

# Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

## Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) Scheme Panel Meeting

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017, 19:00-21:00

### Minutes

#### Present

AW, ICV – North Lead

JB, ICV - North

BE, ICV – North

FC, ICV – South

PR, ICV - North

GW, ICV – North

JC, ICV – North

WT, ICV – South

PH, ICV – South

JA, PCC

IM, Custody Inspector

AB, OPCC - ICV Scheme Manager

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Introduction and Apologies</b>
1.1	AW welcomed all to the meeting and round table introductions were made.
1.2	Apologies were received from: JT, ICV – South Lead, JL - ICV South, AL – ICV South, RS – ICV South, AD - ICV North
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Minutes of the meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017</b>
2.1	The Panel approved the minutes of the previous meeting.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Current performance and matters arising from visits</b>
3.1	<b><i>Requesting information when detainees are at hospital</i></b> The case of vulnerable detainee at Thorpe Wood was raised by GW, who wanted to highlight the good work of the custody staff following a visit by GW and BE. There was some learning points identified by the ICVs including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Custody staff should not comment so openly about vulnerable detainees in earshot of other cells.</li><li>- Good practise was identified with custody staff asking consent to make a medical intervention with the detainee to avoid use of force and avoid causing harm</li><li>- All intervention was well documented</li></ul>
3.2	JA asked what the protocol is for ICVs where someone is in custody but not currently there (i.e. in hospital). IM clarified they would still count as being detained, and AW and JB

	<p>advised they would ask follow up questions. <i>AB subsequently clarified from the code of practice, para. 65 which states "If a detainee is for any reasons incapable of deciding whether to allow access to their custody record, the presumption must be in favour of allowing the ICVs to examine it", ICVA also clarified that ICVs would potentially be able to visit a detainee in hospital, subject to agreement from the medical staff, and should it be in the best interest of the detainee.</i></p>
3.3	<p><b><i>Use of force by arresting officers</i></b>  JA suggests it should be flagged where a person has been injured (if known) or if they attempted to injure themselves in custody. IM assured JA this does happen and adds there is a new process for reporting use of force by Police, and that IM sits on the panel which reviews this.</p>
3.4	<p><b><i>ICV / Staff Relations</i></b>  An ICV raised a question with AB about custody staff being understanding of the role of the ICV. IM confirmed he had spoken with the staff concerned and resolved the issue. AW made the point that ICVs need to remain independent, but there needs to be understanding of the ICV role by custody staff and vice versa.</p>
3.5	<p><b><i>Provision of HCP / AA /LaDS</i></b>  JB and AW both stated how HCPs were now always present at Thorpe Wood and that Appropriate Adults and the Liaison and Diversion Service were also available as and when. AB added this seemed to also be the case at Parkside.</p>
3.6	<p>IM updated that there was currently 24hr Appropriate Adult provision for children and vulnerable adults across the county, and that work was continuing with Local Authorities to try and ensure this continued ahead of a longer term solution planned for 2018.</p>
3.7	<p><b><i>Detainees access to amenities</i></b>  IM stated that there were no general issues, but that recently access to showers had been delayed as a result of busy custody suites and staffing, and asked that ICVs continued to monitor this situation. AW added this ICVs should look at what is sensible and consider things such as a detainee's length of stay.</p>
3.8	<p><b><i>Virtual Courts</i></b>  With the virtual courts expected to enter use soon across the county AW asked how they may affect custody, anticipating any issues such as longer detentions, and the additional pressures on custody. JA confirmed this is something he can take to the Criminal Justice Board which he chairs and IM confirmed this was an issue raised in custody management meetings.</p>
3.9	<p>JA also shared his experience of going through the court system as a witness, and talked about the challenges faced by defendants compared to victims. JA also stated one of the biggest problems was the time available to courts.</p>
3.10	<p>IM advised that staff were being trained to use the virtual courts and Parkside and they were expected to go live in July and Thorpe Wood in August.</p>
3.11	<p><b><i>Maintenance</i></b>  IM advised that later in June Thorpe Wood would be closed for electrical work, Huntingdon and March custody would be opened to cover this. At the same time a test evacuation</p>

	would take place. AW offered the help of ICVs in any test evacuation drill. IM advised part of this work was related to the ongoing temperature issues.
3.12	<p><b>Secret Garden Party</b></p> <p>AW advised that this was taking place on the 20<sup>th</sup> July. IM advised that Huntingdon would be open from 9am on 20<sup>th</sup> July and close to new detainees on the evening of the 23<sup>rd</sup> July. AW asked about Health Care Providers, and IM advised the Force Medical Expert would be based at Huntingdon to ensure coverage.</p>
3.13	<p><b>Fire safety planning</b></p> <p>JT asked for the issue to be raised about concerns in C block at Parkside, as there is a fire door that could not be closed. IM advised the automatic fire safety closer was broken. This has been raised at a Health and Safety inspection and there are plans to repair.</p>
3.14	IM advised that fire safety plans are in place, and that a virtual closure was run in December 2016 and a fire drill run.
4.0	<b>Updates from the OPCC</b>
4.1	JA thanked all the ICVs for their continued hard work and dedication and said he was very happy with the scheme.
4.2	JA informed ICVs that the information they provided about the coverage of Health Care Providers in Custody had helped the provider to account and coverage has improved and is more consistent across the force area. The information provided by ICVs is particularly helpful to give a local viewpoint on a 7 force contract.
4.2	JA also gave ICVs an update on the future of custody provision at custody. The Constabulary are looking at potential sites and plan and looking to move forward quickly.
4.4	AW asked if the new provision would be like a PIC, JA stated yes, very similar but with a clear focus on ensuring it was commercially viable. It would mean less need for detainees to go to Thorpe Wood and increase the resilience of custody overall.
4.5	The plans for the Parkside site would look to ensure there is still a local community policing presence, and are looking to ensure any plans are positive for the needs of the Constabulary.
4.6	JA talked about the upcoming consultation on the Fire Governance business case, and the timescales around this.
5.0	<b>Updates from the Constabulary</b>
5.1	IM updated that changes to the bail act meant that conditional police bail was now rarely used. Instead the aim is to deal with detainees as soon as possible, and as a consequence people spend longer in custody initially.
5.2	IM also updated that there was an increase in the number of Superintendent extensions, which do need an investigative reasons. IM stated for a standard case there was usually a 3-4 hours wait for a decision.

5.3	IM had no further updates to add, issues had already been covered in matters arising from visits.
6.0	<p><b>Bitesize Training – Children in Custody</b></p> <p>6.1 AB went through the new bitesize training module on children in custody, put together by ICVA.</p> <p>6.2 AW stated that ICVs do already note children in custody on the visit recording forms and also talked the noticeable difference in issues that arise when children are aged 14-17.</p> <p>6.3 AW also highlighted, with ICVs agreeing that when a child was in custody they have witnessed good practise of keeping the child in an interview room with an Appropriate Adult, rather than in a cell.</p> <p>6.4 There was discussion around when Local Authorities should take children overnight and ensuring that custody have requested this.</p> <p>6.5 JA shared his concerns about the lack of children’s homes available for local authority use in Cambridgeshire, while there are a number of children’s homes operated by other local authorities from across the country. This also caused a problem with police officer resources as they often go missing or may end up in contact with police.</p> <p>6.6 IM shared that in Cambridgeshire, children spend an average of 2-3 hours less in custody than adult detainees, and try to avoid bringing children to custody altogether.</p> <p>6.7 AW shares that he does now see a lot less children in custody. IM shared a figure that highlighted this, showing almost a 50% decline in children aged 15-17 coming through custody in April 2017 compared to May 2016.</p>
7.0	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>7.1 ICVs discussed opportunities for future training, and were very interested in learning more about the Appropriate Adult scheme and the training they receive.</p> <p>7.2 <b>Action: Alasdair Baker to contact AA scheme in regards to setting up some training / and information session.</b></p> <p>7.3 AW updated ICVs that he had come across film crews for “24hrs in Police Custody”, advice was issued to ICVs should they come into contact again or be asked to take part.</p> <p>7.4 PH successfully skyped into the meeting, and it was confirmed that other ICVs could do this if they wished or found travel too difficult for any reason. PH asked about holding 1 meeting a year at Parkside, however it was felt by the panel that the meeting location had been previously discussed and would continue to be held at Huntingdon.</p> <p>7.5 PH asked about the possibility of South ICVs to skype from Parkside, which was agreed would be looked into.</p>

<b>8.0</b>	<b>Date of the next meeting</b>
8.1	ICVs agreed meetings should continue to be held on Monday evenings with an 18:30 pre meet for a 19:00 start.
8.2	Dates of future meetings are as follows: Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> September 2017 Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2017 Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2018

These minutes have been approved by the Panel as a true and accurate record of the meeting.