

Establishment	Her Majesty's Prison (HMP) Blantyre House
Type of establishment	Male adult resettlement prison
Inspection type	Full announced
Dates of inspection	5 – 8 July 2010
Establishment contact	Head of Learning and Interventions HMP Blantyre House Horden Goudhurst Kent TN17 2NH  Tel: 01580 213219

This is a summary report of the inspection findings of the learning and skills provision at HMP Blantyre House

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

<i>Common Inspection Framework (CIF) aspects</i>	Grade
Overall effectiveness	2
Capacity to improve	2
Outcomes for learners	2
Quality of provision	2
Leadership and management	2

Overall effectiveness Grade: 2

The overall effectiveness of the prison's learning and skills is good. Outcomes for learners are good. Learners make outstanding progress towards and achievement of employment on release. This, together with outstanding improvement of their economic and social well-being, is of particular importance for this resettlement prison. Accredited achievement on most programmes is good, but on a few programmes, it is poor. Non-accredited achievements are insufficiently formally recognised and recorded. The quality of the provision is good. Partnerships with national and regional employers and local colleges are outstanding; some 55% of prisoners are involved daily in education, training and employment in the community. The quality of prison vocational training is good. Prison education teaching is satisfactory, but some target setting and monitoring of learners' progress is poor. Leadership and management overall are good, as is the promotion of equality and diversity. Learners feel safe and safeguarding arrangements are good. The strategic leadership and management are outstanding; senior managers provide clear direction and promote high expectations.

## Capacity to Improve

Grade: 2

The overall capacity to improve learning and skills is good. Outstanding strategic leadership and management highly successfully provide clear direction in the management of change. Prison cluster arrangements, with HMP East Sutton Park, and the transfer to a new Offender Learning and Skills Service contractor, are effective. Accredited achievement by learners is good and is improving. The majority of learners, who start courses, complete them and achieve their learning objectives. Successful continuous quality improvement ensures the provision remains flexible and responsive to the wide range of individual learners' needs. Very good support is provided for learners preparing to progress into the community, which is especially important as many have been in custody for significant periods of time. Self-assessment is inclusive of staff and learners, although does not formally involve all partners. The self-assessment report contains clear and accurate judgements and is mainly evaluative. The use of data has improved since the previous inspection and is good. Quality improvement action planning is effective and good practice is shared across the two clustered prisons.

## Outcomes for learners

Grade: 2

### Key Strengths

- outstanding progress to and achievement of employment on release
- outstanding development of learners' skills for their economic and social well-being
- good accredited achievement on most programmes
- good attendance and punctuality

### Key areas for improvement

- poor achievement rates in gym instructor, literacy intermediate level, and numeracy foundation and intermediate level programmes
- insufficient formal recognition and recording of non-accredited achievements

## Quality of provision

Grade: 2

### Key strengths

- outstanding partnerships with national and regional employers and local colleges
- very good range of work and training opportunities across the provision
- highly responsive and flexible delivery to meet individual learning and skills needs
- very effective care, support and guidance to meet learners' individual needs

- good vocational training in horticulture, construction and catering

#### Key areas for improvement

- some poor target setting and monitoring of learners' progress in education
- insufficient use of initial assessment within the recruitment process for the gym instructors' course

#### Leadership and management

Grade: 2

#### Key Strengths

- outstanding strategic leadership and management
- good day-to-day management of the provision
- good use of data to inform management decisions
- good promotion of equality, diversity and social inclusion
- highly effective self-assessment and quality improvement arrangements

#### Key areas for improvement

- insufficient use of trained prisoners as peer mentors and for peer support, especially in main physical education (PE) activities

#### What HMP Blantyre House needs to do to improve further?

- Further investigate the poor achievement rates on the literacy, numeracy and gym instructors' courses and make the necessary changes to improve performance.
- Implement arrangements to formally recognise and record non-accredited skills learnt through education, training and/or prison and community work.
- Develop teaching and learning to improve the quality of teaching in education.
- Review the target setting and progress monitoring arrangements in prison education to use these effectively to support individual learning.
- Make greater use of trained prisoners for peer mentoring and support, especially in main PE activities.