

Establishment	Her Majesty's Prison and Young Offender Institution (HMP & YOI) Brinsford
Type of establishment	Male: young and adult
Inspection type	Full announced
Dates of inspection	30 November – 3 December 2009
Establishment contact	Head of Learning and Skills HMYOI Brinsford New Road Featherstone Wolverhampton WV10 7PY Tel: 01902 533450

This is a summary report of the inspection findings of the learning and skills provision at HMP & YOI Brinsford

Grades: 1 is outstanding, 2 is good, 3 is satisfactory, 4 is inadequate

<i>Common Inspection Framework (CIF)</i> aspects	Grade
Overall effectiveness	4
Capacity to improve	4
Outcomes for learners	4
Quality of provision	3
Leadership and management	4

Overall effectiveness

Grade: 4

The overall effectiveness of the prison's learning and skills is inadequate. The outcomes for learners are inadequate. Attendance at learning activities is poor; learners in many education sessions do not enjoy them and are de-motivated. Achievement of qualifications is poor on education and vocational training programmes for most learners, including in literacy and numeracy. However, although the number of learners, taking brickwork, catering and some physical education (PE) qualifications, is low their achievements are good. The standards of learners' work are satisfactory and good in catering. The quality of provision is satisfactory. The new Rowan Centre vocational training facilities are very good, but are under-used; places are unfilled, staff absent and posts vacant. Teaching and vocational training are satisfactory overall, and good in cookery, English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) sessions and vocational catering training. Teaching is poor in literacy and numeracy sessions. Support for learning, for learners with behavioural and mental health needs, is good. The induction process is insufficiently co-ordinated, too complex and does not enable staff to make effective use of time or ensure

individual prisoners' needs are met. The range of vocational training is wide, but offers too little provision above level 2. Leadership and management are inadequate; managers have been unable to raise standards and ensure the full use of the provision. However, the new contractor, The Manchester College (TMC), is improving the quality and quantity of the provision. Changes, including staff re-structuring, are managed well. However, processes for efficient and effective communications and working across learning and skills throughout the prison are inadequate. The prison's arrangements to safeguard learners and promote equality and diversity are satisfactory.

Capacity to Improve

Grade: 4

The overall capacity to improve for learning and skills is inadequate. The prison's reducing re-offending strategy for 2009/10 contains too little learning and skills information for planning purposes. Although the number of activity places, nearly all offering accredited learning, is adequate, attendance is poor. Data for November 2009 show only 53% attendance. Many education and training sessions are cancelled. The prison's self-assessment report is very detailed, but includes aspirational statements and is insufficiently evaluative. The self-assessment report for young people and young adults' provision has insufficient clarity between each group to evaluate the provision effectively and plan for improvement. Since August 2009, TMC staff have collected data, and managers are beginning to use this to inform their decisions. Managers have begun to tackle deficiencies in education and vocational training provision. However, there are many staff vacancies; some subjects areas have no tutors or trainers and too many sessions are cancelled. TMC has established priority action plans, records its progress against targets and has implemented new quality assurance arrangements, but it is too early to evaluate their effectiveness.

Outcomes for learners

Grade: 4

Key Strengths

- good progress and achievement by ESOL learners
- good achievement of brickwork and some PE qualifications
- good achievement of cookery for life awards
- high level of commercial cookery and catering skills by learners.

Key areas for improvement

- poor achievement of literacy, numeracy and preparation for life qualifications taken by high numbers of learners
- poor achievement of qualifications on the majority of vocational training programmes
- poor punctuality and attendance at learning activities
- missed opportunities to accredit skills learnt at work and/or recognise and record these

- many learners do not enjoy and/or are unmotivated by education sessions.

Quality of provision

Grade: 3

Key Strengths

- good teaching in ESOL and cookery classes and vocational catering training
- very good new vocational training facilities
- wide range of vocational training subjects
- good partnership work in catering vocational training with an international hotel group
- flexible use of part-time education combined with work activities
- good support for learning, for learners with behavioural and mental health needs.

Key areas for improvement

- poor teaching in literacy and numeracy classes
- too little vocational training offered at level 2 or above
- insufficiently co-ordinated and complex induction, planning and allocations process
- weak planning of learning and target-setting to meet individual learners' needs
- some poor assessment practice in some vocational training
- insufficient access to library resources to support learning.

Leadership and management

Grade: 4

Key Strengths

- much recent management action to address deficiencies in the education and vocational training provision
- good action planning, target-setting and monitoring of progress by the new education and vocational training contractor
- well-managed PE provision
- good team-work by vocational catering and the prison kitchen staff to enhance learning.

Key areas for improvement

- insufficient learning and skills information in prison strategic planning
- inadequate learning and skills communications and working across the prison
- insufficient use of data to inform management decisions
- inadequate internal verification of carpentry qualifications

- too many cancellations of sessions in the education and vocational training provision
- under-utilisation of accredited activity places and too many courses with vacancies
- inadequate clarity and evaluation in self-assessment
- insufficient quality assurance arrangements and sharing of good practice.

What HMP & YOI Brinsford needs to do to improve further?

- Prioritise learning and skills in the prison's strategic planning for reducing re-offending.
- Raise attendance, retention and achievement levels across the provision.
- Reduce cancellations of education and vocational training sessions.
- Introduce an efficient and effective induction, planning and allocations process.
- Review the levels of vocational qualifications to ensure they provide good progression opportunities for learners following release.
- Use data and information effectively to analyse and evaluate the provision and inform decisions for continuous quality improvement.
- Introduce effective quality assurance arrangements across the provision.