



**HYDEBANK WOOD
SECURE COLLEGE**

KEY FACTS

HYDEBANK WOOD SECURE COLLEGE 2024

NOVEMBER 2024



Education and
Training Inspectorate
Empowering Improvement



The Regulation and
Quality Improvement
Authority



WHAT TYPE OF PLACE IS HYDEBANK WOOD SECURE COLLEGE?

- Young male offenders aged between 18 to 24 years are held at Hydebank Wood Secure College (Hydebank Wood).
- At the time of the inspection 51 young men were in custody and almost two thirds were on remand.
- Eleven of the 17 sentenced prisoners were serving a sentence of one year or less.
- The number of young men there had decreased by around 40% since the last inspection in 2019.





WHO CARRIED OUT THIS INSPECTION?

- This inspection involved Inspectors from Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJI), His Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons in England and Wales (HMIP), the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) and the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI).
- CJI, HMIP and the RQIA are all members of the United Kingdom National Preventive Mechanism (UK NPM) a body of over 20 organisations that monitors the treatment of and conditions for detainees, including prisoners, to safeguard them against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

WHAT WAS THIS INSPECTION ABOUT AND WHAT DID IT LOOK AT?

- We looked at the condition of Hydebank Wood and how young men in custody were treated.
- We assessed the outcomes against the four healthy prison tests of Safety, Respect, Purposeful activity, and Preparation for release. There are specific expectations for men against which each test was assessed.
- We surveyed prisoners and staff in May 2024.
- Inspectors spent four days at Hydebank Wood in June 2024 speaking with Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) Governors, Prison Officers and staff as well as prisoners. We spoke to health care service providers from the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (SEHSCT) and education and skills providers from Belfast Metropolitan College (Belfast Met). We also spoke to the Independent Monitoring Board, Chaplaincy, Probation Officers, representatives of voluntary organisation service providers and a staff association.
- We assessed data and documentation provided by the NIPS, the SEHSCT and Belfast Met.



SIX AREAS OF KEY CONCERN



The investigation of adult safeguarding concerns and serious complaints was not good enough.



The number of patients that could not attend outside hospital appointments was too high.



The prison didn't use information well enough to improve how it worked.



When force was used on young men, it was not always clear that it was necessary and reasonable.



The links between education skills and work and other support programmes could be better.



There was no arrangement for social care for young men that needed it.

WHAT DID INSPECTORS FIND?

- Hydebank Wood had maintained or improved on its performance since the last inspection.
- Outcomes in each of the four healthy prisons tests were assessed as Good.
- This is the first time that this level of performance has been achieved in a Northern Ireland prison. It is to the credit of the leaders and staff of the NIPS, the SEHSCT and Belfast Met who work there and also to the young men who live there.
- It was particularly impressive that so many young men were engaged in purposeful activity and that 92% of young men surveyed felt that the education they had done would help them on release.
- Ten areas of notable positive practice were identified by Inspectors. These are things that Hydebank Wood Secure College is doing well that other prisons could learn from.
- These included: the work done by the Prisoner Safety and Support Team; the one-to-one help given to young men on practical living skills; the work that had been done with White Ribbon looking at reducing violence against women and girls; and the use of animal husbandry and pet therapy to support the wellbeing of young men.
- We identified six areas of key concern that leaders needed to address. This included work to fully address adult safeguarding concerns and the prison's response to serious complaints; access to external hospital appointments and social care; better scrutiny around the use of force; delivering improvements in how available data was used and better co-ordination of education, skills and work with other interventions.



WHAT NEXT?

We hope the NIPS, the SEHSCT and Belfast Met will seek to build on their success and continue to deliver quality services and improve the things we said needed to change.

If you would like to know anything more about us or this inspection please get in touch with:

Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland

Block 1, Knockview Buildings
Belfast BT4 3SJ



www.cjini.org



info@cjini.org



028 90 765764



Education and
Training Inspectorate
Empowering Improvement



The **Regulation** and
Quality Improvement
Authority