

OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING PANEL****Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 28 April 2014**

A meeting of the Independent Custody Visiting Panel was held in Boardrooms 1, 2 and 3 on Monday, 28 April 2014 at 7 pm

PRESENT:

Mrs K Emery (Chairman),
Mrs C Bishop, Mrs T Farwell, Mr K Gooding,
Mr R Hermans, Mr E Holloway, Dr D James, Mr R Kerr, Mr H Masters,
Mr M Payne, Mr W Penzer, Mr D Sandever, Mr R Shore,
Mr T Walker, Mrs B White, Mrs I Why

Also Present:

Assistant Chief Constable D Lewis
Chief Inspector S Derbyshire, Crime and Criminal Justice
Mr K Edwards, Custody Support Officer
Sgt G Tansill, Crime and Criminal Justice
Mrs Y Fenwick, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

20. Apologies were received from Mrs S Porter and Mr D Steadman.

MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

- 21.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2014 were approved and signed as a true record.
- 21.2 In relation to minute numbered 19.7 and following a question from the Panel, Mr Edwards confirmed that due to changes to the Codes of Practice in 2013, 17 year olds were now treated as juveniles during detention and would need an Appropriate Adult. He added that there were two exceptions to this.
- 21.3 The first related to the taking of intimate samples from a 17 year old. This only required the consent of the 17 year old, irrespective of the Appropriate Adult's view. The second exception related to the requirement to transfer a child into Local Authority accommodation when bail has been refused after charge. However, this would not apply where a person has attained 17 years of age.

CUSTODY VISITS TO POLICE STATIONS

- 22.1 The report to the Panel showed that of 205 detainees held, 136 (66%) had been offered a visit, of which 122 (90%) had accepted. The spread of the visits was excellent and the timing good with a few visits being made earlier on in the day and later on in the evening. The Chairman reminded visitors to remember to complete the ethnicity part of the report form and to record the reasons for decisions not to make a visit.
- 22.2 Once again it had been noted that entry had been gained to the custody suites within 5 minutes for 100% of the visits, the Chairman congratulated and thanked the Force. The Chairman also noted that 52% of the visits had no comments made at all and only

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1 visit resulted in a request for discussion at the Panel meeting.

Visits for Discussion

22.3 Following a visit to Bournemouth on 9 February where a total of 33 people had been held, visitors had noted the good care of the detainees. However, due to a misunderstanding visitors had been delayed in leaving as the custody sergeant wanted to ensure that he completed his responses on the report form. Mr Edwards confirmed that an instruction had been disseminated to custody sergeants which reiterated the requirement for them to make full responses on the report form, however, it had since been followed up with an email informing them that they could make those comments after the visitors had left if required.

22.4 All members of the Panel and the Force agreed that the conversation at the end of the visits between visitors and the custody sergeant would be of paramount importance.

Visits for Noting

Bournemouth

22.5 During a visit to Bournemouth on 20 February, visitors had noted that there had been no nurse on duty at that time as she had been required at a meeting and that several detainees had made a request for medical attention. It had been acknowledged that the changeover of providers had been a bit 'bumpy' and that it remained helpful for visitors to continue to record issues in relation to health care provision.

Weymouth

22.6 Whilst visiting Weymouth on 16 February, visitors had been informed that the information they had with regard to observation levels had now been superseded, which had caused confusion when visitors had checked the logs. Mr Edwards summarised the changes for the Panel and advised that the current observation levels were being reviewed and would be forwarded to the Scheme Manager in due course but confirmed it would be available for 17 May when the training of new visitors would be taking place.

Blandford

22.7 Chief Inspector Derbyshire advised that following a visit to Blandford by visitors during which a number of issues had been raised, and her own inspection of the custody suite, a team would be despatched to attempt to sort the issues out. If the issues could not be improved sufficiently then the cell or possibly the suite would be closed.

Verwood

22.8 Visitors reported that pillows and hygiene packs had not been available at Verwood, however in practice detainees would not be held any longer than an hour and a half, so pillows are unlikely to be required or stored. Further female hygiene packs had since been provided to the suite.

OTHER MATTERS

Recruitment Campaign

23.1 The Chairman thanked all the visitors who assisted with the information events which

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had gone very well. Interviews would be held next week and new recruits would attend induction training on 17 May.

Thanks from ACC

23.2 Assistant Chief Constable Lewis thanked the visitors for their commitment and enthusiasm in their role.

Visit Refusal

23.3 Following a question from a Panel member, the Chairman advised that if a detainee had refused a visit that it would be acceptable for visitors to state that if they should change their mind they could ask to see them and if they were still available this would be permitted.

Meeting ended at 19.50 hrs