

## MONITORING VISIT: MAIN FINDINGS

Name of Provider: HMP Rye Hill  
Date of visit: 8 July 2008

### Context

This monitoring visit follows the inspection in June 2007, at which learning and skills at HMP Rye Hill were judged to be inadequate. HMP Rye Hill is a private contracted category B training prison situated on the border of Northamptonshire and Warwickshire. The prison is operated by Group 4 Securicor (G4S) and holds up to 660 male adults that have a sentence of over four years. The prison has a diverse population including lifers, vulnerable offenders and a significant number of foreign nationals.

Education provision is provided by City College Manchester (CCM) through a private contracting arrangement, and includes provision for information, advice and guidance, and initial literacy and numeracy testing. CCM also has responsibility for initiating the individual learning plans at induction. At the previous inspection the prison offered very little accredited training outside of education. It now offers a range of accredited programmes including railway track installation, catering, journalism and industrial cleaning.

### Achievement and standards

Has the prison implemented an appropriate management information system which provides clear and accurate data on learners' achievement and programme performance?	Insufficient progress
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The prison still does not have comprehensive performance data on which judgements about success rates can be made. Progress has been made in developing a database with which to collect and analyse this data, but it is not yet fully in use. Data provided in the self-assessment report is not helpful. For some programmes this consists only of the number of certificates achieved and does not relate to the number of learners who started the programme. The new database is comprehensive and has the functionality to provide detailed analysis of the

performance of learners and programmes, including attendance and reasons for leaving. It is currently used to produce individual timetables and class lists. However, it is not yet fully populated with data and the prison is not yet able to produce clear performance data. The prison expects to have populated the database and to have a full 12 month period of data available by the end of the year.

Has the take-up of education and training improved?	Reasonable progress
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At the previous inspection, less than half of the education places available to prisoners were used. This has improved and, based on the most recent data, around 70% of places are now filled. The monitoring of attendance has significantly improved with an officer on duty in the education department taking on this role. Information relating to why prisoners do not attend is collected, but the prison has not yet progressed to a sufficiently detailed analysis of this to identify actions that may further improve attendance. The take-up of education and training opportunities is not a routine item at the quality improvement group meetings.

#### The range of education and training

Has the prison improved the range of education and training for prisoners, including where appropriate the formal recognition of skills and learning?	Significant progress
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The prison has introduced a range of new learning opportunities for offenders. These include railway track installation, catering NVQs, journalism courses linked to the prison's radio service, industrial cleaning and sports awards. Plans are in place to further develop opportunities for offenders in the industrial workshops to achieve recognised qualifications and for a pre-release course. Development of learning and skills is focused on a 9-point strategy which ensures that new courses and initiatives support the prisons objectives. A review of the needs of prisoners and the education curriculum has produced an appropriate set of priorities for the education budget. This appropriately prioritises the development of prisoners' literacy, numeracy and language skills but also maintains an appropriate personal development and social integration curriculum.

#### Self-assessment and development planning

Has the prison introduced an effective self-assessment process?	Reasonable progress
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The most recent self-assessment report is helpful in identifying the key strengths and areas for improvement, although some strengths are overstated. It is an inclusive process and effectively incorporates learning and skills provided by the prison and

the education subcontractor. Links between the various parts of the prison have improved, in particular the liaison between education, regimes and sentence planning. The action plan is appropriate and is regularly reviewed by the quality improvement group. However, the report suffers from a lack of thorough performance data on which judgements can be made. The prison recognises this area for improvement and is taking action to address it.