

## **Independent Custody Visitors South Panel Meeting**

**Date:** Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014

**Time:** 6.30pm

**Location:** Lecture room, 2nd Floor, Parkside Police Station

### **Minutes**

#### **Attendees – Panel Members**

(ME)  
(MF)  
(PK)  
(JL)  
(GR)

#### **Attendees – other**

Anna Horne (AH) – Head of Engagement and Communication, OPCC

Hannah Watson (HW) – Volunteer Co-ordinator, OPCC

#### **1. Welcome & introductions**

PK opened the meeting, welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.

#### **2. Apologies received**

Apologies were received from CI Iain Clarke, PH, CM, RS, Insp Paul Street, WT, JT, and Sgt Robert Taylor.

#### **3. Minutes of previous South Panel meeting held 12 June 2014**

- HW will update minutes from 02/04 to reflect updates – completed.
- MF will forward the custody shadowing form to HW who will distribute via post to PK and GR – completed. Electronic copy will be sent with minutes.
- HW will send out St Neots map with the minutes – completed

- HW to circulate annual report when ready – carry forward
- HW to invite new South Outreach Worker to the next panel – due to family commitments, Sean was unable to take up the appointment. OPCC is currently recruiting so HW will invite once appointed.

#### **4. Current performance & matters arising from visits**

Summary of visits and issues raised was shared – the Panel should be congratulated on continuing to visit Parkside weekly and St Neots monthly. However, HW highlighted that the majority of visits in the last quarter took place on a Tuesday and Wednesday and asked panel members to consider visiting on other days of the week.

PK reminded the Panel that the white and green copy of the visit form should be handed to the Duty Sgt at the end of the visit. The Sgt should file the green copy and send the white copy to the OPCC within 48 hours.

PK notified the Panel the Insp Marcia Nicholls has now moved to Ely as Area Commander. Insp Paul Street has replaced her – the contact sheet has been updated accordingly.

PK reminded Panel members that plans are still underway to introduce an exercise yard at Parkside.

PK informed ICVs that they may now notice red magnetic discs on cell doors. This indicates that the DP is to be roused on a regular basis. The panel had a discussion around arousals and a question was asked about whether there is an electronic reminder or whether it is down to staff to remember to rouse DPs. As no Custody representatives were present, HW to take forward as an action.

**Action: HW to find out more about procedure of rousing detainees.**

ME asked what fire procedures are in place at Custody and how these are tested. As no constabulary colleague was present, HW will take it forward as an action

**Action: HW to find out about custody procedure**

This led to a discussion about whether ICVs should be signing in on arrival at custody so in the event of the fire they can be accounted for. Some ICVs reported difficulties in finding the signing-in book.

**Action: HW to clarify signing in procedures.**

#### **5. Update: Office of Police and Crime Commissioner**

HW attended ICVA Conference where the HMIC/P gave a presentation of findings from recent Custody Inspections and HW asked panel members to consider these areas when visiting. HMIC/P are hugely supportive of the ICV scheme and value the feedback provided by ICV on report forms as often ICVs highlight things that the inspection team may not have noticed. They encourage ICVs to report whatever they see, no matter how small or big.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary is expecting an unannounced inspection and HMIC/P have confirmed that they would welcome ICVs involvement in the process. As soon as OPCC is aware of the inspection we will let ICVs know.

**Action: HW to share HMIC/P presentation with Panel Members**

**Action: HW to investigate HMIC/P inspection criteria**

OPCC has undertaken a self-assessment of the ICV Scheme using a tool provided by ICVA. This has highlighted a number of areas for improvement including on-going training and development of ICVs as well as support and supervision. We will be working with ICVs to make improvements over the next 6 months.

The OPCC holds a Custody Visiting Meeting with the Constabulary every 6 months. The latest one took place on 11/09/14. AH and HW met with Panel Co-ordinators and ACC Mark Hopkins and CI Iain Clarke. Papers from the meeting will be posted on the website in due course, however HW did distribute the OPCC papers which will be attached to these minutes. ACC Mark Hopkins extended his thanks to the ICVs for their continued commitment in raising the standards of custody and treatment of detainees. Actions agreed at the meeting included:

- Sharing the Constabulary Vulnerability Action Plan with ICVs – this was shared at the meeting and will be attached to the minutes. There are a number of actions that the Constabulary are monitoring and CI Iain Clarke asked for ICVs to consider these areas when visiting and to provide feedback.
- Training for new Custody Sgts is starting on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> and ICVs are invited to join as Observers. This course will run over a number of weeks and will include training on supporting vulnerable detainees.
- St Neots is to now be visited every 2 months

**Action: HW to find out more about the Custody training and share details with panel members.**

AW advised the panel that she will be leaving on secondment to the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners for 6 months. PK thanked her for her continued support of the ICV scheme and wished her luck in her new role.

## **7. Update: Cambridgeshire Constabulary**

No Constabulary representative was present so no update was available.

## **8. PACE Codes C & H**

ICVs were reminded about the changes to PACE Codes C & H that came into effect earlier in the year. These changes mean the following additional questions should be asked when ICVs visited DPs

- Is the DP aware of the reasons for their arrest and detention?
- Has the DP received and understood the Notice of Rights and Entitlements?
- If applicable, does the DP have access to their High Commission, Embassy or Consulate?

## 9. Community Remedy

AH gave a brief update about Community Remedy.

The new Anti-Social Behaviour Act is introducing a number of changes including Community Remedy which is about looking at other ways of dealing with low level crimes like theft under £100, criminal damage, littering and malicious communications out of court. For more information about the Anti-Social Behaviour Act look at <http://asb1.ncalt.com>

The Commissioner had a statutory requirement to consult about Community Remedy so he set up an on-line survey. The consultation has now closed and a report is being finalised.

Options that the Commissioner is considering include verbal/ written apology, donation to charity, remedial work, neighbourhood resolution panels and mediation.

The survey was sent to 12,000 people via e-cops and featured on the PCC website. We've had 52 detailed response. The majority had been a victim of low level crime and would have been supportive of a Community Remedy if it had a strong victim focus.

There was an overwhelming support for victims and how offenders must realise the effect of their actions. Community work was favoured and there was a mixed response about an apology.

The PCC is not working with the Constabulary to introduce a list of options.

**Action: HW to share the Community Remedy Report on the survey once completed.**

#### **10. Any other business**

ICVs raised concerns about the height of the viewing window in the cell door and that to some people they are inaccessible.

**Date of next meeting** – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December