

**OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

**INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING PANEL**

**Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 29 July 2013**

A meeting of the Independent Custody Visiting Panel was held in Boardrooms 1, 2 and 3 on Monday, 29 July 2013 at 7.00 pm

**PRESENT:**

Mrs K Emery (Chairman),  
Mr J Baylem, Mrs C Bishop, Miss R Coleman, Mrs A Cray,  
Mrs T Farwell, Mrs V Grier, Mr R Hermans, Mr E Holloway, Mr M Payne,  
Mrs S Porter, 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 Thorneycroft, Crime and Criminal Justice  
Mr D Steadman, Chief Executive  
Mrs J Heaver, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner  
Mrs Y Fenwick, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

**INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Scheme Administrator extended a welcome to ACC David Lewis who was recently appointed as ACC and to Dan Steadman also recently appointed as Chief Executive for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

**ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

- 2.1 That Mrs K Emery be elected Chairman for the year 2013/14.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 3.1 Apologies were received from Miss C Freestone, Mr K Gooding, Dr D James, Mr R Kerr, Mr H Masters and Mr K Edwards.

**ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

- 4.1 That Dr D James be elected Vice Chairman for the year 2013/14.

**MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING**

- 5.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 29 April 2013 were approved and signed as a true record.
- 5.2 Following a question from the Panel, Chief Inspector Thorneycroft advised that the problem with exercise yard rain cover had not yet been resolved. The Force continued in discussions with the PFI.

**CUSTODY VISITS TO POLICE STATIONS**

- 6.1 The report to the Panel showed that of 179 detainees held, 124 (69%) had been offered a visit, of which 108 (87%) had accepted. The spread and timing of the visits was good. The Chairman noted that ethnicity had not been recorded on 9 occasions and reminded visitors that the information was contained within the summary print provided to them by the custody staff.
- 6.2 It had also been noted that 20 (65%) of the reports had no issues at all and that 74% of

the visits were conducted within 1 hour. It had also been noted that entry had been gained to the custody suites within 5 minutes for 100% of the visits. The Chairman thanked the Force.

### **Issues Raised for Discussion**

#### **Weymouth**

- 6.3 On a visit to Weymouth on 25 April, the visitors had queried their entitlement to view the log of an uncommunicative detainee. The Scheme Administrator had advised that it had been appropriate to view the log given that the lack of communication might have made him more vulnerable.

#### **Bournemouth**

- 6.4 During a visit to Bournemouth on 19 May, visitors had been advised by a detainee that he wished to make a complaint about the manner of his arrest. He informed them that he had been told that he would only be able to do this once he had been released. The visitors had subsequently queried the procedure with the Inspector who had advised that this was to avoid compromising the investigation.
- 6.5 Chief Inspector Thorneycroft confirmed the above but added that the custody officer would triage the issue and if the complaint required immediate action this would be dealt with.
- 6.6 During the same visit the visitors had noted that the log for one detainee appeared to be incomplete. Chief Inspector Thorneycroft accepted that had been an oversight. The Chairman enquired about the recording capabilities around Niche and whether tasks that had not been completed would be highlighted. Chief Inspector Thorneycroft advised that he would make enquiries and feed back to the Panel.

#### **Weymouth**

- 6.7 On 13 June, visitors noted that an advocate had been called for a detainee, but, due to the limited numbers of Appropriate Adults available on that day, the detainee had to wait a significant amount of time. Chief Inspector Thorneycroft informed that Panel that Dorset Advocacy are currently undergoing a recruitment campaign which he hoped would improve availability of advocates.

### **Visits Raised for Noting**

#### **Sherborne**

- 6.8 Following a visit on 23 May, visitors reported that a glass block had been damaged and subsequently repaired with clear mastic which could be picked off by a detainee. Upon receipt of the report CI Thorneycroft had instructed the cell be taken out of use.
- 6.9 A visitor informed the Panel that mastic had also been used to repair some of the bunks, which if removed could be a possible ligature point. Chief Inspector Thorneycroft stated that he would check on this and the Chairman asked visitors to be particularly vigilant until the matter was resolved.

#### **Weymouth**

- 6.10 During a visit to Weymouth on 22 June, detainees had reported that they had been only offered yogurts for breakfast. Chief Inspector Thorneycroft advised he would make enquiries regarding the decision to offer only yogurts.

## **Bournemouth**

- 6.11** Following a further visit to Bournemouth on 23 June, visitors had been impressed at the 'new' improved range of food available for detainees. Chief Inspector Thorneycroft had stated that the 'improved' food had been likely to be leftover from a supply for an immigration detainee's extended detention but that he would investigate options for improvements to the range of food available.
- 6.12** Chief Inspector Thorneycroft added that the Force had now agreed with the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) that immigration detainees would be collected from custody within 48 hours.
- 6.13** Following a discussion Chief Inspector Thorneycroft advised the Panel that nicotine patches were not available to detainees but that he would contact the health care providers to discuss the options available.

## **OTHER MATTERS**

### **ICVA National Conference**

- 7.1** The Chairman advised the Panel that the ICVA National Conference would be held in Brighton on 2 November 2013. Any visitors interested in attending should contact the Scheme Administrator.

### **Certificate Presentation**

- 7.2** Two members of the Panel who had completed their full term of 12 years and one who had completed 3 years had been presented with certificates to mark the end of their service.

### **Visits**

- 7.3** A visitor expressed his concern that visitors had been advised that it was not necessary to visit every detainee and that he felt that visitors might miss a potential problem.

### **Volunteering Opportunities**

- 7.4** ACC Lewis advised the two visitors leaving the Scheme that the Force had a number of volunteering opportunities they might be interested in.

### **Visitors' Role**

- 7.5** The Chief Executive thanked the visitors for their contribution and their work did not go unnoticed.
- 7.6** A member of the Panel stated that although the role of ICV was voluntary, it should be acknowledged that it was high level volunteering which required commitment from the visitors to attend regular training, read the updates and communications and attend the meetings. She added that Dorset had a good Scheme and this had been recognised in discussion with colleagues from other Schemes.

### **Training**

- 7.7** The Chairman reminded the visitors that the next training day would be taking place on Saturday 14 September.

*Meeting ended at 19.50 hrs*