



# **HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales Annual Report 2019–20**

<b>Shielding</b>	Those who have health conditions that make them vulnerable to infection are held for at least 12 weeks in a shielding unit.
<b>Solitary confinement</b>	When detainees are confined alone for 22 hours or more a day without meaningful human contact (United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the treatment of prisoners. Rule 44).
<b>STC</b>	Secure training centre.
<b>STHF</b>	Short-term holding facility.
<b>Storybook Dads</b>	A scheme enabling prisoners to record a story for their children.
<b>Street triage</b>	Joint initiatives between the police and NHS in which specialist mental health practitioners and specially trained police officers attend incidents and provide immediate help and advice to officers at the scene to ensure that potentially vulnerable members of the public get the help they need as quickly as possible.
<b>TACT</b>	Terrorism Act.
<b>UN</b>	Urgent Notification. Where an inspection identifies significant concerns about the treatment and conditions of detainees, the Chief Inspector will write an Urgent Notification to the Secretary of State within seven calendar days with the reasons for concerns and identifying issues that require improvement. The Secretary of State commits to respond publicly to the concerns raised within 28 calendar days.
<b>Virtual campus</b>	Internet access to community education, training and employment opportunities for prisoners.
<b>YOI</b>	Young offender institution.

Living conditions were mostly reasonable across the estate, and better at Parc, Wetherby and Werrington. However, at Cookham Wood and Feltham A, many cells and communal areas contained graffiti, some of which was offensive, racist or gang-related. Children had a problem with access to basic facilities, including showers and laundry, at some sites. The quality of the food was mostly reasonable, if unpopular. Parc remained the only site where children could eat all their meals out of their cells.

The system holds a very diverse group of children; in our survey, 53% of children said they were from a black or minority ethnic background and 27% said they had a disability. These children were much less positive across a range of areas, such as feeling safe, than their white or non-disabled peers. We found that, with the exception of Parc, work to address equality issues needed greater prominence and managers needed to use data better to identify and address unequal access to activities and services.

## Health care

Health services generally met most health needs for children, but they still had problems accessing them at several sites, and clinical time was often wasted because oversight and strategic partnerships were not strong enough. Regime restrictions impacted on children's ability to access health services at some sites, including receiving medication and mental health care.

Regime restrictions and curtailments affected children's access to health and substance misuse services, leading to unsatisfactory practices and unnecessary risks. **Feltham A (July 2019)**

There was, however, a more positive picture at Parc, where two dedicated nurses on the children's unit enabled effective continuity of care.

Despite numerous previous recommendations, four sites still lacked adequate emergency response arrangements. However, staff at Werrington had made positive changes following an incident.

Pharmacy services generally met need and we found examples of good practice in maintaining safety.

Mental health services were of good quality, and Cookham Wood and Wetherby had a dedicated speech and language therapist on their staff. The health and well-being team at Cookham Wood had developed a programme of group work sessions involving children who had used its services.

The service user development programme remained an excellent initiative to help remove the stigma of emotional and mental health needs and promote self-esteem.  
**Cookham Wood (December 2018)**

## Time out of cell

While children had reasonably good time out of cell on weekdays at Parc and Werrington, elsewhere they simply did not have enough time outside their cell – in many cases including time for education – to access everyday basics, including association, showers and telephone calls. At Feltham A, children were unlocked on average for only 4.2 hours on a weekday and much less at weekends. At the weekends, the experience of children was poor across the estate; in our survey, only 27% said they spent more than two hours out of their cell on a Saturday or Sunday.

Time spent in the open air was also not good enough; more than half of children said they did not get daily access to exercise outdoors.

The continued inability of many sites to provide children with enough time out of cell to access sufficient education, exercise and meaningful human contact with others significantly affected outcomes across all areas.

## Education

Table 12: Ofsted assessments in YOLs holding children 2019–20  
(including separate assessments for the Keppel Unit at Wetherby)

	<i>Overall effectiveness of learning and skills and work</i>	<i>Outcomes for children and young people</i>	<i>Quality of learning</i>	<i>Personal development</i>	<i>Leadership and management skills</i>
Outstanding	0	0	0	0	0
Good	3	3	3	3	3
Requires improvement	3	3	3	3	3
Inadequate	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>

Table 13: Estyn assessments in YOLs holding children 2019–20

	<i>Standards</i>	<i>Well-being and attitudes to learning</i>	<i>Teaching and learning experiences</i>	<i>Care, support and guidance</i>	<i>Leadership and management</i>
Excellent	1	0	1	1	1
Good	0	1	0	0	0
Adequate and needs improvement	0	0	0	0	0
Unsatisfactory and needs urgent improvement	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

For many children in YOLs, custody presents an opportunity to start attending education and gain qualifications and skills to help them in the future. But despite some improved practice at Parc and Wetherby, too often this opportunity was missed.

Education was well led at Wetherby, Werrington and particularly at Parc, but there were fundamental weaknesses at Feltham A and Cookham Wood. All sites had enough activity places to meet children's needs, but their allocation to activity often depended more on 'keep-apart' or risk issues than their education needs.

While the regime at Parc ran on time and was efficient, elsewhere keep-apart issues had a significant impact on punctuality and attendance in education and training.

The timings of movements to education were dominated by keep-apart rules which were too complex and long-winded and caused very long delays. We observed about a third of children arriving at their allocated sessions up to an hour after the scheduled start, so that they missed the first lesson completely.  
**Cookham Wood (September 2019)**

There continued to be insufficient outreach provision, where children were taught individually or in small groups on the residential units, to meet demand. As a result, these children received far less than the 15 hours' education a week they were entitled to.