

IPP External Stakeholder Challenge Group

Meeting Notes

Date of meeting: 2 September 2025

Present: HMPPS, UNGRIPP, Howard League, Prison and Probation Ombudsmen, Royal College of Psychiatrists, Independent Advisory Panel of deaths in Custody, Prison Reform Trust, Independent Monitoring Board, The Parole Board, NHS England, HM Inspectorate of Prisons and HM Inspectorate of Probation

Next meeting: 2 December 2025, in person/MS Teams

1. Actions and Introductions

- Actions from the last meeting were mainly completed and updates were provided to Stakeholders ahead of the meeting.
- External stakeholders questioned what the plan was for the next RAG exercise
ACTION: HMPPS to share proposed timetable and outline how the RAG rating exercise will be conducted
- External stakeholders noted natural cause deaths contribute to the numbers dropping but this data isn't routinely published.
ACTION: HMPPS to explore whether data on natural and unexplained deaths can be provided within this group
ACTION: HMPPS to share communications to prisoners regarding the Action Plan
- External stakeholders raised whether solicitor engagement, including access to solicitors and legal aid would be available for progression panels
ACTION: HMPPS to provide an update on the possibility for solicitors and legal aid to be made available for progression panels.

2. Women's Group IPP Delivery Plan – (Women's Estate Psychology Services)

Presentation

- The delivery plans cover custody and community settings for all female IPPs.
- 50% of community cases had their licence terminated in November 2024.
- There are less than 100 female IPPs across custody and community, meaning there is a very different start point to the men's regional plans
- Small numbers offer advantages as it allows close attention to cases, an individualized approach which is gender specific and relational. However, it also poses challenges due to the national spread of the cases making it difficult to coordinate services, and the challenge of maintaining focus on the needs of female IPPs in regions where there are much bigger cohorts of men.
- Current successes include WEPS IPP SPoCs in all 12 prisons. WEPS provide proactive case consultancy support for all cases moving into the community. Further successes include the responsiveness and flexibility around the identification of training needs, work with women's AP managers and staff to enable understanding of challenging behaviours in residents, and how the delivery plans recognize and respond to gendered factors such as pregnancy, maternity and being primary care givers.

- Continued areas of challenge include consistency of progression panels and engagement with other key agencies to support complex needs of women on release (social care, health, mental health, housing)
- HMPPS shared some data on this cohort including an overview of mental health needs, RAG ratings and recalls

Discussion

- External Stakeholders questioned the number of RARR releases, and how many people are in secure hospital.
- External Stakeholders questioned the cause for the recent shift in progress. HMPPS noted the close tailored approach where all women are known well; the transfer of in-depth knowledge into user-friendly formats and ensuring there are connections to all different services.

3. Remission Strategy in the Long-Term High Security Estate (LTHSE)

- The LTHSE holds the majority of Category A and B male IPPs.
- HMPPS discussed the LTHSE pathways to progression project, which started in 2018, and how this evolved to develop joint working arrangements with forensic health settings.
- The LTHSE work closely with forensic hospitals to improve access to hospital settings for prisoners. There are now quarterly meetings with specialist services and commissioners to discuss complex cases and to seek to secure health pathways. Approximately 400 men have been referred to that meeting, and they are now evaluating the outcomes.
- HMPPS noted several blockers, including prisoners not being referred in the first place and hospital assessments delaying processes or refusing admission. Another issue is when referrals are made to the OPD pathways in prison when prisoners aren't able to engage in treatment in this kind of environment
- External Stakeholders questioned whether people should be moved back to prison following secure hospital, as this can result in them going backwards. HMPPS noted that if the criteria for remission are met then the patient has to return to prison; HMPPS cannot prevent this from happening. There are examples of when this results in further problems for the prisoner after remission. HMPPS seek to address this as robustly as possible, but remission and re-admission decisions are not the responsibility of HMPPS, who have very little jurisdiction over NHS decision making in this regard.
- HMPPS noted that they wanted to improve their approach to remissions more widely than LTHSE, by bringing them directly into the right prison following release. Within LTHSE a system was created in 2019, to change the way sentenced adult male LTHSE prisoners are remitted to hospital. This approach seeks to remit the patient into the best prison available to meet their health, sentence progression and risk management needs rather than remitting them into the local prison. Mental health staff, psychologists and OMU colleagues are involved in the process.

ACTION: HMPPS share the outcome of the evaluation exercise on the LTHSE remission process. It should be available later this year. This should include the relevant data including release and progression data .

4. Progression Panels Policy Framework Update

Progression Panels

- HMPPS discussed how the policy framework was currently in the implementation phase until October, where practitioners are familiarizing themselves with the requirements of the policy framework and how this changes their delivery of the panels.
- Communications were provided to staff and people serving the sentence, along with an article in Insider Times.
- HMPPS Psychology Services delivered a Progression Panels Launch Event in July for all HMPPS Psychology Services staff, attended by approximately 300 psychologists. This introduced the requirements of the Policy Framework and case review process which supports psychologists in preparing to attend a panel. Drop in events have since been carried out.
- HMPPS noted the upcoming IPP in Focus week, which is being delivered to improve understanding and awareness of the IPP sentence across HMPPS. Topics will include progression and support, transitions into the community, and recall.
- External stakeholders mentioned PAVA and questioned whether there was any data linking to use with IPPs

ACTION: HMPPS to explore whether there is a link between PAVA and a particular cohort of prisoners

5. Parole Board update

- Parole Board shared data on licence terminations
- Effective practice sessions – Parole Board is happy for stakeholders to observe or attend

ACTION: Parole Board colleagues to share highlights from the Parole Board's performance report for the IPP task force.

6. Data Update and Discussion

- A paper was provided ahead of the meeting.
- External stakeholders requested data on Tariff Expired Removal Scheme (TERS), including how many have been deported on TERS by the Secretary of State. Also requests for data around Secretary of State rejections for Cat D recommendations and automatic IPP terminations. There was also a request for more information on RARR decisions.

ACTION: HMPPS to explore sharing the data as percentages / as a proportion

ACTION: HMPPS to consider providing data on TERS

ACTION: HMPPS to provide an update on automative licence terminations at next meeting.