

OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING PANEL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 27 January 2014

A meeting of the Independent Custody Visiting Panel was held in Boardrooms 1, 2 and 3 on Monday, 28 October 2013 at 3.30 pm

PRESENT:

Mrs K Emery (Chairman),
Mrs C Bishop, Mrs A Cray, Mrs T Farwell, Mr K Gooding,
Mr R Hermans, Mr E Holloway, Dr D James, Mr R Kerr,
Mrs S Porter, Mr D Sandever,
Mr R Shore, Mr T Walker, Mrs I Why

Also Present:

Mr M Underhill, Police and Crime Commissioner,
Assistant Chief Constable D Lewis
Chief Inspector S Derbyshire, Crime and Criminal Justice
Mr K Edwards, Custody Support Officer
Mrs K Ford, Custody Projects Officer
Mrs Y Fenwick, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

- 14.1 The Chairman introduced and welcomed Chief Inspector Sarah Derbyshire to the Panel. Chief Inspector Derbyshire had recently taken over from Chief Inspector Thorneycroft as Custody Manager. Mrs Katie Ford was also welcomed to the Panel as the replacement for Mrs Nicki Philp who had taken a position as Criminal Justice Unit Manager.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 15.1 Apologies were received from Miss C Freestone, Mr H Masters, Mr M Payne and Mrs B White.

MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

- 16.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 28 October 2013 were approved and signed as a true record.

CUSTODY VISITS TO POLICE STATIONS

- 17.1 The report to the Panel showed that of 183 detainees held, 132 (72%) had been offered a visit, of which 126 (95%) had accepted. The spread and timing of the visits was good.
- 17.2 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 69% of the visits contained positive comments and 109 out of 126 detainees visited had no issues at all. She also thanked the visitors who had made visits outside of average visiting times.

Visits Raised for Noting

Bournemouth

- 17.3** During a visit to Bournemouth on 29 December, visitors had noted that 5 of the 9 detainees visited had either complained about being hungry or the poor quality of the food. Mr Edwards conceded that there were times when detainees had arrived just after recognised meal times so had been missed, however, in such circumstances a meal would be provided on request. With regard to food quality, Mr Edwards advised that the Force always had to strike a balance between cost effectiveness and the quality of food provided. ACC Lewis agreed and reminded the Panel that the key priority was to ensure that detainees were fed and he confirmed that Chief Inspector Derbyshire would continue to monitor the situation.

INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING ASSOCIATION (ICVA) NATIONAL CONFERENCE

- 18.1** The Scheme Manager introduced her report on the ICVA National Conference held in November 2013 and asked visitors to forward their suggestions for speakers or areas of interest for future conferences.
- 18.2** The Panel agreed with one visitors request for Scheme comparisons to appear as part of the programme.

OTHER MATTERS

PCC

- 19.1** The PCC thanked the visitors for the important role they undertake and provided an insight into the national work he was involved with. This included the PCC Mental Health Working Group and also his work with the Independent Custody Visiting Association's Executive Board.

Recruitment Campaign

- 19.2** The PCC announced to the Panel that the ICV recruitment campaign would commence on 10 February. The campaign would include three information events for which Chief Inspector Derbyshire had agreed the use of Poole Custody Suite. The events would be held on Friday 28 February at 10am, Monday 3 March at 2pm and Tuesday 4 March at 7pm. Any visitors interested in assisting at these events should contact the Scheme Manager. Advertising of the campaign would include press releases, a poster campaign and possible adverts in local newspapers.

Appropriate Adults

- 19.3** Some visitors shared their concerns about a possible conflict of interest for visitors should they also act as Appropriate Adults, particularly with regard to familiarity with custody staff. Following a question from a visitor, Mr Edwards advised that an Appropriate Adult would not have prior knowledge of the individual they would be supporting, unless they had previously assisted them. He said that detention times can be unnecessarily protracted when there is a delay obtaining the services of an Appropriate Adult. A number of visitors expressed an interest in becoming an Appropriate Adult.

- 19.4** The PCC told the Panel that he had been approached by the National Appropriate Adult Network requesting his support and that subsequently he had spoken to the Policing Minister regarding whether Appropriate Adult Schemes should fall under the responsibility of the PCC, currently there was no legal requirement for anyone to provide Appropriate Adults, although the police do have a legal requirement to provide one.
- 19.5** The Scheme Manager would contact her colleagues in the South West and South East areas to ascertain which Schemes allow visitors to also be Appropriate Adults.

HMIC Inspections

- 19.6** The PCC advised that the HMIC/HMIP custody inspections are due to start in April 2014, which some emphasis on restraint in custody and detainees held under the Mental Health Act. ACC Lewis confirmed that the Force would review the previous report to ensure all areas had been addressed.

Juveniles in Custody

- 19.7** Following a question from the Chairman, Mr Edwards confirmed that 17 year olds are now broadly treated as juveniles in custody, rather than adults but will follow up with clarification of the exceptions in the PACE Codes of Practice.

Lord Lieutenant

- 19.8** The Chairman informed the visitors that she had written to Mrs Pitt-Rivers on behalf of the Panel with her grateful thanks for her support over the years and wishing her all the very best for the future.
- 19.9** Mr Underhill added that an invitation to the Panel meeting had been extended to the new Lord Lieutenant, Angus Campbell, and we hoped to see him at a future date.

Annual Custody Officer of the Year Award

- 19.10** Chief Inspector Derbyshire advised that the Custody Officer/Staff of the Year award would be awarded jointly to Sergeants Paddy Gallagher and Danny Thompson who were both exceptional officers.

Short Term Opening of Poole

- 19.11** Following a question from a visitor, the Scheme Manager confirmed that either she or the Chairman would be advised of any emergency short term opening of Poole and would arrange for visitors to attend if appropriate.

Meeting ended at 16.30 hrs