

Cambridgeshire Independent Custody Visitors' Group Meeting

Date: Monday 21st March 2016

Time: 7.00 pm

Location: Conference Room 3, Police Headquarters

Minutes

Attendance List

AD - ICV	IC - Iain Clarke – Chief Inspector, Custody
AW – ICV	JB - ICV
BE - ICV	JC - ICV
CK – Catherine Kimberley – Coms Officer	JL - ICV
CM - ICV	JM - ICV
CS - ICV	JT - ICV
FC - ICV	PR - ICV
GR - ICV	RS - ICV
HW – Hannah Watson – Volunteer Co-ordinator	

Welcome & introductions

JT chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone who introduced themselves.

Apologies had been received from:

GW – ICV
MF -ICV
NP - Nicky Phillipson – OPCC
WT - ICV

About the Liaison and Diversion Team

Sara Hart was welcomed to the meeting and she gave an input about the role of the Liaison and Diversion (LAD) team in police custody.

Minutes and actions of previous Cambridgeshire ICV Meeting on 8th December 2015

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and will now be shared on the PCC's website.

Action - HW to bring a Communications Plan to a future meeting about how general awareness can be raised – **CK presented the Communications Plan. Andrew Wilcox and Jane Luzio agreed to help with media work.**

Action - HW to update the website with March 2015 meeting minutes – **completed**

Action – IC to chase up the missing forms from the Custody suites – **completed**

Action – HW to establish a digital version of the new form – **ongoing. Agreement from Beds and Herts to develop online tri-force form.**

Action: IC to provide input at March's meeting on virtual courts – **agenda item**

Action: IC will speak to Rachel Robertson from CPFT to provide ICVs on an input on Liaison and Diversion – **agenda item**

Current performance & matters arising from visits including

• Summary of visits

- HW presented the summary visit report and made the following comments:
 - Disappointing that one visit has been made to Parkside at the weekend. Visiting at the weekend must be a priority.
 - Delays for getting into custody (particularly at Thorpe Wood) seem to be creeping up. There was one delay of 15 minutes. It was noted that Thorpe Wood enquiry office is currently operating under reduced hours and has new booking in place – ICVs were encouraged to contact Custody direct on the telephone rather than relying on the Enquiry Office.
 - Disappointing to read detainees were reporting delays to access the doctor before Christmas. It was noted that there is good access to HCPs but still delays in accessing the doctor. Police are now managing the system so should improve, but any concerns should be noted to HW immediately so she can brief Sir Graham accordingly.
 - Cleaning regimes / standards still appear to be a problem, however IC conformed that a new cleaning contractor has now been employed.
 - OPCC still experiencing delays getting forms for custody (particularly at Parkside.) HW to raise with new custody Inspectors.
 - Still finding it difficult to get responses from the force about issues raised – Sir Graham will raise at next force meeting.

• Visiting days / times

- ICVs were encouraged to avoid times / days which have previously had many visits. Visits at weekends / unsociable hours would be appreciated.

• Recording outcomes from visits – see example completed form

- OPCC shared a completed visit report form to demonstrate how sometimes it asks more questions than it answers! ICVs were encouraged to complete the feedback loop for issues easily rectified at the time to save the OPCC chasing the force unnecessarily.

• Photographs

- ICVs were reminded that the Form 200 is evidence of the visit and under no circumstances should photographs be taken.

ICVs made the following comments:

- New additional layer of security at Parkside feels right
- New lockers for people's possessions at Parkside look smart – but are a little small
- Suggestion that ICVs spend time in cells and taste the food – suggested that taste test arranged for next meeting

National and Regional Conference feedback

- 2 ICVs plus HW attended the National Conference in January – copies of the presentations etc can be found - <http://icva.org.uk/news/article/icva-national-conference-icc-birmingham-saturday-30th-january-2016>. Feedback included a positive response to Chief Constable Nick Ephgrave, National Custody Lead who spoke very positively; ‘a day well spent’
- 12 ICVs attended the regional conference from Cambs (over 50 ICVs in total.) Feedback included praise for organisation of conference; training well received.

Update from Cambridgeshire Constabulary including:

- **Virtual Courts**

In the process of setting up a virtual court for Kings Lynn. Agreement from CPS is in place so work will go ahead in Parkside – old cells will be used. There will be a video link in place to Cambs court re bail from custody. There is a resource issue of how to get files from custody to courts – using Serco is a possibility. ICVs asked for clarification of their role during this ‘limbo’ state. Confirmed by Iain that ICVs should be allowed access.

- The custody function collaborates with Beds and Herts from 1st April Det Sgt Nat Bryant from Herts as new Head of Custody and Criminal Justice. All custody staff will have a new standard uniform
- Iain Clarke is moving on to be a Duty Manager. Unsure at this time who will take his role. However new Insp have been confirmed for TW – Alex Wood-Davies and Parkside – Dean Wiffin.
- Iain suggested an HMIC visit is imminent and reported positive feedback from recent custody visit by Herts and Beds.

Update from the OPCC

HW provided the following updates

- Capabilities – HW attended a meeting at the Home Office with ICVA where they considered the current National Standards definition of a detainee's capability to consent for ICVs to access custody records as the current definition excludes detainees who may be asleep or in interview. The Home Office indicated that they are content for ICVA to bring the definition into line with the primary legislation which would enable ICVs in each scheme to access records to those who are incapable or unable to consent. There will be a consultation a paper going to July's Management Board – we will keep you posted!
- IPCC prompt sheet - IPCC issued a Use of Force thematic last week. The IPCC has also released a prompt sheet for voluntary and community sector groups to consider when meeting with the police. This sheet may be of use when you visit https://www.ipcc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Documents/IPCC_UoF_CVS_Sheet.pdf
- Death in custody consultation –if you are interested in supporting the PCC to make a response, please contact HW.
- Next of Kin – following an incident in another force area, it has been highlighted that in the event of a medical emergency we do not hold NoK details for visitors. It was agreed that ICVs would include NoK details on the back of their ID badges.
- Autism training – we've been offered free training on supporting people with autism in the Criminal Justice system. Looking at delivering a session in September for BCH ICVs

- Toilets – Home office have issued a safety alert after a dp had used the rim of the steel toilet to attach a blanket and make a ligature. ICVs may want to consider this risk when visiting.
- Prison feedback – liaising with safer custody colleagues in Peterborough prison – highlighted that often females who have been remanded in police custody (often over the weekend) are arriving at prison via court rather fragrant. This was also highlighted by Alison in her talk at the conference. Please consider this when visiting female detainees,
- Business as usual as the PCC elections are looming (5th May). The office will enter purdah at the end of the month
- Currently recruiting for an Outreach Worker for the North of the county – ICVs would like an invite to be extended to a future meeting.

Any other business and close

- It was noted that dps interviewed at Thorpe Wood commented how well they were treated by custody staff.
- Concern that new custody staff uniform will make staff less visible.

Dates for future meetings

Suggested dates below were agreed – meetings will run from 7-9pm. HW will look at holding the June or September meeting at Monks Wood to incorporate a visit to the museum.

Monday 13th June – HQ or Monks Wood (tbc)

Monday 12th September – HQ or Monks Wood (tbc)

Monday 5th December - HQ

Monday 6th March - HQ