

OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING PANEL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 19 October 2015

A meeting of the Independent Custody Visiting Panel was held in Boardrooms 1, 2 and 3 on Monday 19 October 2015 at 3.30 pm

PRESENT:

Mrs C Bishop, Mrs A Cray, Mr Salvatore D'Arrigo, Mrs K Emery,
Mrs L Hayward, Mr R Hermans, Dr D James, Mr R Kerr,
Miss E Kochanovskye, Mr R Shore, Mr T Walker, Mrs B White, Mrs I Why

Also Present:

Mr M Underhill, Police and Crime Commissioner
Mr C Pipe, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Mr D Steadman, Chief Executive, OPCC
Chief Inspector G Shimmons, Crime and Criminal Justice
Mrs J Steadman, Crime and Criminal Justice
Mr K Edwards, Custody Support Officer

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1. Apologies were received from Assistant Chief Constable D Lewis, Mrs H Downton, Mr E Holloway, Mr M Payne, Mrs C McCormack, Mrs S Porter, Mr C Worsfold and Mrs Y Fenwick.

MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2015 were approved and signed as a true record.
- 2.2 With reference to minute numbered 5.2, Mr Edwards confirmed that Blandford was now up and running. He also confirmed that cereal bars were now available to detainees at Weymouth, a problem that had been highlighted at minute 6.6.
- 2.3 Minute numbered 6.9 had noted that the fridge thermometer had not been working, Mr Edwards confirmed that this was the responsibility of Ginsters.
- 2.4 Visitors had queried whether the kitchen was a suitable location for a bowl clearly marked for washing hands and feet. Mr Edwards advised that this had been relocated with the clothes and blanket store.
- 2.5 It was reported that Poole continued to experience green mould growth in the exercise yard. However, Mr Edwards confirmed that this was not a slip hazard.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

3. It was agreed that Dr Diane James be elected Chairman for the year 2015/16.

CUSTODY VISITS TO POLICE STATIONS

- 4.1 The report to the Panel showed that of 214 detainees held, 133 (62%) had been offered a visit, of which 130 (98%) had accepted. The spread and timing of the visits had been good with visits made on every day of the week. A number of visits had been completed between 10.00 pm and 1.00 am and between 7.00 am and 10.00 am. The Chair thanked visitors and welcomed further visits during unsocial hours.

Visits

- 4.2 During a visit to Weymouth on 14 July, visitors noted that a couple of cells had warm water from the tap. Mr Edwards advised the Panel that the water from the wall-mounted hand wash facilities within the cells is not suitable for drinking. Water provided to detainees must emanate from a suitable drinking water supply, elsewhere within the custody suite.
- 4.3 Visitors reported on 26 September that one exercise yard had been out of use due to a fault. This had been an issue at the time as the suite had been at full capacity. Mr Edwards confirmed that the repair was being made.
- 4.4 On 17 August, visitors noted that one detainee had asked why he had been recalled to prison. Although he had not been detained under PACE, Mr Edwards advised that he would have been treated within the 'spirit' of PACE.
- 4.5 On a visit to Bournemouth on 4 July visitors noted that a majority of the detainees had been asleep, the Commissioner asked the visitors to record when they had witnessed the detainees breathing even when a visit had not taken place.
- 4.6 It had been reported during a visit on 24 September that a detainee had his mobile telephone seized as evidence, therefore, officers had been unable to ring his chosen contact to inform them of his detention. Mr Edwards advised that if required officers could attend an address to inform them.

OTHER MATTERS

MRS EMERY

- 5.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner presented the outgoing Chair, Mrs Emery, with an award to mark her commitment and dedication over the last 20 years to the Dorset Independent Custody Visiting Scheme. He expressed his thanks on behalf of the people of Dorset to Mrs Emery and wished her well in the future.

ICVA

- 5.2 The Police and Crime Commissioner informed the visitors that the Independent Custody Visiting Association has a new Chief Executive, Katie Kempen and he hoped that Katie may be able to attend a future Panel meeting when she is in the area.

TRAINING

- 5.3 It was confirmed that visitors would be receiving Diversity training.

CHIEF INSPECTOR GUY SHIMMONS

- 5.4** Chief Inspector Shimmons advised the Panel that he would be driving standardisation within the custody suites.

APPROPRIATE ADULTS

- 5.5** It was confirmed that visitors could also act as Appropriate Adults, however, this could not act in both roles at the same time.