

OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING PANEL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 18 July 2016

A meeting of the Independent Custody Visiting Panel was held in Boardroom 1 on Monday 18 July 2016 at 7pm

PRESENT:

Dr D James (Chairman),
Mrs C Bishop, Mrs A Cray, Mrs T Farwell, Mr R Hermans,
Mr M Payne, Mrs S Porter, Mr T Walker, Mrs I Why

Also Present:

Mr C Pipe, Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner
Temporary Assistant Chief Constable, Mark Cooper
Chief Inspector G Shimmons, Crime and Criminal Justice
Mr K Edwards, Custody Support Officer
Mrs Y Fenwick, ICV Scheme Manager
Ms S Ralph, Project Officer, ICVA

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Mr S D'Arrigo, Mrs L Hayward, Miss E Kochanovskyte, Mrs C McCormack and Mrs B White.
- 1.2 The Chairman advised the Panel that Mrs Downton had decided to step down from the Scheme.

MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2016 were approved and signed as a true record.
- 2.2 Chief Inspector Shimmons advised that Bournemouth and Poole custody suites had potable water and that the problem would be rectified at Weymouth during the Autumn shut down for maintenance. With regard to the ongoing issues at Blandford, he informed the visitors that the custody suite had been closed and he was waiting for a decision to make that a permanent closure.

CUSTODY VISITS TO POLICE STATIONS

- 3.1 The report to the Panel showed that of 176 detainees held, 114 (65%) had been offered a visit, of which 105 (92%) had accepted. The spread and timing of the visits had been generally good with visits made every day of the week. Visits had been completed in both the early morning and late night sections. There followed a discussion regarding a 17 minute delay gaining access to Weymouth custody suite experienced on one visit. Mr Edwards apologised and advised that the custody sergeant had been reminded of the requirement for ICVs to have immediate access to the custody suite.
- 3.2 During a visit to Weymouth on 7 April 2016, visitors reported that a telephone had been constantly ringing due to a misdirection problem. The Custody Sergeant advised that this had been reported. CI Shimmons advised that the issue had been resolved.

3.3 On 1 May, visitors had reported a 17 minute delay to gain access to custody (previously discussed). ACC Cooper advised that he would ensure that an entry would be made in General Orders reiterating that ICVs required immediate access to custody.

ACTION: ACC Cooper

3.4 A report on 19 April had noted that a detainee had complained he had felt ill but had been left for 3 hours before healthcare had been provided. Mr Edwards advised that the detainee had been a frequent visitor to custody and the Custody Sergeant had been monitoring the detainee's condition but had not had any immediate concerns, but this had not been recorded in the custody log.

3.5 The Chair noted that the reports had contained a number of positive comments, she asked that CI Shimmons share that feedback with the custody staff.

ACTION: CI Shimmons

3.6 It had been reported on a visit to Bournemouth on 7 June, that there had been a slight delay in gaining access as the enquiry office had been closed. ICVs had been reminded that access would be granted via the vehicle access area. The Scheme Manager would circulate instructions to all ICVs to that end.

ACTION: Scheme Manager

3.7 During a visit on 9 June to Bournemouth, ICVs had noted that detainees who smoked had been provided with nicotine replacement tablets, CI Shimmons advised that they would be dispensed by Custody Sergeant on a reactive rather than proactive basis. He added that the tablets had been one in a number of changes in the custody environment introduced to keep detainees calm. The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner added that nicotine replacement methods had been a recommendation by HMIP/C during their inspection of custody.

3.8 CI Shimmons provided the ICVs with background information regarding the Custody Early Warning Score (CEWS) which had been introduced for a trial period to assist Custody Sergeants in the risk assessment process.

3.9 On a visit to Weymouth on 26 April, visitors reported that the logs seen had contained excellent descriptions of detainee's being introduced to their cells.

3.10 Visitors reported that only one of the vulnerable cells in Weymouth had Qibla stencilled on the ceiling. CI Shimmons advised that Building Services had been asked to obtain costs for adding the stencil to all cells.

3.11 With regard to Blandford custody suite and the ongoing issues that had been reported, CI Shimmons reiterated that the suite had been closed for the foreseeable future, with a permanent closure of the suite being considered by Chief Officers.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

4. The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner provided the ICVs with a brief, but positive summary on the HMIC/P custody inspection. CI Shimmons advised he would circulate the outcome of the recommendations in due course.

ACTION: CI Shimmons

Meeting ended at 8.30 pm