

**INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME - REVIEW OF REPORTS.  
NOV 2012 TO JUNE 2013.**

**1. Purpose**

1.1 To report on Issues arising from custody visitor reports

1.1.1 These issues will be dealt with thematically with the objective of Identifying trends or persistent issues.

**2. Themes**

**2.1 Buildings and Infrastructure**

2.1.1 In some areas of the force older parts of the custody estate are showing signs of wear. I.e. areas of cell floor (V2) at Thorpewood, damaged radiator (C3) and noisy cistern (V2) at Huntingdon. On all occasions these matters have been risk assessed by local staff and where necessary the appropriate area put out of action until the issue is resolved.

2.1.2 The upgraded strip alarm at Thorpewood was too sensitive after early installation. An adjustment was put in place by the installation company.

2.1.3 PAT testing on some appliances at Huntingdon noted as out of date. Resolved through custody team action.

**2.2 Welfare**

2.2.1 An issue with communicating to detainees the availability of shower facilities was identified at Cambridge. This was noted by an interview with a long term (6 days) immigration detainee. Local custody manager briefing her staff on this matter.

**3.2 Process.**

3.2.1 The first use of a Cambridge cell for a detainee suspected of holding drugs internally identified a lack of process for staff to follow and hygiene issues for the detainee and staff. The local custody manager is in the process of working up briefing material for all staff involved in this type of scenario.

2.2.2 In late 2012 comment was made of delays in getting into custody block. This issue has not been reported for many months now and is closely monitored by the scheme administrator.

2.2.3 Self introduction by ICV's has proven very successful with only the occasional reminder to custody staff that this process is now embedded.

## **2.3 General**

2.3.1 Throughout this review period ICV's have been consistent in their praise for the professional and helpful attitude of all custody staff.

2.3.2 It is now very rare to find out of date food stocks, inoperative CCTV or dirty facilities other than is expected in an active facility.

2.3.3 St Neots and March police station remain fit for purpose.

2.3.4 Where issues are identified the local custody managers have expedited resolutions.