

Covid-19 and prison education: Information from HMIP short scrutiny visits

Collated by the Prisoners' Education Trust
Last updated: 28 July 2020

Contents

- Young offender Institutions (YOIs) holding children2**
- Prisons holding women4**
- Local prisons.....6**
- Category C training prisons.....8**
- Long-term and high security prisons9**
- Prisons holding prisoners convicted of sexual offences10**
- Category D open prisons11**
- Category C prisons.....12**

Young offender Institutions (YOIs) holding children

<u>Report 1: Published 7 May 2020</u>	
Prisons visited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMYOI Cookham Wood (YCS) • HMP/YOI Parc (G4S) • HMYOI Wetherby (YCS)
Date of visits	21 April 2020
Time out of cell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parc: 3 hours • Cookham Wood: 40 mins • Wetherby: 1 hour
Access to education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parc was delivering 2 hours of face-to-face education every weekday. • Parc operated a library delivery service; at Wetherby, children could access wing libraries, at Cookham Wood, there was no system, but officers responded to requests for books.
Access to in-cell activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children at all three prisons were provided with in-cell education workbooks. • Activities such as games consoles, puzzles and in-cell workouts had been provided to children.
Out of cell activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise classes were offered to children by gym staff at all three sites. • Since the visit, Parc has introduced communal dining for about a third of the residents each day.
IAG for release / Release support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most training and remand planning processes have continued. No further info about IAG available.
Communication facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional weekly phone credit provided: £5 at Parc, £20 at Cookham Wood and Wetherby. Only Parc had so far been able to implement video calling facilities (out of cell).

Report 2: Published 27 July 2020

Prisons visited	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HMYOI Feltham A (YCS)• HMYOI Werrington (YCS)
Date of visits	7 July 2020
Time out of cell	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feltham: 2 hours• Werrington: 1 hour 45 minutes
Access to education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There was no classroom-based education and training at Feltham or Werrington.• At Werrington, children could access library services through a rota system; at Feltham access to the library was provided through an outreach service.• Plans were in place at both Feltham and Werrington to increase out of cell education and deliver additional activities after the visit.
Access to in-cell activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children at both YOI's had access to in-cell education packs tailored to each child.• Staff marked work and provided feedback and support.• Take-up of the packs was as high as 87% at Werrington.
Out of cell activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• At both YOIs, children had limited access to youth club activities.• At Feltham, children ate communally one day a week.• Children at Feltham were able to attend structured exercise sessions up to twice a week.• Children at Werrington had no access to staff-led exercise sessions.
IAG for release / Release support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Release planning processes continued in both YOIs.• Resettlement teams continued to work at Feltham and Werrington, and are in regular contact with children.
Communication facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• At Feltham, some video visits and inter-prison phone calls had been arranged. Additionally, £10 extra phone credit was provided.• At Werrington, children received an extra £15 for phone credit.• Children at both sites had in-cell phones.

Prisons holding women

<u>Report 1: Published 5 June 2020</u>	
Prisons visited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP & YOI Bronzefield (Sodexo) • HMP & YOI Eastwood Park (HMPPS) • HMP & YOI Foston Hall (HMPPS)
Date of visits	19 May 2020
Time out of cell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foston Hall: 30 mins for exercise • Bronzefield: 30 mins outside, 30 mins for shower and use of electronic kiosk • Eastwood Park: 1 hour for exercise + additional time for shower. 20% of the population on two units (semi-open and psychologically informed physical environment) received 2 hours for exercise. • Prisoners in key worker roles (15-30% of the population) received more time out of cell.
Access to education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All face-to-face education had stopped. • Bronzefield were continuing initial English and maths assessments. • 'At Bronzefield just over 50% prisoners had elected to complete in-cell packs. Some limited one-to-one teaching support was given at cell doors and prisoners still worked towards qualifications.' • At other 2 sites, workbooks were provided. • At Eastwood Park, prisoners taking distance learning courses were able to access computer resources so they could continue to study in-cell. • At Bronzefield, the residents had access to a weekly library trolley service. • At Eastwood Park, books of boxes were made available to the residential units, yet many were unaware of the scheme and there was not enough time to choose books when cells were unlocked.
Access to in-cell activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All prisoners had provided additional in-cell activities, including crafts, extra TV channels, film screenings, DVD players and DVDs.
Out of cell activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No gym or exercise classes available at any of the prisons.
IAG for release / Release support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Release planning processes were still operating. • Most CRCs were only providing remote, paper-based services which had a negative impact on release planning.

Communication facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional £5 phone credit per week. • A video calling service was about to be trialled at Bronzefield and Eastwood Park at the time of the visit.
--------------------------	---

Report 2: Published 17 July 2020

Prisons visited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP Send • HMP/YOI Downview
Date of visits	30 June 2020
Time out of cell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On average prisoners were only allocated about 1 hour and 20-30 mins out of cell each day at both sites. • At HMP Send there was also no shaded areas outdoors. • On top of typical out of cell time at Downview, prisoners could attend 4 1-hour gym sessions. At Send prisoners were able to attend 1-2 per week. • Those in semi-open conditions at Downview were able to leave their cell for about half of the day. • At Downview prisoners would leave their cells to collect their meals whereas at Send these were delivered.
Access to education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education classes suspended at both sites. • Education packs available in-cell; however, at Send, completion rates were low. They were addressing this by setting up weekly tutor contact to encourage completion. • Libraries were closed but prisoners could order books to their cells.
Access to in-cell activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some craft work and workbooks were available at both sites • Activities packs were varied, e.g. including games and quizzes, but prisoners at HMP Send reported that they did not provide enough stimulation to make up for lost human contact.
Out of cell activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At both sites around 50% of prisoners had paid work and were working on average about 15 hours per week. • Downview's London College of Fashion workshop, where prisoners were making scrubs for NHS workers, was active with socially distancing measures in place.
IAG for release / Release support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No face-to-face resettlement support was available at either site through CRCs
Communication facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email a prisoner operating at both sites and, at Send, 'jail mail' allowed prisoners to communicate with their friends in prison from their cell.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small number of in-cell PIN phones were provided so prisoners could make private calls to family however they were not connected to a network so took weeks to be replaced.
--	---

Local prisons

<u>Report 1: Published 18 May 2020</u>	
Prisons visited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP Wandsworth (HMPPS) • HMP Elmley (HMPPS) • HMP Altcourse (G4S)
Date of visits	28 April 2020
Time out of cell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 mins at all sites. • At Elmley, people had 30 mins plus additional shower time • At the other two sites, people had to choose between exercise or shower (or self-service terminals at Altcourse) • At Elmley and Wandsworth there were no showers or exercise one day a week
Access to education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No face-to-face education. • Education provider staff did not have much involvement as they were offsite. • Wandsworth provided a temporary library on each wing. At the two other sites, library books could be ordered.
Access to in-cell activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All institutions were providing in-cell materials. • Elmley had established a full-time activities team, providing different types of packs and workbooks and weekly competitions. • In-cell workout resources were provided by gym staff. • Wandsworth provided videos of exercise routines on the prison TV channel.
Out of cell activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some prisoners were still doing paid work outside of their cells.
IAG for release / Release support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variable level of support for people nearing release. Some had not had any direct contact with offender managers despite being days from release.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRC staff were not seeing prisoners and were developing or reviewing resettlement plans without interviewing prisoners.
Communication facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All three prisons had in-cell phones. Additional £5 phone credit provided each week, as well additional free letter. • Altcourse had negotiated reduction in PIN phone rates.

Report 2: Published 10 July 2020

Prisons visited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP Leeds • HMP Thameside • HMP Winchester
Date of visits	23 June 2020
Time out of cell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most prisoners spent more than 22.5 hours a day in their cells over the course of 3 months at all 3 sites. • At Thameside most prisoners had in-cell showers and received an hour for exercise • At Winchester prisoners had 45 mins for exercise and then 45 mins for domestic tasks such as showering. • At Leeds prisoners only had 30 mins for exercise and 15-20 mins to take a shower.
Access to education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No face-to-face at education at any of the 3 sites, and prisoners at all sites were bored and restless. • There was a wide range of in-cell educational packs however little targeted provision and limited opportunity to receive work feedback. • Library access available at all 3 sites with Thameside having a successful loan-scheme. • Leeds was about to transition the Storybook Dads programme to digital audio
Access to in-cell activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winchester providing a wide range of activities including in-cell workouts, puzzles, quiz packs (including some in other languages), arts materials and card-making packs. • Thameside provided activities on in-cell CMS computers, however a large number were broken.
Out of cell activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very few prisoners were still working. Those who were made unemployed due to lockdown were still being paid; however, errors at Thameside meant some were being paid less than the minimum wage.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PE classes had been primarily stopped but at Winchester PE staff were delivering socially distant classes on the lawn.
IAG for release / Release support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to CRCs was reasonably good at the three sites, covering the key elements of accommodation, finance, benefits and debt.
Communication facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional £5 credit available on all of the phones. • Email a prisoner was being used as a form of communication.

Category C training prisons

<u>Report 1: Published 22 May 2020</u>	
Prisons visited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP Coldingley (HMPPS) • HMP/YOI Portland (HMPPS) • HMP Ranby (HMPPS)
Date of visits	5 May 2020
Time out of cell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coldingley: 1 hour for exercise, shower and to use phones (initially this was only 15 mins). • Ranby: 1 hour for exercise and shower • Portland: 1 hour and 15 mins.
Access to education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education providers were providing in-cell work packs. • Portland and Coldingley did not mark or return completed workbooks, while Ranby did provide feedback and some certificates. However, this process was not robust. • All libraries were closed. Coldingley was introducing a trolley service, and Portland had delivered boxes of books to the wings, but many staff and prisoners were unaware of this.
Access to in-cell activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puzzles and in-cell workouts were provided at all sites in addition to education packs. • Portland provided Barnardo's packs to help people keep in touch with their families.
Out of cell activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were gym classes at Portland; most were able to access these twice a week. • Coldingley had created temporary exercise yards, which gave people more time outside.

IAG for release / Release support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CRC was still planning prisoners' resettlement on site at Coldingley. • At Portland, the CRC was not doing any no face-to-face contact. • Resettlement work was also compromised at Ranby, due to a high number of prisoners having less than 3 months left to serve and the CRC offering a reduced service.
Communication facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranby has in-cell phones. This is not the case at Coldingley and Portland. At Portland, some communal phones were broken.

Long-term and high security prisons

<u>Report 1: Published 15 June 2020</u>	
Prisons visited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP/YOI Belmarsh (HMPPS) • HMP/YOI Manchester (HMPPS) • HMP/YOI Woodhill (HMPPS)
Date of visits	26 May 2020
Time out of cell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 mins exercise per day plus time for showering.
Access to education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education departments were closed. • There were in-cell activity packs available at all sites. • The college at Belmarsh had produced resources at different levels, but there was no marking or feedback provided. • Prisoners could order books from the library
Access to in-cell activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-cell telephones were available. • Woodhill provided a large DVD library. • In-cell exercise routines were shown on TV channel at Woodhill.
Out of cell activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two workshops continued to operate at Belmarsh, and Manchester continued to run its print shop with a reduced workforce. Almost no work activity was continuing at Woodhill. • Outdoor circuit training sessions provided by the gym department. • Some prisoners were able to use fitness equipment at Manchester (not clear how many/how often)

IAG for release / Release support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many resettlement needs were not being met – CRC staff focused on ensuring accommodation.
Communication facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No video technology available. • An extra £5 / week phone credit was provided.

Prisons holding prisoners convicted of sexual offences

<u>Report 1: Published 22 June 2020</u>	
Prisons visited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP Littlehey (HMPPS) • HMP Rye Hill (G4S) • HMP Stafford (HMPPS)
Date of visits	2 June 2020
Time out of cell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hour each at Stafford and Rye Hill, for exercise and shower and to collect cell-cleaning products (and to use telephones, at Stafford) • At Littlehey, neither shielding nor non-shielding prisoners were unlocked every day. Shielding prisoners could go up to 72 hours without being unlocked.
Access to education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All classroom-based education was closed. Education providers had issued in-cell workbooks to those already engaged in education. There was no marking or tracking of the work. • All libraries closed. Some books were available on the wings, and at Stafford people could request books. • No access to IT for prisoners, including those studying DL courses.
Access to in-cell activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly worship shown on in-cell TVs at Rye Hill. • Rye Hill was broadcasting additional content on the in-cell TVs, including a daily video from the director, TED talks, quizzes, virtual tours of museums and zoos, and interactive activities by different departments. • In-cell workout guides available at Stafford and Littlehey. • Puzzles and crafts available in-cell.
Out of cell activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some prisoners were still working in kitchens and cleaning, but most were locked up throughout the day. • All prisoners could collect their meal from the servery at least once a day. • Stafford provided PE-led outdoor sports sessions at least once a week. • Rye Hill offered weekly circuit sessions.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variable access to out-of-cell work activities.
IAG for release / Release support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widespread cancellation of offending behaviour programmes, and many partner organisations were not on site. • Appropriate release planning was in place. • CRC at Stafford was still providing an active service. At Rye Hill there was no CRC provision, and CRC staff were not on site at Littlehey.
Communication facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra phone credit provided • No facility for video calls • In-cell telephones are available at Rye Hill, but not at Stafford or Littlehey

Category D open prisons

Report 1: Published 29 June 2020	
Prisons visited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP/YOI Thorn Cross • HMP Ford • HMP & YOI Sudbury
Date of visits	9 June 2020
Time out of cell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No prisoners are locked in their room in open prisons. This has remained the same during lockdown. • At Sudbury, people can go outside when they want to. • At Thorn Cross and Ford, people can only go outside for exercise during scheduled times – usually around 3 hours. • In all the prisons, people live together in house units which are usually open. Those at Ford and Sudbury were able to go outside their house units to associate with others as long as they maintained social distance. However, at Thorn Cross the external doors to the units were now locked for most of the day.
Access to education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face-to-face education has been suspended. • In-cell education pack have been provided as alternative to face-to-face education. • Libraries closed. People could request books or DVDs and a small selection was available on the units.
Access to in-cell activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity packs have been provided. • Sudbury had provided an additional 10 TV channels.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prisoners at Thorn Cross could buy digital TV boxes with more channels.
Out of cell activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most ROTL has been suspended since 23 March. Small number of exceptions for those designated as essential/key workers. Criteria for what an 'essential worker' is was inconsistent across the three sites. At the start of lockdown, 97 prisoners at Sudbury were deemed essential, but this had been reduced to 37 by the time of the HMIP visit. Because these restrictions differed from the community, a number of prisoners had lost their jobs or were at risk of doing so. Most workshops have been closed throughout the lockdown. All gyms were closed. Ford and Sudbury had started providing outdoor gyms with weights and cardiovascular equipment. Thorn Cross arranged structured outdoor exercise sessions, but without equipment.
IAG for release / Release support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resettlement plans being done without interviewing the prisoner.
Communication facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ford and Thorn Cross: people were able to make supervised video calls from their own mobile phones An additional £5 phone credit provided per week.

Category C prisons

<u>Report 1: Published 3 July 2020</u>	
Prisons visited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HMP Maidstone HMP Onley HMP/YOI Brinsford
Date of visits	16 June 2020
Time out of cell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most prisoners have spent 23 hours locked up over the last 12 weeks At Onley, prisoners consistently had one hour out of cell to exercise and shower, at Maidstone it ranged between 30-50 minutes and at Brinsford often only 30mins was allowed.
Access to education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classroom education had ceased at all sites, with no confirmed date to reintroduce provision.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All sites developed in-cell education packs but these were very inconsistently distributed at Brinsford and only 10% were marked at Maidstone due to late introduction and with poor take up from learners here. • All libraries closed; at all sites wings were supplied with some books but there was no library service or opportunity to request specific books.
Access to in-cell activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At Brinsford and Maidstone prisoners could access extra TV channels and DVDs/ DVD players. • More creative activities were available at Onley, including games and indoor exercise equipment.
Out of cell activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to out of cell time at Brinsford a few prisoners had access to a 20 min circuit session with PE staff; at Onley sessions were available every 10 days but this was within existing out of cell time. No PE sessions are currently offered at Maidstone. • At all prisons a limited number of prisoners continued to work; at Maidstone, jobs in different departments, including the recycling plant and the kitchens, were rotated between 125 prisoners to distribute out of cell time.
IAG for release / Release support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At Onley and Maidstone there were no face-to-face resettlement appointments, but at Brinsford the CRC was offering support.
Communication facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video calling unavailable at all sites • All prisons offering £5 extra calling credits and reducing calling costs. • Maidstone provided with 14 additional phones but failed to use them • The many foreign nationals at Maidstone are unable to call family at convenient times.