

INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING PANEL – 16 OCTOBER 2017

**INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING ASSOCIATION - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUMMARY**

REPORT BY THE SCHEME MANAGER

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To inform ICVs of the ICVA AGM summary.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA) is a Home Office funded organisation set up to promote and support the effective provision of custody visiting nationally. ICVA works closely with government and criminal justice organisations to raise public awareness on the rights, entitlements, health and wellbeing of people held in police custody and advises on best practice for independent custody visiting schemes nationally. ICVA also provides training resources, publicity and support to Police and Crime Commissioners.
- 1.2 The Annual General Meeting is held in July of each year to review the achievements across the year and reflect on any challenges encountered.

2. INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING ASSOCIATION AGM

- 2.1 The Chief Executive welcomed everyone to the meeting and reflected on the successes of the past year. With regard to finance, she advised that the Association's main source of income in the form of a grant from the Home Office had been cut. That, coupled with a need to prove their worth to the Home Office, led to a review of the Association as a whole, including identifying their overall mission and training provision.
- 2.2 The review resulted in a restructure. Thankfully the Chief Executive had previously held the position of Scheme Manager so understood the trials and tribulations of trying to run an efficient and effective scheme. She highlighted how isolating the role could be when colleagues were unable to assist directly and how the pressure on Scheme Managers had increased with austerity which in some cases had resulted in further responsibilities being placed on them. This had been taken into account during the review, especially related to the training provision and resources provided to facilitate that.
- 2.3 ICVA introduced a number of changes, including a decision to scrap diary and magazine provision in favour of weekly emails from the Chief Executive to the Board and Scheme Managers providing information on the Association's activities
- 2.4 A number of significant beneficial additions were made to the ICVA website, which would continue to be improved. The website now had a number of resources available and a forum which enables Scheme Managers to discuss any issues and share or request ideas.

- 2.5 It was recognised that there had often been no or little support for schemes following a death in custody and steps were being taken to rectify this.
- 2.6 ICVA's overall mission is to lead, support and represent independent custody visiting. The Board recognised the effort and passion that both the Chief Executive, Katie Kempen and the Chief Operating Officer, Sherry Ralph share for custody visiting and acknowledged the improvements that had been made by them both.
- 2.7 The Dorset PCC, Martyn Underhill, continues to sit at the helm of the Association as Board Chair, continuing the pace to move the Association forward and the Scheme Manager, Yvonne Fenwick, continues to provide input into the National Expert Forum.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Visitors are asked to note the summary of the ICVA AGM 2017.

Yvonne Fenwick
Scheme Manager