key measures including the low number of assaults, high employment at time of release, settled accommodation upon release and drug taking. Absconds were 12 in the reporting year 2024/25.

Staffing in Spring Hill has remained good, the ongoing national campaign to recruit prison officers has meant that we have maintained full staffing in this group.

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 3 and a half years for much needed fire improvement work, which is due to be completed in October 2025. 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 approx. 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. Good

progress has been made in these areas since the inspection, with a focus on increasing education and introducing a recycling workshop.

In its comparator group Grendon generally sits top or very close to the top, given its complex population and the fact that all prisoners apply to come to Grendon and undergo a rigorous selection process before being accepted. 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, approx. 6 each year but prepares them for life in lower category prisons.

Grendon suffers with some 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 are not involved in how it will be built or managed. Some work preparatory work has commenced in the areas around the proposed prison site, and we have the same information as the local community regarding future plans.

I have been the Governor at Grendon and Springhill since February 2024 but previously worked there and left in September 2016, I have worked at several prisons and have moved back to Grendon to be closer to home, I was the Governor of Littlehey prison for 3 years prior to taking up post here. In my tenure at Grendon and Spring Hill 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 Spring Hill prisoners.
- Opening up a community shop where prisoners and the community can buy and sell their produce
- Improve the physical environment at Spring Hill making the garden look beautiful again. This has been achieved over the last year and it is a pleasure to see many plants and flowers around the site
- 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.