

HMP Littlehey

Inspection report

Perry
Huntingdon
PE28 0SR
Tel: 01480335000

Date of inspection visit: 24 April 2024
Date of publication: 01/05/2024

This report describes our judgement of the quality of care at this service. It is based on a combination of what we found when we inspected, information from our ongoing monitoring of data about services and information given to us from the provider, patients, the public and other organisations.

Ratings

Overall rating for this location

Inspected but not rated



Are services safe?

Inspected but not rated



Overall summary

We carried out an announced focused inspection of the healthcare services provided by Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHFT) at HMP Littlehey on 24 April 2024.

Following our previous joint inspection with His Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons in September 2023, we found that the provider's management of medicines required improvement. We issued a requirement notice in relation to Regulation 12 of the Health and Social Care Act, Safe Care and Treatment. The last inspection report can be found at:

Report on an unannounced inspection of HMP Littlehey by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons 4-14 September 2023 (justiceinspectorates.gov.uk)

The purpose of this focused inspection was to determine if the provider was now meeting the legal requirement of the Notice we issued in December 2023.

We do not rate providers of health and social care services who operate in prisons.

OUR FINDINGS

Overall, we found the provider had implemented effective measures to address the issues we had identified during our previous inspection. The management of medicines had improved; room temperature monitoring was now undertaken where medicines were held, medicines contained in medical emergency bags were checked weekly, pharmaceutical bins were better secured and not overflowing, and security had strengthened in the area where controlled drugs were dispensed.

Our inspection team

This inspection was conducted by two CQC Health and Justice Inspectors.

During the inspection we spoke with the head of health care, deputy head of healthcare, the clinical lead for substance misuse services and the regional manager.

We reviewed policies and procedures in relation to medicines' management and checked treatment rooms and medical emergency bags.

Background to HMP Littlehey

HMP Littlehey is a large category C training prison near Huntingdon in Cambridgeshire. Holding more than 1,200 prisoners across a large campus, the prison's principal purpose is to hold adult men convicted of a sexual offence. The prison is operated by His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service.

Health services at HMP Littlehey are commissioned by NHS England and provided by Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust. They are registered with the CQC to provide the following regulated activities: Treatment of Disease, Disorder or Injury, and Diagnostic and Screening procedures.

Are services safe?

At our previous inspection in September 2023, we found that the provider's systems and processes for managing medicines were not effective. During this inspection we found the following improvements had been implemented to comply with the regulation:

- We visited all areas where medicines were stored during our inspection. Each area now contained a log where staff had recorded the daily room temperature to ensure it was within the recommended range to store medicines safely. The substance misuse clinical lead conducted additional checks each month to ensure the logs were being completed correctly by staff.
- We checked both medical emergency equipment bags in the prison and found that all medicines they contained were in date. Staff completed weekly checks of the bags and the substance misuse clinical lead conducted additional audits each month to ensure the checks had been completed by staff.
- Systmeone was now available in the prison's reception area, allowing healthcare staff to see patients and record information before their release or transfer. We checked the clinical records for 3 patients who had been released in the previous week to our visit and saw that all had been screened by healthcare before leaving the establishment.
- Pharmacy staff also saw patients before their release and could supply them with 14 days' worth of medicines, or a prescription if they were being released with very short notice.
- Pharmaceutical waste bins had been relocated to more secure areas in the healthcare building and none we saw were overfilled. The pharmacy technician told us the bins were collected regularly.
- The fragile perspex around the controlled drugs administration area had been enhanced by metal bars to improve its security.
- We reviewed the provider's 'non-attendance for the collection of medication guidance,' which clearly described the process for staff to follow if a patient failed to collect their medicines. We viewed the daily staff handover sheet and noted that patients who had not collected their medicines that day was a standing agenda item so that action could be taken if needed.

Overall, we found the provider had implemented effective measures to address the issues we had identified during our previous inspection. These now must be embedded and sustained in the long term.