

**OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

**INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING PANEL**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 26 January 2015**

A meeting of the Independent Custody Visiting Panel was held in Boardrooms 1, 2 and 3 on Monday 26 January 2015 at 3.30pm

**PRESENT:**

Mrs K Emery (Chairman),  
Mrs C Bishop, Mrs A Cray, Mr S D'Arrigo, Mrs H Downton, Mr K Gooding, Mrs L Hayward,  
Mr R Hermans, Mr E Holloway, Dr D James, Mr R Kerr, Mrs C McCormack, Mr M Payne,  
Mr C Pipe, Mrs S Porter, Mr R Shore, Mrs I Why, Mr C Worsfold

**Also Present:**

Mr M Underhill, Police and Crime Commissioner  
Chief Inspector S Derbyshire, Crime and Criminal Justice  
Mr K Edwards, Custody Support Officer  
Mr S Thorneycroft, Mental Health Co-ordinator  
Mrs Y Fenwick, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 14.1 Apologies were received from Assistant Chief Constable D Lewis, Mrs T Farwell, Mr T Walker and Mrs B White.

**MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING**

- 15.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2014 were approved and signed as a true record.

**CUSTODY VISITS TO POLICE STATIONS**

- 16.1 The report to the Panel showed that of 209 detainees held, 140 (67%) had been offered a visit, of which 127 (91%) had accepted. The spread and timing of the visits had been good, with visits that had taken place on every day of the week.
- 16.2 It had been noted that, again, entry had been gained to the 24 hour custody suites within 5 minutes for 100% of the visits.

**Visits for Noting**

**Bournemouth**

- 16.3 During a visit to Bournemouth on 11 October, visitors queried a risk assessment that showed a detained had no disabilities or difficulties with learning, although the detainee had reported he had. Mr Edwards confirmed that the detainee had in fact been juvenile and had an Appropriate Adult with him to assist.
- 16.4 On the same visit, visitors had reported that an officer had stated that depression would not be treated as a mental health condition. Mr Edwards advised that since the visit the

officer had been spoken to and had explained that the intention had been to state that mental health intervention had not been necessary on that occasion, rather than the illness not being a mental health condition. Chief Inspector Derbyshire added that the detainee had also seen the Health Care Professional (HCP).

- 16.5** Mr Thorneycroft informed the Panel that the Force had introduced a Case Identification Scheme for juveniles with mental health conditions and that the intention would be to expand this to include the same for adults. He advised that if visitors felt that a detainee appeared to them to have a mental health condition, then their views should be taken into account by the Custody Officer. If a detainee declared depression at any stage of their detention then that would automatically trigger a referral to the Scheme.
- 16.6** Following a visit on 24 October, visitors clarified that the report referred to two different issues, the first had been the interruption that occurred during the visit as an officer had brought in the detainee's phone for them to speak to someone, and the second had been the report of the distortion of the intercom which had been addressed.
- 16.7** During a visit on 4 December, an immigration detainee had been spoken to who had been worried about his belongings should he be taken to an immigration centre. Mr Edwards advised that he would contact the Immigration Service to establish what would happen and would advise the Panel via the Scheme Manager.
- 16.8** On the same visit, it had been reported that a detainee had missed the lunch round as he had been at interview. Whilst visitors accepted that officers had been busy, it had been an issue that had come up frequently. Chief Inspector Derbyshire accepted that it had been an ongoing issue that would be addressed.
- 16.9** Also on the same visit, it had been noted that the thermometer in the fridge had read -2 degrees, below the recommended temperature. Mr Edwards advised that this had been rectified.
- 16.10** Whilst visiting on 9 December, visitors had been advised by the custody officer that there had been issues with Language Line which they had attempted to resolve. The Commissioner asked Chief Inspector Derbyshire to advise him if there were any ongoing issues with the service.
- 16.11** During a visit on 28 December, visitors noted that a detainee had missed the lunch round as he had been in consultation, this had been rectified. Mr Edwards reminded the Panel that the buzzers at Bournemouth were automatic and reinstatement would not be recorded on the log, however the rationale for turning them off should be recorded.

## **Poole**

- 16.12** On a visit to Poole on 10 November, visitors reported that offers of showers and food had not been recorded in the custody log. Mr Edwards informed the Panel that officers had been instructed to ensure that all offers were recorded and asked visitors to continue to report such occurrences.
- 16.13** Visitors had also been provided with the incorrect print of the custody log, which had led to confusion about whether visitors had been entitled to view the risk assessment. Mr Edwards apologised for the error and advised that he had recently advised custody staff of the print function for ICVs (NCUS 32). Visitors had also noted there had been an air of disorganisation, although the transfer from Bournemouth to Poole had been planned. A visitor pointed out that on occasions the offence had been shown within the text on the custody log, Mr Edwards requested that visitors use their discretion and the Scheme

Manager added that visitors sign the bottom of every report to confirm their agreement to confidentiality.

- 16.14** During a visit to Poole on 27 November, visitors had requested a copy of a detainee's custody log as they had been unable to gain a response from the detainee who had been held under a 'Place of Safety' order. This had been refused by the custody officer as consent had not been provided by the detainee. Chief Inspector Derbyshire advised that although the staff had acted in good faith, they had been advised that as the detainee's state of mind had made them incapable, ICVs should have been provided with the log.
- 16.15** On a visit to Weymouth on 1 October, visitors had noted that there had been insufficient rip stop blankets in store. Mr Edwards advised that a delivery would be due of the high risk anti-tear blankets which would be wrapped to be opened in front of detainees.
- 16.16** A further visit to Weymouth on 9 November had highlighted that the last practice evacuation had taken place on 5 April 2013. Mr Edwards reassured the Panel that staff would be well aware of the procedure to be followed.
- 16.17** On the same visit a detainee had reported that he had been unable to provide a telephone number for the person he wanted told of his detention as his mobile battery had died. Mr Underhill asked Chief Inspector Derbyshire to arrange for the purchase of phone chargers for all 3 custody suites.
- 16.18** During a visit to Blandford, visitors had reported the suite had not had the current Codes of Practice available. Mr Edwards advised that this had been resolved since the visit.
- 16.19** Chief Inspector Derbyshire advised the Panel that the Force had been successful in a bid they had made for funding. The funding would mean that Bournemouth custody would be able to link into every court so vulnerable victims would be able to give evidence without the need to attend court. The Force would be keen to extend this to Weymouth and Blandford to provide officers with the opportunity to give evidence from those stations without the need to attend court.
- 16.20** Visitors to Sherborne on 12 December had reported a number of issues. Chief Inspector Derbyshire had advised that Sherborne custody would be closing as soon as the refurbishment of Blandford had been completed.

## **ICVA – NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

- 17.1** The Visitors noted the report from the Scheme Manager on the ICVA National Conference held on 22 November 2014.
- 17.2** The Commissioner updated the Panel on the latest national updates from ICVA, which had included ICVA's opposition to the proposal of single visits, outsourced Schemes, Appropriate Adults, Taser and Mental Health. He went on to thank the visitors for their continued support and enthusiasm for the Scheme.

## **OTHER MATTERS**

### **Acknowledgement**

Chief Inspector Derbyshire thanked the members of the Panel for their continued vigilance in regard to custody visits.

### **Recent Visit to Weymouth**

Mr Edwards advised the Panel that following a recent visit to Weymouth, officers have been reminded that they should remain with the visitors during their visits to detainees.

### **Health Care Provision**

Following a query from a member of the Panel, Chief Inspector Derbyshire advised that the current health care provider had given notice and Dorset Police were currently going through the tender process for a new supplier.

### **Kathleen Emery Shield**

The Chair and Panel offered their congratulations to Mr Edwards who was the recipient of the Kathleen Emery Shield.

*Meeting ended at 16:55 hrs*