



Creating a safer  
**Cambridgeshire**

**To:** Business Coordination Board

**From:** Chief Constable

**Date:** 10 May 2018

**A report on progress of the Custody Action Plan following the publication by HM Inspectorate of Prisons and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services of a report on police custody arrangements in Cambridgeshire.**

**1. Purpose**

1.1 To update the Business Coordination Board (“the Board”) on the progress of the Custody Improvement Plan following the unannounced joint inspection of custody by HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and rescue Services (HMICFRS).

**2. Recommendations**

2.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of the report.

2.2 A further report is provide after the re-inspection visit and feedback.

**3. Background**

2.2 The formal report following the inspection was published on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018. The Custody Improvement Plan which had already been drafted and was being progressed following early feedback, was updated to include the specified 27 Areas for Improvement (AFIs) and all the recommendations contained in the report.

**4. Progress**

- 4.1 The Custody Improvement Plan records all recommendations, progress and the actions which have already been discharged and those which remain in progress. The plan is updated on a bi-monthly basis and is reviewed at the Organisational Improvement Group, with additional scrutiny provided through the HMICFRS Gold Group chaired by DCC Baldwin. The latest version has been sent to HMICFRS for their information prior to their revisit later this year (date to be confirmed). The revisit will comprise of a meeting of the lead Inspector and the Head of Custody and be on a much smaller scale than the original inspection.
- 4.2 As previously reported to the Board on 4 January 2018, the report identified one “Area of Concern” with an associated recommendation:
- Area of concern:* the collaborative arrangements with Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire had resulted in a lack of accountability and scrutiny for custody services at senior officer level in Cambridgeshire Constabulary.
- Recommendation:* the force should take clear accountability for the delivery of custody services to Cambridgeshire detainees, with effective scrutiny and oversight to ensure safe and respectful outcomes for detainees.
- 4.3 This appears as action 1 on the Custody Improvement Plan and as a result the Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) has reiterated the governance lines for custody:
- The DCC of Herts chairs the Operational Support Board on behalf of the Strategic Alliance (Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire).
- Custody and Criminal Justice form part of the Operational Support Portfolio, led on behalf of all three forces by an ACC.
- The Cambridgeshire ACC represents the Force on the Board.
- 4.4 With regards to Kings Lynn Police Investigation Centre, governance is no different with accountability resting with the collaborated Custody management team. Improved engagement and management scrutiny has been initiated since the inspection, at Superintendent and custody Inspector levels.
- 4.5 Twenty of the 42 actions on the plan are still being progressed. A number with our Estates Department are naturally taking longer to resolve for example cell ventilation, the size of shower screens, access to exercise facilities and the condition of our clinical rooms.

## 5. Recommendations

- 5.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of the report.
- 5.2 A further report is provide after the re-inspection visit and feedback.

<b>Contact Officer(s)</b>	T/Chief Inspector Kate Firman, Head of Custody (Cambridgeshire)
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