

## **Northallerton: MANY IMPROVEMENTS, BUT NEEDS RESETTLEMENT STRATEGY**

Northallerton is a Young Offender Institution which had succeeded in providing a safe and respectful environment for the young men held there, and was moving on to a focused resettlement role, said Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons, publishing the report of an unannounced inspection today.

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons, Anne Owers said:

"The Inspectorate was pleased to find that most of the good practice identified in the last inspection had been retained, and most of the poor practice had been rectified. This represents considerable commitment and work from staff and management, for which they are to be commended.

"The establishment's focus was on processing young prisoners for home detention curfew (HDC) and preparing them for release. However, Northallerton had not yet developed a resettlement policy or strategy, based upon the assessed needs of its population. Without this, it risked simply becoming a staging post to HDC, rather than a bridge between custody and the community.

"It was evident during the inspection that the establishment was already aware of this issue and was working to address it. If it is able to do so, it will become an effective resource for the local area, and for the young men held there."

Director General of the Prison Service, Phil Wheatley, said:

"I am pleased that the Inspectorate recognises the great advances made at Northallerton, and the dedication and care with which staff are engaging with the young people at the establishment.

"I am fully confident that Northallerton is now an establishment which holds resettlement at the centre of its training and regime, and that despite the relatively short time prisoners spend at the establishment, their individual needs are now identified to ensure that their time is spent productively, working towards gaining skills that will help them make a successful return to their community."

### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

1. The full announced inspection of HMYOI Northallerton was carried out between 7 and 9 January 2003.

2. HMYOI Northallerton receives young men aged 18-21 with sentences up to 18 months or with 3 months left.
3. HM Prison Inspectorate reports and releases are available at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/justice/prisons/inspprisons>.
4. For an electronic copy of the report, please email [eve.shuttleworth@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:eve.shuttleworth@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)