

Establishment: Grendon and Springhill **Area:** South Central

Governing Governor: Peter Bennett

Governor's Biography:

Peter Bennett studied for a PHD in Social Anthropology at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. He joined the Prison Service as an officer at Birmingham in 1983, followed by positions as governor grade at Everthorpe, Hull, Moorland and Headquarters. He has been Governor in charge at Nottingham and Wellingborough and latterly at Grendon and Springhill. He has been chair of the Perrie Lectures Committee and is a trustee of the Koestler Trust.

Name of Area Manager: Colin McConnell

Role and Function of establishment:

Grendon: Therapeutic Community Category

Springhill: Resettlement Category D

Operational capacity:

Grendon: 215

Springhill:333

Total population and date: 534 at 1.11.07

Average population breakdown (e.g. 210 category B; 85 young offenders; 200 remands; 35 unconvicted):

Category B Prisoners: 157

Category C Prisoners: 52

Category D Prisoners: 2 Grendon and 323 Springhill

There are 168 Life Sentence Prisoners (153 Grendon and 15 Springhill)

Ethnic and gender breakdown of staff:

301 x White Background

18 x BME Background

24 x Not Stated

62.8 % Male 37.2% Female

Local MP: John Bercow **Constituency:** Buckingham **Party:**

Conservative

History (where we are coming from):

Grendon and Springhill prisons are separate establishments: they are jointly managed and share a number of common services. The two prisons have achieved level three status and stand at 118th on the weighted scorecard. The HMCIP report on Grendon is extremely positive. Moreover, Grendon has recently achieved accreditation for its therapeutic regime, as well as a good rating for security.

Grendon was opened in 1962, to provide treatment for prisoners with anti-social personality disorders. Grendon houses up to 240 residents in Cat B secure conditions, following the principles of therapeutic communities within its wings. Each wing contains about forty men and there is an assessment unit that prepares new residents for therapy. This unit has been de-canted in preparation of the forthcoming heating contract.

Group therapy is aided by a multi disciplinary group of staff, working together with the residents. The process of therapy required considerable commitment from resident, and a stay of 2 years is recommended.

Springhill's role is separate to that of Grendon. Springhill is an open prison which operates a resettlement regime. The prison houses up to 334 category D prisoners. The reintegration of prisoners back into society follows a period of at least 28 days assessment on camp followed by community work of 60 days and then full time employment dependant on length of sentence and eligibility dates.

Springhill has undergone many changes in the last two years, with the introduction of a trowel trades learning centre, a Picta learning centre, a job club, NVQ's in Farms and Gardens and Catering, the introduction of a visits centre and an enhancement of gym facilities. The establishment in partnership with Northern Gas has opened a training centre specialising in domestic gas courses, which is open to both prisoners and members of the public. Springhill has also developed links with the voluntary sector and has now completed a Comprehensive register of contacts for prisoners to access.

Springhill has a vibrant greening policy, which is recognised throughout the service, which recycles 55% of all waste from both prisons.

Springhill supports prisoners with housing, employment and family ties ensuring these three crucial areas are addressed prior to release.

Public protection is at the centre of all decision-making and risk assessments ensuring public confidence is maintained. Outside probation links have been forged to enable prisoners to undertake offending behaviour courses in the community thus reducing prisoners risk to the public.

Springhill has introduced a substance support hut to enable support to be afforded to those prisoners who wish to refrain from using alcohol and drugs.

Present situation (where we are now):

The accreditation of all communities has been a major achievement and we have developed and implemented self-audit protocols for all five therapeutic communities in line with CSAP guidelines

Better integration of security, education and drug reduction within the therapeutic community regime. Staffing the Therapeutic Community wings remains an issue especially specialist resources given the budget. Standards of training are delivered, within limited resources for the quality of regime.

A national steering group on Therapeutic Communities continues to meet regularly. It supports the distinctive approach of therapeutic communities towards addressing Offending Behaviour and meeting the deeper psychological needs of offenders which are not addressed in main-stream establishments or cognitive behavioural offending behaviour programmes

HMP Springhill accommodates up to 334 adult male sentenced prisoners in open conditions. Its main function is to prepare them for release.

Springhill houses a broad range of sentenced prisoners, which includes 20 Lifers, in thirteen accommodation units. Over 100 prisoners are released to full time work and community based work Monday to Friday. Community based work involves areas such as local schools, Oxfam shops, and the Citizens' Advice Bureau in Oxford. Prisoners will normally complete 60 days of community-based work prior to moving into Full time employment.

Springhill is currently pursuing an initiative using the facilities of the towns of Bicester to complete offending behaviour programme for its prisoners. Springhill has in place a service level agreement with The St Giles Trust. This training will constitute a nationally recognised NVQ 'advice and guidance' qualification allowing the prisoners to act as a substantial resource within the establishment in the provision of accommodation, advice, support.

Springhill prison has on average 60 men on community work and similar in full time work. The rest are involved in maintenance of the site as well as education or work to address their offending behaviour

Springhill has developed considerably over the past three years as the regime has been enhanced to better serve its resettlement function. New courses have been developed, as have strong links with local agencies, including the voluntary sector. Absconds have decreased significantly.

Future (where we want to be):

Springhill will enhance the regime to ensure a wider range of activities for residents outside of the core therapy period.

The prison will continue to develop working relationships with Dovegate Prison and other Therapeutic Community Units to ensure good practice is

spread and develop the work of the Population Management Group to ensure we reach those prisoners who seek our regime; to recruit and retain them.

Springhill will introduce a means of accrediting the non-OBP and non-educational elements of the regime.

Will action two major pieces of work with the closure of the boiler house and dispersal of the heating systems and the introduction of fire alarms.

The prison has developed ways of providing vocational learning throughout the regime partially financed through successful funding bids and linked this to the induction and sentence planning process, these have just come on stream.

Explore opportunities for Springhill to gain greater autonomy in order to become more cost efficient and effective. Explore the opportunity to provide holding cells within Springhill.

Grendon is also enhancing it's perimeter security with the installation of a PID's system by the end of 2007

Governor's Comments:

Grendon Therapeutic Community Prison continues to deliver high quality and effective therapy for prisoners who have reputations for having been dangerous, difficult and disruptive. It has an international reputation and could bring wider benefits to the Prison Service if promoted more widely as an example of an effective and humane prison.

Area Manager's Comments:

Grendon and Springhill are in effect two entirely different prisons under one Governor sharing some services. The Governor Peter Bennett provides good leadership and direction for both establishments and his management team, who present a 'can do' ethos to the challenges of managing two different establishments.

Grendon delivers a high quality therapeutic regime to a difficult prisoner group with a noticeably small amount of incidents. Springhill has the larger prisoner population and operates a resettlement focused regime, sending up to 120 prisoners out of the establishment on licence every day to paid or unpaid work.

Grendon and Springhill have recently moved down to level 4 performance status following a recent review of performance. However the performance statistics are a combination of both prisons, which has advantages and disadvantages for both establishments and I am optimistic that under the guidance of the Governor with the assistance of his management team and the support of the Area team Grendon and Springhill will regain their former performance status.