

OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING PANEL

Draft Minutes of meeting held on Monday 27 January 2020

A meeting of the Independent Custody Visiting Panel was held in Boardrooms 2 and 3 on Monday 27 January 2020 at 3:30pm

Present: Mr A Bamgboye, Mr P Cashmore, Mr C Ellis, Ms C Etienne, Mr A Fear, Miss C Hall, Mr R Harlow, Miss N Hill, Mrs H Latimer, Mr J Neely, Mr M Payne, Dr D Ridd, Mrs I Why, Mr A Zakrzewski.

Also Present:

Mrs Y Fenwick, Governance and Contact Manager, Dorset OPCC
Mr A Harrold, Director of Operations, Dorset OPCC
Mrs J Heaver, PA to SMT, Dorset OPCC
Mr K Edwards, Dorset Police
DCI E Sweetzer, Dorset Police
IOPC representatives x2

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Apologies were received from PCC M Underhill, ACC M Callaghan, Mrs C Brace, Mr T Walker, Mr G French, Mrs A White and Mr K Sherman.

MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

- 2.1 The actions from the previous minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2019 were agreed as complete and the minutes were approved as an accurate record.
- 2.2 The Chair welcomed the visitors from the IOPC and thanked the representatives from Dorset Police and OPCC for attending the meeting.
- 2.3 Action 23 related to delays in the provision of Appropriate Adults. The Custody Manager provided an update and explained the pilot scheme would be for juveniles, not adults as previously stated. A tender had been issued and once a provider had been selected, a 12 month pilot would commence. Dependent on the success an adult service would be considered.
- 2.4 The Chair explained that, sadly, a number of resignations had been received, but confirmed recruitment had commenced for new visitors. He expressed thanks to Dorset Police in advance for their ongoing support and understanding whilst the new visitors were trained.

CUSTODY VISITS TO POLICE STATIONS

- 3.1 The variance in days and times for visits was noted by the Panel, and the Chair thanked visitors for their support in ensuring the whole 24 hour window was covered. Dorset Police were thanked for the excellent provision of access within 5 minutes for 100% of the visits for the quarter.
- 3.2 The Chair reminded visitors of the importance of noting on reports when detainees had been seen asleep but had been observed breathing or movement had been seen. A recent visit highlighted the importance of checking for signs of life after a detainee had been found unconscious by visitors.

- 3.3 Bournemouth – Report 2560. This report had been flagged for issues regarding delayed reviews, Action 20. The Custody Support Officer clarified that reviews would be in line with the ‘detention authorised’ time rather than the ‘arrived in custody’ time. Visitors acknowledged that there could have been occasions when they had recorded observations as late, but may have incorrectly measured it against the ‘arrived in custody’ time.
- 3.4 Bournemouth – Report 2561–63. Visitors commented that there had been a number of detainees on ½ hour observations and how well the custody staff had managed the situations. The Custody Support Officer confirmed that staff had been reminded about blanket provision.
- 3.5 Bournemouth – Report 2564. Visitors noted the ‘asleep’ feedback from the Chair, no issues found.
- 3.6 Bournemouth – Report 2565. Visitors noted how well a situation had been handled in relation to the removal of crutches from a vulnerable detainee as staff had felt it would have been unsafe for him to have had them.
- 3.7 Bournemouth – Report 2567-8. After careful consideration visitors decided to abandon a full visit due to issues with staff availability. The Custody Support Officer advised the visitors that if the situation reoccurred that it would be helpful if the report form could be fully completed and names of the officers present recorded.
- 3.8 Bournemouth – Report 2569-70. Visitors had recorded late reviews on this visit, but after the previous discussion they felt this had probably been incorrect. It was noted that no comment had been provided on the report by the custody staff in relation to a detainee who had repeatedly stated they wished to die, although visitors confirmed that the detainee had not presented as disturbed. Visitors commented on the recent painting of the cells as it had appeared patchy. The Custody Manager advised this was in hand.
Action – DCI Sweetzer
- 3.9 Bournemouth– Report 2573 -74. Visitors reported that the suite had appeared calm, quiet and well managed. The Chair reminded visitors to add positive comments to reports. The visitors confirmed that the juveniles held at the time of the visit had been looked after appropriately.
- 3.10 Weymouth – Report 2097. Visitors noted that rip proof clothing stock had been low, but staff advised they had been expecting a delivery. A discussion was held about the new bridge. Some visitors felt it was very high and could be intimidating. The Custody Manager explained that the design supported the privacy of individuals whilst being booked in. The Custody Support Officer reminded visitors of the availability of discrete booking in rooms for vulnerable detainees and stated he would send a reminder to staff.
Action Mr K Edwards
- 3.11 Weymouth – Report 2098. Visitors had noted a detainee had requested a phone call, but no response had been recorded by the custody staff.
- 3.12 Weymouth – Report 2099. Visitors confirmed that all had been fine with the visit and the refurbishment looked clean. The report noted that one detainee ‘couldn’t’ consent to the viewing of their log and that there had been a language barrier. Visitors confirmed that the detainee had declined consent rather than ‘couldn’t’ have provided it. The Custody Support Officer reminded visitors that Language Line remained available to them.
- 3.13 Weymouth – Report 2485. Visitors had reported late reviews during the visit but had been unsure whether the correct ‘start’ time had been used. One detainee had wanted to speak to a Sergeant but no actions or comments had been recorded. The Chair reminded visitors

to ask custody staff for a written response and if the officer declined then to record the request had been made.

- 3.14 Weymouth – Report 2486. Visitors found all detainees had been well looked after and were pleased to note that detainees with mental health issues had had their assessments dealt with quickly. A visitor asked about the expected time frame for completion of a mental health as one detainee had waited 11hrs 42 mins. The Custody Support Officer advised that if one had been required it would have been requested on arrival in custody, but they would have been reliant on the availability of partner agencies.
- 3.15 Weymouth – Report 2487. Visitors found the suite calm, clean and tidy. The Custody Support Officer queried one entry where it had been noted that 'food and drink evident in cell'. He advised that officers would be expected to clear cells of food and drink once the detainee had finished.
- 3.16 Weymouth – Report 2488. Visitors reported that the suite had been calm and again had referenced the new bridge. A visitor commented that all staff had ligature cutters available which he had been pleased to note. The Custody Support Officer confirmed a reminder had been sent to staff which stated that the ligature cutters should be only used in an emergency.
- 3.17 Weymouth – Report 2489. Visitors commented that staff had worked hard to allow them to visit a volatile detainee and thanked the custody team for facilitating. An Appropriate Adult assessment had been completed for this individual, but had not been required. It had been noted the cell had been dirty, but the detainee had initially refused to co-operate, but had eventually been persuaded to move cells.
- 3.18 Weymouth – Report 2100. Visitors reported confusion in relation to the detention time of a particular detainee which the custody sergeant had been unable to explain. It had recorded the detainee as having been held for longer than he had. Visitors also described a situation that occurred on this visit, where a detainee had been intoxicated and on 15 minute observations, but the visitors had been concerned about the lack of movement so asked to check the detainee, subsequently they had found the detainee unconscious. The visitors praised the exemplary response from the custody staff. The Custody Support Officer thanked visitors for their comments. He confirmed that when a detainee was subject to level 2 rousing visits, then it would be to a maximum of 2 hours, if they could not have been downgraded to normal observations at that point then they would be transferred to hospital.
- Action Mr K Edwards & DCI Sweetzer**
- 3.19 Weymouth – Report 2490. Visitors recorded the suite had been calm and well ordered. It was noted that detainees were asleep, breathing observed. Detainees had been happy with their treatment in custody. Visitors added that they felt the new bridge had been fine.
- 3.20 Poole – Report 2096. Visitors reported that the suite had been clean, tidy and well organised. It was noted that there had been no actions recorded by custody staff. The Chair asked the Custody Support Officer to provide clarification on the review timescales, he agreed to produce an aide memoire for visitors to clarify clock start times.
- Action Mr K Edwards**
- 3.21 Poole – Report 2483. No concerns raised.
- 3.22 Poole – Report 2484. Although visitors had noted late review times on the report, reference was made to the earlier conversation around detention start times. However, one review had definitely been late. The Chair asked that a rationale be included as there could have been a valid reason for delay.

- 3.23 Poole – Report 2601. Visitors reported the suite had been busy, the kitchen had been low on food but a delivery had been expected.
- 3.24 Poole – Report 0001. Visitors confirmed that the report book had not been available at the station. The report stated there was clarification required regarding review times. A detainee had requested reading material but had been advised that there had been none available. The Custody Support Officer advised that this had been rectified.
- 3.25 Poole – Report 2603. Visitors stated that all had been found to have been in order during this visit. One detainee had commented that they hadn't felt they'd been kept up to date although questions raised by him had been answered by officers.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 4.1 It was reported that there had been a shortage of shoes at Weymouth. The Custody Support Officer would remind staff.
Action Mrs Fenwick / Mr Edwards
- 4.2 The Chair thanked the IOPC representatives who had attended the meeting. They added that it had been marvellous to see the role the volunteers undertake and to witness the interest they took in it.
- 4.3 The Chair thanked the ICVs leaving the team for their dedication and commitment.

Meeting closed 16:45