HM Prison & Probation Service

HMP Stocken

A response to the HMIP inspection: 20-31 July 2026

HMIP report published: 19 October 2026

Submitted: 4 November 2026

Introduction

HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) and HM Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) for England and Wales are independent inspectorates which provide scrutiny of the conditions for, and treatment of prisoners and offenders.

They report their findings for prisons, young offender institutions, and effectiveness of the work of probation, and youth offending services across England and Wales to Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS).

In response to the report HMPPS / MoJ are required to draft a robust and timely action plan to address the priority and key concerns.

Action plans provide specific steps and actions to address these concerns, that are clear, outcome focussed, measurable, achievable, with clear accountability and appropriate timescales for completion.

Action plans are sent to the respective HMIP and published on the GOV.UK website. Progress will be monitored regularly through local, regional, and national governance structures.

Priority concerns and actions

No.	Concerns	Response: action taken / planned	Responsible owner	Target date
1	**There had been three self-inflicted deaths since the last inspection. Support for prisoners in crisis was not good enough.**	HMP Stocken will deliver quarterly assessment, care in custody and teamwork (ACCT) and suicide prevention speed training to all relevant staff, jointly facilitated by mental health and healthcare. A post-ACCT closure prisoner questionnaire will be implemented and offered to 100% of prisoners following ACCT closure to provide assurance on the quality and effectiveness of the process. Training compliance, questionnaire feedback, and ACCT quality assurance findings will be reviewed monthly by the Custodial Manager and Head of Safety, with targeted refresher training and improvement actions implemented where gaps are identified.	Governor	April 2027
	As above	HMP Stocken will fully implement a multidisciplinary ACCT review process, ensuring case managers brief relevant stakeholders and request attendance involved in a prisoner's care and management. The ACCT support directory will remain accessible to all case managers and be circulated monthly via the case manager Teams channel. Case manager awareness sessions will be completed by December 2026 with attendance monitored. The ACCT Quality Assurance Action Plan will be reviewed, approved, and embedded by December 2026, with compliance monitored through monthly ACCT quality assurance audits and progress reported through the multi-disciplinary Safety Governance Meeting, with corrective actions implemented where standards are not met.	Governor	December 2026

No.	Concerns	Response: action taken / planned	Responsible owner	Target date
	As above	HMP Stocken will liaise with the Samaritans to establish an annual training plan, to ensure a consistent number of listeners within the establishment.	Governor	April 2027
	As above	HMP Stocken will design and implement a peer-led support programme for prisoners who have previously been managed under ACCT, aimed at improving emotional resilience, coping strategies and access to support for prisoners at risk of self-harm or suicide. Referrals will be accepted from Safer Custody, Healthcare and Residential teams. Effectiveness will be reviewed quarterly through prisoner engagement levels, participant feedback, repeat ACCT data and self-harm trends, with outcomes reported through the Safety Governance Meeting.	Governor	April 2027
	As above	HMP Stocken will review the safety and debt Strategy to ensure priorities reflect current risks, trends and areas for improvement. Safety and Segregation leadership will be brought together to strengthen joint oversight, accountability and delivery, with progress monitored through safety governance arrangements.	Governor	December 2026
2	**The ingress of drugs posed a significant threat to the stability of the prison.** The lack of enhanced gate security and netting over yards, for example, continued to create opportunities for illicit items to enter the prison.	HMP Stocken will achieve and maintain its monthly Mandatory Drug Testing (MDT) target by using the weekly Resource Management Planning (RMP) meeting to prioritise MDT activity and allocate the staffing resources required to support delivery. MDT performance and resource allocation will be monitored monthly by the Head of Business Assurance and Deputy Governor, with corrective action taken where targets are not met.	Governor	December 2026

No.	Concerns	Response: action taken / planned	Responsible owner	Target date
	As above	HMP Stocken will review and progress opportunities to strengthen gate security and other priority physical security measures. Part of this will include a new Additional Works Request (AWR) for Enhanced Gate Security (EGS) to address known routes used to introduce illicit items into the prison. Progress against identified actions and EGS proposals will be reviewed monthly through security governance arrangements, with implementation prioritised based on risk and available funding.	Governor	April 2027
	As above	HMP Stocken will arrange a meeting with the national drone threat team, to explore options and feasibility of wing exercise netting at HMP Stocken.	Governor	December 2027
3	**Staff-prisoner relationships were often distant and transactional.** Prisoners spoke negatively about the willingness of staff to support them. Key work was sporadic and ineffective.	HMP Stocken will relaunch expectations for visible, respectful and proactive staff-prisoner engagement. Senior leaders will assure delivery through regular unit visits, direct observations and prisoner feedback, supported by consultation, complaints and survey data to identify themes and evidence improvement.	Governor	November 2026
	As above	HMP Stocken will complete a whole prison wing-based survey to identify prisoner concerns, understand emerging issues, and develop a prison-wide action plan by December 2026. Progress against identified actions will be reviewed monthly through the senior management team meeting with responsible leads held accountable for delivery. A follow-up survey will be conducted by 31 July 2027 to measure progress, assess the effectiveness of interventions, and identify any further improvement actions required.	Governor	December 2026

No.	Concerns	Response: action taken / planned	Responsible owner	Target date
	As above	HMP Stocken will implement a Key Work Quality Improvement Plan to improve the quality of key work, focusing on meaningful staff-prisoner relationships, prisoner progression and effective resolution of prisoner concerns. Progress will be monitored monthly through quality assurance and prisoner feedback.	Governor	January 2027
	As above	HMP Stocken will strengthen its decency strategy to monitor and address decency issues, ensuring clean and well-maintained living environments that support prisoner wellbeing, morale, and positive staff-prisoner relationships.	Governor	January 2027
	As above	HMP Stocken will commission a climate assessment to evaluate the workplace environment. The climate assessment will identify any weaknesses and areas for development and improvement in regard to staff / prisoner relationships and leadership.	Governor	April 2027
4	**Long-standing infrastructure failures, including sewage problems, vermin and poorly maintained grounds, undermined basic decency.**	The sewerage is being actively managed daily through tankering to keep the prison operational. Tankering involves the pumping, transportation and disposal of the sewage from the site. The macerator tanks and pump replacement project is in progress and due to be completed in November 2026. This will reduce the tankering from twice daily to twice weekly. This will improve the decency standards in the short to medium term but is not a permanent fix.	MoJ Estates	November 2026
	As above	The sewerage survey is ongoing and due to be completed and delivered by December 2026. This will identify what within the system is causing the backup issues and will act as supporting information for the engineered solution project.	MoJ Estates	December 2026

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	As above	Within the next financial year, the following actions will be taken to address the sewage issues in the long term: - Upgrade the macerators, - Install a live monitoring system; and - Upgrade the tanks to include a continuous drain-away system.	MoJ Estates	March 2028
	As above	HMP Stocken will implement a joint pest control improvement plan covering treatment, proofing works, waste management, food source controls and follow-up inspections to confirm affected areas have been cleared. Where pest issues reoccur, a formal review will be completed to determine whether underlying building, maintenance or drainage defects are contributing to the problem, with corrective actions tracked through the estates and decency governance process.	Governor	January 2027
	As above	The prison will continue to use the Amey Performance Improvement Plan as the principal route for jointly reviewing the highest-risk and longest-standing facilities issues. Reviews will focus on overdue actions, repeat failures, contractor performance, barriers to completion and any support or decisions required from the establishment, Amey or regional colleagues.	Governor	Ongoing
	As above	HMP Stocken will provide a concise monthly assurance update for senior leaders at the monthly tripartite meeting, which is chaired by the Area Property Operations Manager from MoJ Estates and attended by Amey. This meeting sets out the priority issues, progress made, overdue commitments and any matters requiring further support or escalation. Wherever possible, completed actions should be supported	Governor	December 2026

No.	Concerns	Response: action taken / planned	Responsible owner	Target date
		by photographs, survey findings, completed work orders or inspection records.		
5	**Patient safety was not assured in key areas of mental health, particularly the prescribing of antipsychotic medication and the absence of oversight by an on-site pharmacist.** The lack of a rigorous and up-to-date risk register, robust prescribing audits and timely action had undermined safe and effective care.	Following the inspection, Practice Plus Group (PPG) have strengthened antipsychotic monitoring and patient safety. Antipsychotic monitoring has been added to the site risk register to strengthen the identification, monitoring and management of risks, and to ensure improved local and regional oversight. Antipsychotic monitoring clinics have been prioritised, and all patients with outstanding monitoring requirements have been contacted and invited to attend appointments. A new flowchart has been developed to provide staff with clear guidance on the processes for patients prescribed antipsychotic medication, including the importance of timely monitoring and clinical reviews. Antipsychotic monitoring compliance continues to be monitored through weekly recall reviews and ongoing clinical oversight.	Practice Plus Group	Complete
	As above	PPG have strengthened clinical oversight and governance in relation to antipsychotic prescribing and monitoring. Oversight is provided by the Mental Health Lead, Senior Mental Health Nurse and psychiatrist. At the time of the inspection, the site was supported by a locum psychiatrist; an employed psychiatrist is now in post, providing greater continuity of care and strengthening clinical oversight. The site continues to operate within the PPG governance framework, with local medicines management meetings attended by a prescriber to support clinical discussion, review prescribing concerns and agree appropriate actions. Issues identified through local medicines management meetings are escalated to the Regional Medicines Management Meeting, chaired by the Regional Pharmacist, where	Practice Plus Group	Complete

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		further review and action can be agreed. Concerns may also be escalated through local, regional and national quality assurance meetings, as appropriate. Minutes from local medicines management meetings are shared with the regional team to support oversight, accountability and the timely escalation of risks. Any emerging concerns, gaps in monitoring or prescribing risks are escalated through the appropriate local and regional medicines management and quality assurance structures to support timely intervention and maintain patient safety.		
	As above	PPG have strengthened antipsychotic monitoring arrangements to reduce the risk of recurrence. Weekly antipsychotic monitoring clinics are now undertaken by the Mental Health Support Worker. Patient recalls are reviewed weekly by the Mental Health Clinical Lead to identify missed appointments and outstanding monitoring requirements, enabling timely follow-up and reducing the risk of patients missing future monitoring. A clear monitoring process has been introduced to support consistent practice, improve staff awareness and ensure patients prescribed antipsychotic medication receive the required ongoing monitoring and reviews.	Practice Plus Group	Complete
	As above	PPG have strengthened pharmacy oversight arrangements. The absence of an on-site pharmacist has been added to the site risk register to ensure the risk is formally recorded, monitored and escalated through the appropriate governance arrangements. Regional pharmacist oversight remains in place to support medicines management, provide professional guidance and strengthen prescribing governance. Monthly supervision forums for pharmacy technicians are facilitated by the Regional Pharmacy Technician.	Practice Plus Group	Complete

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		These forums provide opportunities for professional discussion, review of practice and escalation of concerns. Risks relating to antipsychotic monitoring and pharmacy provision will remain on the risk register and continue to be reviewed through the established governance processes. The risk register is reviewed monthly by the Head of Healthcare and discussed at monthly local performance meetings involving the Healthcare Senior Management Team.		
	As above	PPG is actively exploring options to secure sustainable pharmacy provision. Agency pharmacist support is being sourced to provide pharmacy input while PPG explores a longer-term solution.	Practice Plus Group	December 2026
6	**Staff vacancies meant that prisoners could not always study functional English and mathematics at the level they needed.** At the time of the inspection, there were lengthy waiting lists for entry-level mathematics in particular.	HMP Stocken will improve access to functional skills English and maths provision by maintaining consistent tutor availability therefore reducing disruption to learning. Performance, learner engagement, achievement rates and waiting list data will be reviewed monthly through the Establishment Performance Observation Report (EPOR) to ensure prisoners receive timely access to education and continuity of learning.	Governor	April 2027
	As above	Pending recruitment and stabilisation of functional skills staffing, HMP Stocken will introduce mixed level English and Maths classes to maintain educational provision, reduce waiting lists, and ensure prisoners continue to have access to learning opportunities.	Governor	November 2026
7	**Achievement rates in functional mathematics and**	HMP Stocken will ensure functional skills teaching meets individual learner needs through differentiated delivery to encourage participation	Governor	April 2027

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	English at levels 1 and 2 were too low.	and build confidence. This will be assured by learning walks, lesson observations and monthly EPOR quality assurance reviews.		
	As above	HMP Stocken will ensure functional skills English teaching effectively supports English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) learners through the recruitment of a functional skills tutor who will focus on targeted learning support and regular progress reviews. Effectiveness will be monitored through learning walks, lesson observations and learner achievement outcomes.	Governor	April 2027
	As above	HMP Stocken will increase functional skills English and maths achievement rates through targeted learner support, mixed learning and improved engagement. This will be demonstrated in achievement outcomes and exam results, with improvement actions implemented where required.	Governor	December 2026

Key concerns and actions

No.	Concerns	Response: action taken / planned	Responsible owner	Target date
8	**Too many prisoners did not receive a positive first night experience, with delays in accessing basic items and a**	Managers will undertake a ‘Bus to Bed’ review of reception and first night arrangements, identifying failings and implementing improvements to ensure a consistent and supportive prisoner experience from arrival to first night.	Governor	December 2026

No.	Concerns	Response: action taken / planned	Responsible owner	Target date
	lack of privacy during initial safety interviews.			
	As above	HMP Stocken will ensure all initial safety interviews are completed in private, with the Reception Supervising Officer and Induction Officer responsible for providing prisoners with a confidential opportunity to openly discuss any risks, concerns or support needs.	Governor	December 2026
	As above	HMP Stocken will strengthen first night assurance through prisoner surveys, key worker discussions, peer worker feedback and daily management checks. Feedback from induction passports and first night experiences will be reviewed monthly to identify and address any gaps, ensuring new prisoners receive a safe, supportive and consistent induction experience.	Governor	December 2026
	As above	HMP Stocken will ensure the induction wing maintains enough clean, fully prepared cells with induction packs available for all new arrivals. Compliance will be monitored through a cell readiness checklist.	Governor	December 2026
9	**Support for prisoners with disabilities was not good enough.** Informal peer support workers were not trained or sufficiently supervised, and the management of those with emergency evacuation plans was not good enough.	HMP Stocken will introduce a structured disability peer support scheme, with trained buddies providing appropriate support to prisoners with disabilities and additional needs.	Governor	April 2027

No.	Concerns	Response: action taken / planned	Responsible owner	Target date
	As above	Oversight of disability support will be strengthened to ensure staff understand individual needs, reasonable adjustments and emergency evacuation requirements and which prisoners are responsible for that.	Governor	April 2027
	As above	The equalities lead will undertake monthly assurance checks for prisoners with the greatest support needs, focusing on their living environment, accessibility and whether appropriate adjustments are in place.	Governor	January 2027
10	**There were too many prisoners in wing-cleaning roles.** They did not have enough to do to fill their working hours.	A full review of wing cleaning requirements will be completed to ensure roles and responsibilities are clearly outlined, ensuring daily assurance are carried out by wing staff via cleaning schedules to monitor that wing cleaners are completing their full cleaning duties.	Governor	January 2027
	As above	HMP Stocken will implement a structured residential cleaning policy with clear standards and responsibilities. Compliance will be monitored through daily officer checks, fortnightly supervising officer checks, monthly case manager reviews and quarterly Head of Residence decency inspections, with actions tracked through the Decency Assurance Log.	Governor	January 2027
11	**Workshop instructors did not set prisoners development targets that met their employability needs.**	HMP Stocken will ensure the Skills Builder booklet is used consistently across all Vocational Training (VT) workshops to support learners' employability and essential skills development. Compliance and impact will be monitored through monthly quality assurance checks by the Industries Manager and reviewed twice yearly, with improvement actions implemented where required.	Governor	April 2027

No.	Concerns	Response: action taken / planned	Responsible owner	Target date
	As above	Training will be provided to instructors to ensure the Skills Builder booklet is used more effectively and consistently to capture personal development outcomes and progression. This will be monitored monthly by the Industries Manager and improvement actions identified and implemented where needed.	Governor	April 2027
	As above	HMP Stocken will introduce SMART target setting for all wing workers to recognise achievement, supporting personal development. Progress and outcomes will be reviewed through residential decency checks conducted daily with support provided where targets are not being achieved.	Governor	April 2027
12	**Prisoners who were motivated to make progress faced too many obstacles, including poor contact with prison offender managers, delays in completing offender assessments and in accessing offending behaviour programmes.**	Fortnightly, Duty Prisoner Offender Manager (POM) drop-in sessions will be established with bookable appointment slots to improve prisoners' access to offender management support and progression advice.	Governor	April 2027
	As above	HMP Stocken will use new monthly prisoner newsletters to provide clear updates on sentence progression, including barriers, offending behaviour programme waiting times, alternative options and actions prisoners can take to support progression. Peer mentors will provide support to those not able to read this information and the TV video channel blog will display relevant information.	Governor	November 2026

No.	Concerns	Response: action taken / planned	Responsible owner	Target date
	As above	HMP Stocken will implement an Offender Assessment System (OASys) tracking system to provide managers with accurate oversight of all outstanding initial and review OASys assessments, enabling resources to be targeted to the highest priority cases. The backlog will be reviewed monthly, with progress monitored through governance meetings to reduce overdue assessments and minimise delays to prisoner progression opportunities.	Governor	February 2027
	As above	HMP Stocken will continue to drive recruitment and training for Offending Behaviour Programme facilitators, ensuring maximum delivery of the courses, to reduce the backlog.	Governor	December 2026
13	**Many prisoners and visitors were unhappy with social visits.** Delays and operational arrangements reduced the time available for some visits, and insufficient action had been taken to mitigate the impact of the prison's remote location.	HMP Stocken will review the end-to-end visits journey to reduce delays and maximise visit time. Success will be measured by start delays reducing against the baseline, with monthly reviews driving improvements.	Governor	January 2026
	As above	The prison will review searching arrangements to ensure they remain proportionate to risk while maintaining decency, particularly for families and children.	Governor	January 2026
	As above	Family contact will be strengthened by improving travel information, promoting video calls and increasing awareness of family support	Governor	February 2027

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		services, with progress measured against baseline usage and monthly feedback.		
14	**Some prisoners faced unacceptably long delays in transferring to open prisons.**	PECS will continue to work collaboratively with HMP Stocken, the Logistics Centre and receiving establishments to monitor the timely transfer of Category D prisoners and minimise delays to open prison transfers. Transfer performance will continue to be reviewed through existing operational governance processes, with any resource-related issues identified and mitigated at the earliest opportunity to reduce the risk of on-the-day cancellations.	Prisoner Escort and Custody Services – East Midlands	Ongoing
	As above	HMP Stocken will monitor the timeliness of transfers using the tracker document and the Head of Group will escalate any delayed or cancelled transfers through the appropriate regional population management and escort routes.	Governor	November 2026
	As above	The prison will keep prisoners regularly updated on the progress of their transfer, including any cancellations, delays and what will happen next. Updates will be provided through their POM or the Offender Management Unit.	Governor	November 2026