



To: Business Coordination Board

From: Chief Constable and Chief Executive

Date: 21 September 2017

UNANNOUNCED CUSTODY INSPECTION AND INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To update the Business Coordination Board (“the Board”) on the recent unannounced joint inspection of Custody by HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) in Cambridgeshire.
- 1.2 To update the Board on feedback about the Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) scheme from the Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA) who shadowed the inspection.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of the report.
- 2.2 The Board is recommended to request a further update following the publication of the full HMIP and HMICFRS report.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Constabulary was notified of an unannounced custody inspection on 7 August 2017. The inspection was completed over a two week period commencing on that date.
- 3.2 ‘*Expectations for Police Custody*’ is a joint inspection between HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS). The joint HMIP/HMICFRS national programme of unannounced

inspections ensures that custody facilities in all 43 forces in England and Wales are scrutinised, as a minimum, every 6 years.

- 3.3 The Chief Executive of the Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA) shadowed the HMIP & HMICFRS inspection team to learn about the inspection process and to consider how Independent Custody Visiting Schemes can better link in with inspections of custody, and subsequently support forces with any resulting actions.

4. Custody Inspection

- 4.1 Cambridgeshire Constabulary's custody provision was last inspected in 2011. Bedfordshire Police was inspected in 2014 and Hertfordshire Constabulary in 2015. This was the first unannounced inspection of a BCH force since custody provision was collaborated, and the first inspection of a collaborated custody function nationally.

- 4.2 Since 2011, the scope of the inspection has been extended to include first contact and opportunities for diversion and vulnerable people, criteria for inspecting forces on equalities duties as these affect custody, focused inspection criteria on the use of force, criteria reflecting strategic and operational outcomes on safeguarding the welfare of children (under 18s) and vulnerable adults in police custody, and reporting on police cells used as a place of safety for people suffering acute mental ill-health.

- 4.3 The inspection methodology covers five areas:

- Leadership, accountability and partnerships
- Pre-custody and first point of contact
- In the custody suite: booking in, individual needs and legal rights
- In the custody cell: safeguarding and health care
 - Release and transfer from custody.

- 4.4 The inspection involved a document and data collection, auditing of records, extensive reality testing at all custody suites used by the Constabulary, interviews with police representatives and partners, and focus groups.

- 4.5 The provisional findings of the inspection were presented to chief officers and the Police and Crime Commissioner in a hot debrief on 17 August 2017. The feedback presented will form part of an improvement action plan which will be developed and tracked through the Constabulary's Organisational Improvement Group and HMIC Gold Group.

- 4.6 The final report will be published in approximately three months' time.

4.7 Independent Custody Visiting Scheme

- 4.8 HMIP and HMICFRS are unable to comment on the governance of the ICV scheme as it is a function of the Police and Crime Commissioner, not the Constabulary. However as ICVA were shadowing the inspection, there was an opportunity to receive feedback on the scheme, and to contribute to ICVA's learning from the visit.

- 4.9 During the inspection, ICVA witnessed ICVs conducting a visit, and also met with the ICV scheme manager for Cambridgeshire. The ICV scheme manager also spoke to the HMIP / HMICFRS inspectors.

- 4.10 The feedback about the ICV visit that was witnessed was very reassuring. In particular, ICVA felt that the questions asked by ICVs truly reflected the important issues that affect detainees, for example, their welfare. The feedback provided by ICVs on their reports was also recognised as being of good quality, giving concise but informative comments for each detainee rather than simply “no issues”, or “no concerns”, as seen in some other schemes.
- 4.11 ICVA were impressed that the PCC or D/PCC regularly attended the ICV Quarterly Panel meetings, and were able to use the findings of ICVs to hold the Constabulary to account, as well as partners.
- 4.12 ICVA also noted the format of the annual report as being very accessible and were keen to see other schemes use a similar format. The report is kept to one single page and gives the public a summary of the scheme, successes and failures, and targets for the year ahead.
- 4.13 ICVA were keen to use this experience to understand how ICV scheme managers can be better informed on what to expect from an inspection, how to ensure scheme managers are involved, and how ICV schemes can support the Constabulary to achieve any actions resulting from an inspection and reassure the public that the Constabulary has taken feedback on board. No timescales were given as to when advice may be formalised. It was clear that while there is a role for ICVs to play, they must stay focused on their own role, and not stray into the role of an inspector.
- 4.14 ICVA asked about the arrangements for monitoring detainees from Cambridgeshire who are taken to the Police Investigation Centre (PIC) at Kings Lynn. There were no formal arrangements in place at the time of the inspection; however, the detainees would be visited by ICVs from the Norfolk scheme. Following this discussion, steps are being taken to formalise a monitoring process for the PIC, to ensure the welfare and safety of Cambridgeshire detainees.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of the report.
- 5.2 The Board is recommended to request a further update following the publication of the full HMIP and HMICFRS report.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Document(s)	Expectations for police custody: Criteria for assessing the treatment of and conditions for detainees in police custody, HMICFRS https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/publications/expectations-police-custody-criteria/
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