

## OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

### INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING PANEL

#### Draft Minutes of meeting held on Monday 30 April 2018

A meeting of the Independent Custody Visiting Panel was held in Boardrooms 1, 2 and 3 on Monday 30 April 2018 at 7pm

**Present:** Mrs C Brace, Ms J Bradbury, Mr P Cashmore, Mr C Ellis, Ms C Etienne, Mr A Fear, Miss C Hall, Mr R Hermans, Miss N Hill, Dr D James (Chair), Mr T Walker, Mrs A White, Mrs I Why, Mr A Zakrzewski

#### **Also Present:**

Mr A Harrold, Director of Operations, OPCC  
Mrs A Giles, Governance Officer, OPCC  
Mr K Edwards, Custody Support Officer, Dorset Police  
Chief Inspector M Claxton, Dorset Police

#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND INTRODUCTIONS**

- 1.1 Apologies were received from PCC Underhill, Mrs Reynolds, Mrs Farwell, Mr Payne, Mr Sherman and Mrs Steadman.
- 1.2 The Panel were informed that Mrs Cross had resigned from the Scheme and the Panel asked for their thanks to be passed to her. Mrs Giles advised that she now had responsibility for the management of the Scheme, so would be the OPCC point of contact for Custody Visiting matters.
- 1.3 Dr James informed the Panel that she intended to step down from the Scheme on 1<sup>st</sup> July and this would therefore be her last panel meeting.

#### **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2018 were approved as an accurate record.
- 2.2 Action 14 – Blankets. Chief Inspector Claxton informed the panel that all staff had been reminded that blankets are to be provided to detainees who are cold. On occasion, additional clothing had been provided instead of blankets but Chief Inspector Claxton confirmed that to reduce the risk to the detainee his preference was that blankets were provided. Mr Walker advised that on recent visits he had noted there had been a good supply of blankets. Chief Inspector Claxton acknowledged that recent issues had occurred over the Bank Holiday period due to cleaning issues and additional blankets had been purchased to ensure there was no reoccurrence. It was agreed this action would be closed.
- 2.3 Action 15 - Suite Temperature. It was noted that this issue had been exclusive to Weymouth custody suite and was as a result of the age of the building. It was confirmed a solution is being sought to resolve the problem. Dorset Police are optimistic it will be resolved before next winter. It was agreed that this action would remain open to allow for further updates on progress.
- 2.4 Action 16 - ICVA Quality Assurance Framework (QAF). Mrs Giles informed the Panel that the QAF had been finalised and was being reviewed by the OPCC. Changes

have been made to the document since the draft had been presented to the Panel and she was confident Dorset would score well against the framework. She invited members to express their interest in the formation of a working group to consider the implementation of the QAF, Mrs Bradbury, Miss Hill, Mrs Why and Mr Cashmore expressed an interest. It was agreed the action is to be closed and the working group volunteers would be contacted by Mrs Giles.

- 2.5 Action 12 - Viewing Handovers. Mr Ellis noted the ICVs had waited for an extended period of time due to handover, after initially being denied access to view it. Chief Inspector Claxton asked that such occurrences continue to be recorded on the report form.

## **CUSTODY VISITS TO POLICE STATIONS**

- 3.1 The Chair noted a significant increase in the number of refused visits, although consent to view the custody log had been given. ICVs reported that those detained more regularly had refused visits and detainees either trying to sleep or being asleep. The Panel agreed to record more detail on the report to help identify the reasons behind detainees declining visits.
- 3.2 The Chair thanked visitors for achieving a good spread of visits across the days of the week.
- 3.3 The Chair noted that the number of visit undertaken in unsocial hours remained low. The training of new visitors and the short days during the winter period had impacted on this. Visitors were asked to make the Chair aware of their willingness to undertake visits in unsocial hours for her consideration when devising the rota.
- 3.4 The Chair thanked Dorset Police for the continued support in achieving immediate access for visitors.
- 3.5 Visit to Bournemouth on 11/02/2018. During this visit three detainees had declined a visit stating they simply did not wish to speak to them. An issue with medication had been raised on the report and the visitors confirmed they had been happy with the response provided on the report.
- 3.6 Visit to Bournemouth on 03/01/2018. An issue with the supply of blankets had been reported. However, this had been discussed and dealt with at the January Panel meeting. Visitors had queried the appropriateness of a detainee being remanded due to self-harm concerns and Mr Edwards advised that it could be appropriate to do so, depending on the overall circumstances.
- 3.7 Visit to Bournemouth on 08/01/2018. It had been reported that one detainee had waited a considerable length of time for a shower. Mr Edwards advised that the detainee had been offered a shower and refused, and later requested a shower but there was not the capacity at that time, but he acknowledged a shower should still have been granted sooner.
- 3.8 Visit to Bournemouth on 22/01/2018. A translation sheet had been used during this visit and had worked well. Concerns were expressed around the length of time a detainee had spent in custody on a prison lock out, but it had been acknowledged that custody do not have influence on the length of time prison lock out detainees are held.

- 3.9 Visit to Bournemouth on 20/02/2018. On this visit a detainee claimed to have been provided with a time of release from the Samaritans, which was inaccurate. Visitors had been concerned about the appropriateness of Samaritan Listeners providing detainees with this kind of information. Following this report, Mr Edwards had contacted the Samaritans and they advised the information had not been provided and they understood that it should not be.
- 3.10 Visit to Bournemouth on 16/03/2018. As discussed during the review of the minutes, visitors reported a wait of 1 hour 30 minutes for the visit to begin due to a complex handover. Initially the visitors had been denied access to view the handover but this had been resolved. Chief Inspector Claxton advised that there could be a variety of factors affecting the length of a handover, but he agreed this appeared to have been an excessive wait. Mr Ellis noted that the wait had impacted on the amount of detainees visited and asked when visitors should consider abandoning the visit. As this wait had been an exception, the Panel agreed that the visit should not be abandoned, but if reports became more frequent it would be discussed in greater detail. Visitors had been asked to ensure they record waiting issues on the report form to keep the Force and the OPCC updated.
- 3.11 Visit to Bournemouth on 25/02/2018. There had been positive comments received from detainees during this visit and visitors also commented that there had been several detainees with complex mental health issues, which had been well handled by staff.
- 3.12 Visit to Bournemouth on 30/03/2018. Mr Fear noted that he had been concerned about a detainee who was very withdrawn and appeared ill at ease. This was raised with the custody staff at the time and it was apparent that there were extenuating circumstances and the ICVs believed that the situation had been dealt with appropriately.
- 3.13 Visit to Weymouth on 05/02/2018. Visitors had noted there had been several detainees in custody with complex needs, which included one with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, all well managed by the staff.
- 3.14 Visit to Weymouth on 22/02/2018. Visitors noted that the computer system had been down during this visit and staff were using paper records. This had been a county wide issue with a specific computer system.
- 3.15 Visit to Weymouth on 23/02/2018. Visitors mentioned they had spoken with a detainee who had been very happy with their treatment.
- 3.16 Visit to Weymouth on 06/03/2018. Visitors noted a vulnerable adult had been held in a cell for young people. Staff explained this had been due to the temperature and to enable them to access CCTV.
- 3.17 Visit to Weymouth on 21/03/2018. Visitors commented on the new order board within the suite and stated that they had been happy with the amount of detail this provided.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **ICVA**

- 4.1 Mr Harrold updated the Panel on the national work being undertaken by ICVA. He informed the Panel that ICVA have identified a trend where detainees had been left naked in cells. Concerns had focused around leaving detainees naked in cells; strip

searches taking place with a member of the opposite sex present; clothing removal and/or strip search taking place where CCTV had been in operation and viewable; and the removal of clothes and placing detainees in rip proof clothing inappropriately. Further exploration had found poor governance of strip searches and inappropriate use of strip search or strip searches which had not appeared to be justified. Mr Harrold explained that Dorset Police had featured in this research in a positive light with no specific issues having been found. However, this had been accepted nationally as an issue and changes to guidance would be considered which involved PCC Underhill. The Chair noted that visitors reviewed records of strip searches in the logs and would comment on detainee nudity or wearing of inappropriate clothing.

## **LAMMY REVIEW**

- 4.2 Mr Harrold also informed the visitors about the Lammy review and the finding on the way the criminal justice system interacts with BAME population and race disparity issues. He advised that PCC Underhill had raised this with the custody lead for the NPCC to identify what national work had been undertaken from a custody perspective and the lead advised that it would be discussed at the National Custody Forum.

## **NEW CUSTODY STAFF**

- 4.3 Chief Inspector Claxton informed the Panel there are a number of new staff members joining the custody team and asked visitors to be patient as the new officer's train, but feedback on any issues that arise.

## **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR**

- 5.1 Mrs Giles asked the Panel to note changes to the election process set out in her report.
- 5.2 The Panel had been informed the one candidate for the role of Chair of the Independent Custody Visiting Panel had been Mr Ellis. No others asked to be considered for the role. The appointment of Mr Ellis was seconded, and agreed by the Panel for the period of 1 July 2018 – 31 June 2019. Mr Ellis thanked the Panel for the opportunity to undertake the role.
- 5.3 Mrs Giles confirmed the appointment of a maximum of three Deputy Chairs. The Panel were informed that the following people had expressed an interest, Mrs I Why; Mr M Payne; Miss N Hill. No others asked to be considered. All three candidates had been seconded and agreed by the Panel as Deputy Chairs of the Independent Custody Visiting Panel for the period of 1 July 2018 – 31 June 2019.
- 5.4 On behalf of the Panel and PCC Underhill, Mr Harrold thanked the Dr James for her work as Chair and wished her well in her future endeavours.