



**MAGHABERRY
PRISON**

KEY FACTS

REPORT OF AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF PROGRESS AT MAGHABERRY PRISON

FEBRUARY 2024

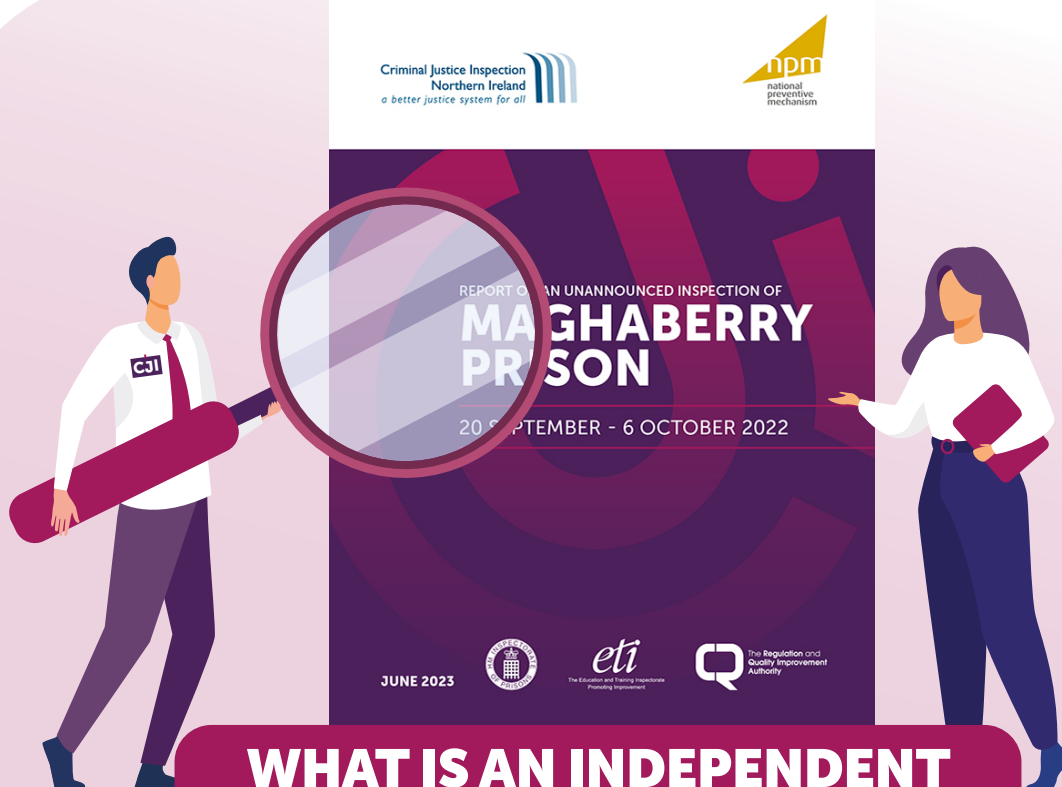


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The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement



The Regulation and
Quality Improvement
Authority



WHAT IS AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF PROGRESS (IRP)?

IRPs check what progress prisons had made against particular recommendations or priority and key areas of concern identified in full inspection reports rather than wait until another full unannounced inspection.

An IRP aims to support continuous improvement and identify any emerging difficulties at an early stage that could impact on outcomes for prisoners.

IRPs focus on recommendations or priority and key areas of concern identified in inspection reports rather than a full assessment against the healthy prisons tests examined during a full inspection. Prisons know in advance what key and priority concerns the IRP will examine.

IRPs contribute to monitoring places of detention as part of the United Kingdom National Preventive Mechanism, established in response to the UK's commitment to the Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.



WHY WAS AN IRP CONDUCTED AT MAGHABERRY PRISON?

A full inspection of Maghaberry Prison against the healthy prisons tests was conducted in October 2022. Inspectors found that the performance of the prison had declined in two healthy prison tests - Purposeful Activity and Rehabilitation and Release Planning and the assessment of Safety and Respect remained unchanged.

The 2022 inspection identified five priority concerns (areas that required immediate attention) and seven key concerns.

Inspectors wanted to check what progress prison leaders and those responsible for prison health care services and learning and skills provision had made to address the priority and key concerns.

Four judgements are made about progress during an IRP:



GOOD PROGRESS

A realistic plan was delivering clear improvement in outcomes for prisoners.



REASONABLE PROGRESS

A plan was in place and there was evidence of progress.



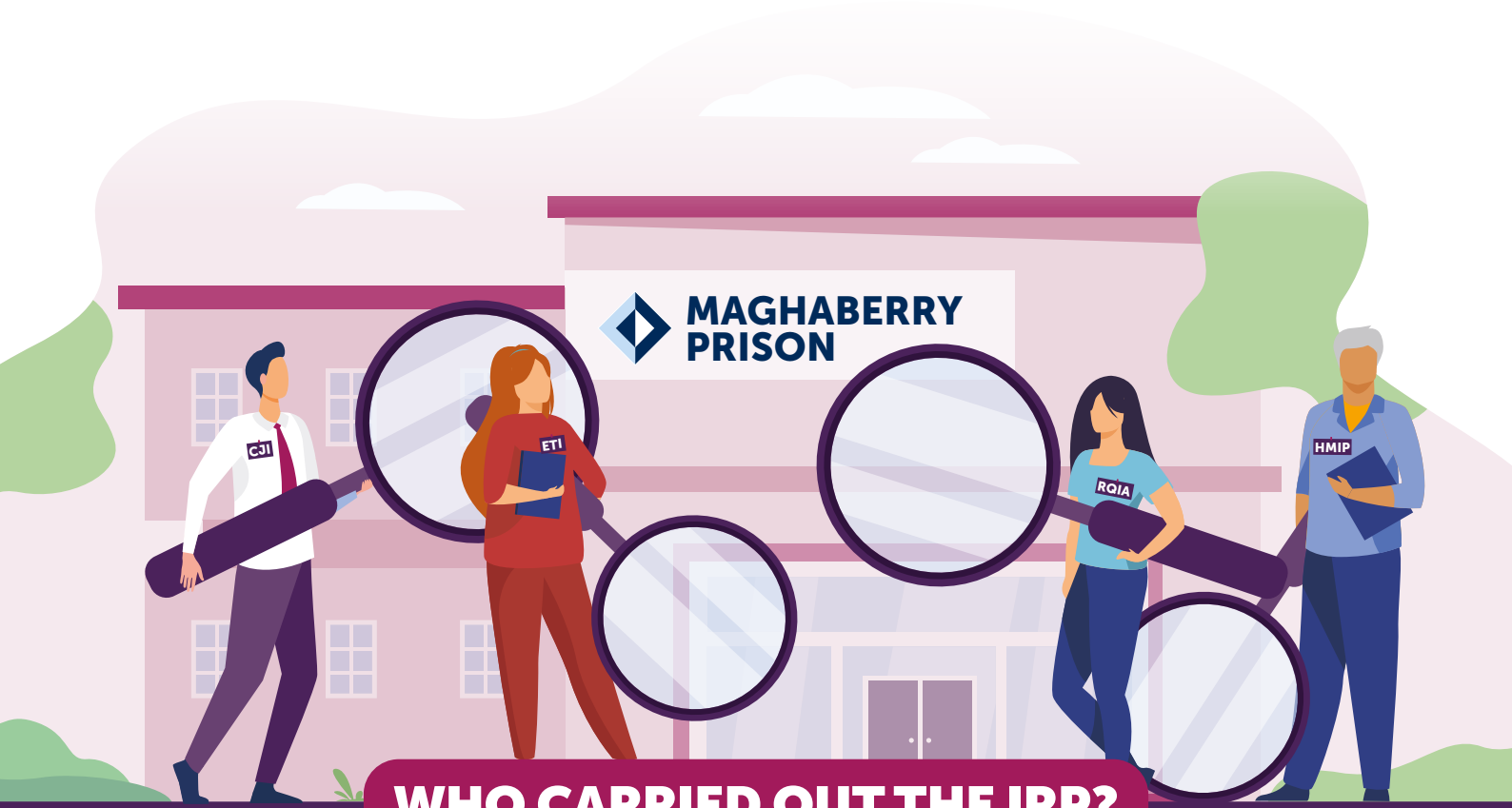
INSUFFICIENT PROGRESS

Actions taken had not yet resulted in sufficient evidence of progress.



NO MEANINGFUL PROGRESS

A realistic improvement plan had not yet been made or implemented.



WHO CARRIED OUT THE IRP?

As with full prison inspections, CJI worked in partnership with His Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons, the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority and the Education and Training Inspectorate to conduct the IRP at Maghaberry Prison.

WHAT WAS LOOKED AT DURING THE IRP?

We followed up on the 12 areas of concern identified during the 2022 inspection.

The IRP included two days on site at Maghaberry Prison in late October/early November 2023 and spoke to leaders, managers, staff, service providers and prisoners. We also spoke to Independent Monitoring Board members and a staff association. The prison, the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (SEHSCT) and Belfast Metropolitan College had provided data and documentation setting out their assessment of the progress they had made and this was examined and tested.



AREAS OF CONCERN

- | | | |
|-----|--|---|
| 1. | Learning from deaths in custody. | 😊 |
| 2. | Attendance at prison health care appointments. | 😊 |
| 3. | Supporting People at Risk. | 😊 |
| 4. | Regime for newly committed prisoners. | 😊 |
| 5. | Level of accredited qualifications in work activities. | 😊 |
| 6. | Access to psychologically informed treatment services. | 😊 |
| 7. | Meeting social care needs. | 😊 |
| 8. | Access to education, skills and work. | 😊 |
| 9. | Plan to reduce the demand for and supply of drugs. | 😊 |
| 10. | Support to guide prisoners through their sentence and prevent reoffending. | 😞 |
| 11. | Gaps in the learning curriculum. | 😞 |
| 12. | Adult safeguarding. | 😞 |

WHAT DID INSPECTORS FIND?

- Overall Maghaberry Prison and its partner agencies had made reasonably good progress against the 12 areas of concern which had been identified in the 2022 inspection.
- We judged that reasonable progress had been made against nine concerns and insufficient progress in two concerns (support to guide men through their sentence and prevent future offending and gaps in the curriculum).
- While steps had been taken to improve adult safeguarding, we assessed there had been no meaningful progress against this priority concern. This was impacted by an inoperable policy and gaps in adult safeguarding approaches between the Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS), SEHSCT and Department of Health which needed to be resolved urgently.
- Four examples of notable positive practice were identified. These included a tradeable medicines quality improvement project to reduce the number of medicine related incidents and a reading project so that prisoners could record stories and send them to their children that helped to maintain important family connections.



WHAT NEXT?

Leaders should maintain the focus on addressing the areas of concern identified in the 2022 inspection and urgently refocus their efforts on the areas where Inspectors assessed that Maghaberry Prison had not made sufficient progress.

Immediate steps should be taken to improve the partnership between the NIPS and SEHSCT at a senior level to achieve the delivery of shared objectives.

If you would like to know anything more about us or this inspection please get in touch with:

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