

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) Scheme Panel Meeting

Monday 11th September 2017, 19:00-21:00

Minutes

Present

AW, ICV – North Lead
JT, ICV – South Lead
FC, ICV – North
PR, ICV - North
GW, ICV – North
JC, ICV – North
JL, ICV – South
GR, ICV - South
JA, Police and Crime Commissioner
C/Insp IS, Custody
Insp AB, Custody
C/Insp CS, Corporate Development
AB, OPCC - ICV Scheme Manager

1.0	Introduction and Apologies
1.1	AW opened the meeting.
1.2	Apologies were received from: JC, CM, PH, AL
2.0	Minutes and actions of the meeting held 20th June 2017
2.1	The draft minutes of the previous meeting were agreed subject to the following changes: - FC, ICV South should read FC, ICV North.
2.2	AB had not progressed the action to have someone from the Appropriate Adult (AA) Scheme attend training, as no training dates were yet set. AB to set training dates and arrange attendance from AA scheme.
2.3	AB confirmed the next meeting would be the 11 th December.
3.0	Use of force – recording and procedures
3.1	C/Insp CS attended to give a presentation and answer questions on use of force in Custody. C/Insp CS made clear that the Constabulary want to be as open as possible and welcomed

	any feedback and questions. Use of force reporting and recording should be consistent across Beds, Cambs and Herts and every use of force is recorded.
3.2	JT asked for a definition of use of force. C/Insp CS gave a non-exhaustive list and stated it could start from talking and anything above this, including drawing a baton, any physical contact, handcuffs, restraints, etc. C/Insp confirmed to JT that a barking dog would constitute use of force.
3.3	C/Insp CS confirmed to PR that Detention Officers should also follow the use of force recording and reporting procedures. C/Insp CS informed that over time this would also allow the Constabulary to identify trends from the data and look at effectiveness.
3.4	C/Insp CS showed a chart detailing the new process, explaining there was not yet comparable data nationally.
3.5	Insp AB added that use of handcuffs was also recorded by custody, and while there was possibly under reporting initially this issue should resolve as the system becomes more established.
3.6	FC asked about the low success rate of communication as a use of force, C/Insp Cs stated that this would be expected, and that often communication results in further use of force which is then recorded.
3.7	AW asked about definitions of minor vs. severe injuries were respectively. C/Insp CS stated they would be guided by Health Care Providers (HCP). Minor would include a graze or a bruise, severe would be a broken bone or deep cut.
3.8	AW commented it was positive that each individual officer submits a report, with C/Insp CS confirming this was vital to the work of the Professional Standards Department (PSD) to inform training.
3.9	C/Insp CS also confirmed to PR that conversations are being had with PSD where reports are generating complaints. JL asked if there are false accusations, C/Insp CS confirmed all complaints are followed up.
3.10	ACTION: AB to circulate links to use of force data. https://www.cambs.police.uk/information-and-services/About-us/Performance/Use-of-force.aspx
4.0	HMICFRS / HMIP Inspection of Custody & feedback from ICVA
4.1	AB and C/Insp IS updated that an unannounced inspection of custody has taken place in August, some ICVs will have seen inspectors. The full report is expected to be published in November.
4.2	C/Insp IS added that there should be full staffing for Custody in place by October 31 st 2017. There is an action plan in place for feedback given at the initial de-brief. AB added that a checklist for ICVs can be pulled together when the report is published.
4.2	JA stated how there should be better oversight around Cambs detainees taken to the PIC in King's Lynn managed by Norfolk Constabulary.

4.4	JT asked about migrant children brought into custody via immigration rather than PACE, C/Insp IS confirmed that age assessments were carried out to establish ages so that children could be treated appropriately.
4.5	ACTION: AB to circulate HMIC report.
5.0	Matters arising from visits:
5.1	Dealing with people threatening to harm themselves: Insp AB confirmed custody staff receive mental health training from the College of Policing and further training on the job. This helps determine appropriate levels of observation. Insp AB confirmed to JT that for a female detainee a female officer would always be present.
5.2	Cleanliness in cells: C/Insp IS confirms that a deep clean of custody is scheduled. Issues are arising from staff shortages and issues with cleaning company. Staffing should be resolved by the end of October and contract management is ongoing with the cleaning company.
5.3	Translation Services: C/Insp IS updated on The Big Word translation service. This is a new service who have experience delivering to police forces around the country, it has also delivered significant savings for the Constabulary. There have been challenges in the transition and simple things have gone wrong. The Big Word is having trouble recruiting translators on their terms locally which is leading to longer waits for detainees. However they are engaging to try and resolve this and the Constabulary are using the contract to ensure a service. AW asked about ICV's being able to use The Big Word if needed, C/Insp. IS confirms he is happy for this is needed.
5.5	Provision of HCP / LaDs / AA: There was general agreement that the HCP provision had improved however there were still gaps. This was due to G4S staffing issues. JT added that there was good cover in relation to mental health. AW added the positive effect of the LaDs service. JA added that he was monitoring other forces who were considering re-commissioning the HCP service.
5.6	Female hygiene packs: there was a one-off incident where a pack was not given, this was resolved and there is confidence that procedures are generally good.
5.7	Use of the word prisoners: Concern was raised about the use of the word "prisoner" in an email from Custody, similarly the general use of the term "jailor". All agreed the words detainee and detention officer should be used respectively, as people in custody were not prisoners nor in jail.
6.0	Updates from the Constabulary
6.1	ICVs welcomed Insp AB and wished C/Insp IS good luck in his future role.
6.2	JA updated it will be at least 12 months before virtual courts are in place as the CPS and Court Service are not yet ready. It was recognised this leaves cells out of use.
6.3	Maintenance works are still planned at TW.
6.4	JL asked if staff morale was rising. C/Insp IS updated that the changes have been painful but that things were now gradually improving.

6.5	AW added that staff can appear stressed and it must be ensured that they have the opportunity for a break.
6.6	AW asked about TACT provision, AB reported that this was an ongoing conversation with the BCH OPCCs and more needed to be understood about demand before looking at gaining TACT provision.
7.0	Updates from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
7.1	There were still actions outstanding for AB to set up training dates. AB would look to tie this in with recruitment of new ICVs, but would not wait too long if this was not achievable.
7.2	AB updated about a new push on recruitment involving going out via e-cops and to local papers.
8.0	Date of the next meeting
8.1	ICVs agreed meetings should continue to be held on Monday evenings with an 18:30 pre meet for ICV's only and a 19:00 start for the formal meeting.
8.2	Dates of future meetings are as follows: Monday 11 th December 2017 Monday 5 th March 2018

Date of the next meeting Monday 11th December 2017