

**LOCAL PRESS RELEASE**

**Make a difference - join the team of prison gamechangers in HMP Woodhill**

Do you believe everyone in custody deserves to be treated fairly?

Are you looking for a role which gives insight into a world that few people see?

If so, the local Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) team at HMP Woodhill is looking for people from all walks of life who live locally (within 30 miles) to join them.

Members monitor activity across the establishment, talk to prisoners and make sure they are treated fairly - and are given the support they need to stop reoffending and rebuild their lives.  Every year the board writes a report that goes directly to the Prisons Minister.

Successful applicants have full access to the prison in order to undertake the role, and although it’s unpaid, travel, childcare and loss of earnings expenses are available; comprehensive training and support is provided.

Monitors in 117-plus IMBs across England and Wales come from all walks of life including students, firefighters, small business owners, teachers, health professionals and people who are looking to strengthen their skills as part of a life or career change.

Key qualities needed include analysis, decision making, communication and teamworking skills, and a commitment to independence and inclusion, as well as an open-minded approach.

Candidates undergo a selection and vetting process, which can take a number of months, ahead of being formally appointed by Ministers in line with the Government’s public appointments process.

Interested? Contact current members of the Board david.ward6@justice.gov.ukto discuss the role or apply direct via  <https://www.imb.org.uk>.

**Notes to editors**

1. HMP Woodhill is a Category B training prison for 500+ men, located in Milton Keynes.

2. Members of an IMB are from the local community, appointed by the Secretary of State for Justice under the Prison Act 1952. They are unpaid. Each IMB has a duty to:

a. satisfy itself as to the humane and just treatment of those held in custody within its establishment and (for prisons and YOIs) the range and adequacy of the programmes preparing them for release.

b. to inform promptly the Secretary of State, or any official to whom s/he has delegated authority as s/he judges appropriate, any concern it has.

c. to report annually to the Secretary of State on how well the establishment has met the standards and requirements placed on it and what impact these have on those in its custody.

2. To enable the Board to carry out these duties effectively, its members have right of access to every prisoner or detainee, every part of the establishment and all its records (except for personal medical records).

For further information including arranging interviews, please contact The Chair at HMP Woodhill david.ward6@justice.gov.uk