

## OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

### INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING PANEL

#### Minutes of meeting held on Monday 23 July 2018

A meeting of the Independent Custody Visiting Panel was held in Boardrooms 1, 2 and 3 on Monday 23 July 2018 at 7pm

**Present:** Mrs C Brace, Ms J Bradbury, Mr P Cashmore, Mr C Ellis (Chair), Ms C Etienne, Mrs T Farwell, Mr A Fear, Miss A King, Mr M Payne, Miss L Pike, 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  
Mrs J Steadman, Head of Criminal Justice, Dorset Police

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

- 1.1 Apologies were received from PCC Underhill, ACC Fielding, Chief Inspector Claxton, Miss C Hall, Miss N Hill, Mr T Walker, Mrs A White, Mrs I Why.

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

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 30 April 2018 were approved as an accurate record.
- 2.2 Action 15. Mr Edwards updated that it is hoped that the September/October refurb should resolve this issue. This action will remain open and an update will be provided at the next panel.

#### **CUSTODY VISITS TO POLICE STATIONS**

- 3.1 The Chair noted 88% of detainees offered accepted visits, 10% of detainees were non-PACE, a spread across the days of the week had been maintained and a high number of visits had been declined for visitor safety.
- 3.2 It was noted that the spread across the times of the day had declined significantly from the last quarter with over 50% of visits occurring between 1801-2100. The Chair requested that all panel members be aware of this and ensure effort is made to improve this for the next quarter.
- 3.3 Mrs Steadman asked ICVs to be mindful that 0600-0900 can be a very busy time for custody, especially on weekdays as several detainees will be being processed and getting ready for court. The panel noted this but confirmed that it is the intention to cover all times of the day.
- 3.4 It was noted that the waiting times to access the suite were very good and The Chair thanked Dorset Police for their continuing assistance with this.
- 3.5 Report 2774-6. It was noted that one detainee was seen to be asleep in the exercise yard. ICVs confirmed that this was the choice of the detainee.

- 3.6 Report 2778. ICVs noted that there was no evidence of a six hour review for one of the detainees. Mr Edwards confirmed that the detainee was released under investigation for the criminal offence and then detained as a prison recall, meaning no six hour review was required.
- 3.7 It was noted that there was no record of a female officer being allocated to the female detainee. Mr Edwards commented that a reminder to do this has now been sent out to all custody staff.
- 3.8 Report 2779. It was noted that the first time in custody leaflet had not been handed out to detainees on this visit. It was confirmed that this is available in the holding area and these should be handed out, however sometimes this can be missed.
- 3.9 It was noted that custody staff are not always adding relevant comments to the report form. Mr Edwards noted that he encourages all staff to complete these forms and asked that ICVs also prompt custody staff to complete the form.
- 3.10 Report 2780/1. It was noted that one detainee had severe mental health issues and was awaiting Criminal Justice Liaison and Diversion to attend. Mr Edwards confirmed that at this time of day Criminal Justice Liaison and Diversion will have been in the suite so for them to have not seen the detainee they must have been with another detainee.
- 3.11 It was also noted that one detainee had waited some time for an appropriate adult to attend. Mr Edwards confirmed that the appropriate adult attended the custody suite at 1330, whilst ICVs were still in the suite.
- 3.12 It was questioned why one detainee was left with a large amount of spilt milk in the cell and it was confirmed that the detainee was agitated and had denied custody staff access to the cell to clean it at the time. Once the detainee had calmed down access was granted and the cell was cleaned.
- 3.13 Report 2782. Issues with the toothpaste were noted and it was confirmed that this has been raised with the supplier.
- 3.14 Report 2784/5. One detainee waited sometime for an appropriate adult to attend and had not received an update on the status of this, however it was noted that the detainee was updated soon after the ICV visit. Mrs Steadman confirmed that as the appropriate adult was a family member they will have been contacted immediately, but Police would not insist that they attend immediately. It is their choice if they wait before they attend the custody suite.
- 3.15 Report 2789/90. It was noted that there were lots of violent detainees in during this visit and they were all handled well. One detainee commented that they had been assaulted whilst in custody previously and was advised to make a complaint. The sergeant questioned the detainee about this and he stated he did not wish to make a formal complaint.
- 3.16 Mr Edwards noted that the custody records had been provided for all detainees, including those who had not given consent. These logs were rejected by the ICVs. It was asked that ICVs remain patient as new staff were being trained and ICVs should continue to refuse these and report when it happens so that this can be fed back to the individual.

- 3.17 Report 2786-8. This was an announced visit and was shadowed by Juliet Lyon. There was an issue noted around the supply of an interpreter however they were seen to be arriving as the ICVs were leaving the custody suite.
- 3.18 Report 2793. No detainees had been offered showers on this visit; however an engineer was in attendance. It was confirmed that this had now been resolved.
- 3.19 Report 2794. ICVs questioned why no risk assessment had been completed after 22 hours in detention. Mr Edwards confirmed that a risk assessment had taken place at 1 hour; however the healthcare questionnaire had not been completed as the detainee would not cooperate.
- 3.20 Report 2711. It was noted that there was a limited stock of jumpers and socks in custody during this visit. It was questioned whether socks are usually available and Mr Edwards is to confirm and ensure that more socks are purchased.  
*Action – Mr Edwards*
- 3.21 Report 2713. It was noted that one detainee was particularly concerned about their child, however it was confirmed that the child was safe and with a relative.
- 3.22 One heavily intoxicated detainee was initially on level two observations and then later moved to level one observations. It was noted that no rationale for the change had been supplied on the log. Mr Edwards confirmed that this should have been completed. Mr Edwards will check this and provide an update.  
*Action – Mr Edwards*
- 3.23 It was noted that this quarter ICVs had visited detainees who didn't know reading material was available. Mr Edwards confirmed that all detainees should be told this, however this can sometimes be missed.
- 3.24 It was noted that ICVs have received some very positive feedback from a detainee during a visit.

## **RECRUITMENT**

- 4.1 The panel were informed that the 'light' recruitment had concluded and resulted in the appointment of Miss King and Miss Pike who were welcomed to the panel. Thanks were offered to all who assisted in this process.
- 4.2 It was noted that a further recruitment was to be launched later this year. The panel were informed that the timeline for this recruitment would be as follows; Go live - 3rd September; Webchat - 10th October; Closing date - 29th October; Open Event - 5th November; Shortlisting - 20th November; Interviews - 5th-6th December; Training - 2nd February
- 4.3 The panel were asked to consider whether they could assist with any of the following and confirm with Mrs Giles. It was noted that an additional request would be sent to the panel after the recruitment had launched.
- 4.4 It was questioned why a further recruitment was being held and what the goal of this was. Mrs Giles confirmed that the intention was to have 20-22 custody visitors at any one time. It was noted that although the panel currently holds 20 members, two of these are inactive and five are due to leave over the next two years. This recruitment is in an attempt to provide greater resilience for the scheme.

## **DETAINEE DIGNITY**

- 5.1 The panel were presented with a paper on the ICVAs work on Dignity in Custody.
- 5.2 Mr Harrold noted that an update had been given at the previous panel and since that update a letter had been sent to the PCC, Martyn Underhill, to highlight the issue.
- 5.3 The key points from this are; Detainees being left naked in the cells; clothing removal and/or strip searches taking place with members of the opposite gender present; clothing removal and/or strip searches taking place able to be viewed on CCTV; the inappropriate removal of clothing and use of anti-rip clothing; and there was some suggestion that nudity has been used as a form of 'punishment'.
- 5.4 Mr Harrold noted that the Dorset report did not highlight any of these issues.
- 5.5 The panel were informed that ICVA have taken this forward to various boards including the National Custody Forum and they have requested that a piece of work be conducted to look into this more formally and provide directives.

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018**

- 6.1 The panel were provided with a copy of the annual report for the year of 2017-2018. Thanks were given to all who assisted in the completion of this report.
- 6.2 It was noted that the structure of this report was slightly altered from last year to bring it in line with the ICVA national guidance.
- 6.3 Some key points from the report include: The average age of ICVS in Dorset is 51 compared to 50 last year. A total of 102 visits throughout the year with 463 detainees visited. 99% of visits waited less than 5 minutes to access the suite, compared to 96% last year and spread across the days of the week/times of the day was maintained.
- 6.4 The panel were asked to read the report. It was noted that this would also be published on the PCC website and the panel were asked to signpost to this where appropriate.
- 6.5 It was questioned where this report goes. It was confirmed that it is published on the website for public view and is provided to the Police and Crime Panel. It was also noted that although this is not submitted to ICVA, completion of an annual report does form part of the national framework for monitoring the performance of ICV schemes.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 7.1 Mr Harrold thanked the ICVs for their hard work and dedication and the contribution that has been made to gaining an excellent report.