

**OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

**INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING PANEL**

**Draft Minutes of meeting held on Monday 17 July 2017**

A meeting of the Independent Custody Visiting Panel was held in Boardrooms 2 and 3 on Monday 17 July 2017 at 7.00 pm

**Present:** Mr P Cashmore, Mrs A Cray, Mrs E Cross, Mr S D'Arrigo, Mr C Ellis, Mrs T Farwell, Mr A Fear, Mr R Hermans, Miss N Hill, Dr D James (Chairman), Mr M Payne, Ms N Reynolds, Mr T Walker, Mrs B White, Mrs I Why

**Also Present:**

Mr A Harrold, Director of Operations, OPCC  
Mr T Smith, Governance Advisor, OPCC  
Mrs Y Fenwick, Governance and Contact Manager, OPCC  
Mr K Edwards, Custody Support Officer  
Inspector L Fry, Dorset Police

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND INTRODUCTIONS**

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Mr M Underhill, Assistant Chief Constable Cooper, Chief Inspector Claxton and Mrs J-A Fraser.

**MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2017 were approved and signed as a true record.

**Action Log**

- 2.2 Language Questionnaire – Paper Language Questionnaires had been made available in Bournemouth and Weymouth custody, along with a packet of thick felt tip pens. ICVs had been asked to advise the OPCC when questionnaires had run low to enable replacements to be made. Action closed.
- 2.3 Mental Health – CI Shimmons had arranged for a report which detailed the mental health issues experienced by detainees and subsequently identified by the Criminal Justice Liaison and Diversion Service. Action closed.
- 2.4 Abbreviations – Revised copies of the abbreviations list had been circulated to ICVs. Action closed.
- 2.5 Cracked Tiles – Mr Edwards advised the Panel that a majority of the cracked tiles were not deemed to be a ligature point risk, and appropriate maintenance would take place during the maintenance shutdown. Action remains live until maintenance undertaken during the period 9-20 October when Weymouth would close and detainees held at Poole.
- 2.6 Recruitment – Recruitment material had been revised to reflect requirement for ICVs to have been resident in the UK for a minimum of 3 years. Action closed.

- 2.7 Weymouth Report 2146 – Mr Edwards had provided a written explanation which related to an adult with learning difficulties who had experienced delays in obtaining an appropriate adult. Action closed.

## **CUSTODY VISITS TO POLICE STATIONS**

- 3.1 The report to the panel showed that 94% of those offered accepted a visit. Visits were a good spread across the days of the week but no visits were undertaken in the 1am – 7am slot this quarter. The Chair advised that pairings on the current schedule potentially provided 9 opportunities for ‘out of hours’ visits. Only 1 visit had resulted in a delay of more than 5 minutes (6 minutes) and an explanation had been provided and accepted by the ICVs concerned. It was noted there had been some longer visits, this had been attributed to training new visitors.
- 3.2 Visit to Bournemouth on 2 April 2017 Visitors had noted that it had not been clear whether the female detainee had access to a female officer, although she had received detailed care. Mr Edwards confirmed that this would be an issue that should be raised with the custody sergeant and recorded on the report form.
- 3.3 Visit to Bournemouth on 24 May 2017 Visitors noted that an Appropriate Adult had been requested but it had not been recorded on the log. Mr Edwards reiterated the requirement for officers to record the necessity for Appropriate Adults (AA) whenever required and noted on the log and thanked the visitors for continuing to query the issue with the custody sergeants and report when that had not happened.
- 3.4 As visitors particularly monitor care of children and the vulnerable, use of AA should be noted in all relevant cases. If a child is detained but not seen, eg in interview, the use of AA should still be checked with the custody sergeant and recorded, This would not require consent from the detainee as it would only mean checking a police procedure. This would provide a record of AA for all children.
- 3.5 Visit to Bournemouth on 11 May 2017 During this visit visitors had noted the superb care provided to a detainee by detention officers and asked that their comments were fed back.
- 3.6 Visitors had been reminded to ensure that responses to their concerns raised to the custody sergeant had been responded to on the report form. It had also been suggested that detainees with mental health issues may benefit from the provision of reading material during their time in custody.

## **LEARNING THE LESSONS BULLETIN 39**

- 4.1 The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) published their Learning the Lessons Bulletin 39. The Bulletin summarised investigations conducted by the IPCC or police forces, where learning opportunities had been identified. Police forces which faced similar situations to those described could have used the experience of other forces for improvement in their own policies and practices. The bulletin challenged forces to ask “Could it happen here”.
- 4.2 Issue 39 covered issues that had occurred nationally in police custody. This included self-inflicted injury during restraint, failure to notify injury during the booking in process, Appropriate Adults, illness following detention, failure to search for drugs,

supervision in holding cells, concealed drugs, completion of a Person Escort Record, accurate updates and delayed referral of death or serious injury in custody.

- 4.3 Mr Edwards verbally updated the visitors on the Force response to each of the issues raised.

#### **TACT UPDATE**

- 5.1 The Scheme Manager had previously updated the Panel during the pre-meet on the PCC's decision related to detainees held under the Terrorism Act and visiting arrangements.

#### **PANEL MEETING DATES 2018**

- 6.1 The visitors noted the Panel meeting dates for 2018.

*Meeting ended at 8.00pm*

DRAFT