



## RECOMMENDATIONS

### To the Secretary of State

**8.1** Ministers and the Director General of the Prison Service should declare a commitment to reduce suicides in prisons in England and Wales. A suitable key performance indicator for suicide prevention should be introduced.

**8.2** Ministers and the Director General of the Prison Service should endorse the principles of “a healthy prison” given in this report which should be used to take forward the treatment of prisoners and the management of staff in every Prison Service establishment.

**8.3** Coroners’ officers should be advised that relatives of prisoners would benefit from early information about the process of an inquest and that regular and sensitive contact with them would be helpful.

**8.4** This review should be brought to the attention of coroners.

**8.5** Consideration should be given to offering support similar to a witness service in coroners’ courts for relatives of prisoners who wish to benefit from it.

### To the Director General

**8.6** Independent monitoring of investigations should take place and the results published. We recommend to the Secretary of State that the remits of either the Ombudsman or Her Majesty’s Inspector of Prisons are re-examined to take account of this.

**8.7** It should be a priority to use the principles of a healthy prison in order to identify establishments in which the treatment of prisoners is undermined by inappropriate cultures; alternative healthy cultures should be promoted.

**8.8** The Prisons Strategy Board should endorse the full implementation of the current strategy for suicide prevention as applied to training prisons.

**8.9** The Prisons Strategy Board should develop a new strategy for suicide prevention in local prisons, based on principles described in this review.

**8.10** The full impact of a death in custody must be understood by the Prison Service and effective contingency plans provided in all establishments.

**8.11** The Prisons Strategy Board should introduce suicide prevention strategies for female prisoners and young prisoners which are based on the different needs of these groups.

**8.12** Line managers should be accountable for the detailed implementation of appropriate suicide prevention strategies in all establishments and effective contingency plans in the event of a death in custody.

**8.13** Detailed recommendations emphasized in bold type in Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of this report should be implemented.

***'No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friends or of thine own were; Any man's death diminishes me because I am involved with mankind; And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; It tolls for thee.'***

*John Donne (1573-1631) Sermons on Divergent Occasions*