



2023/2024 Annual Statistics

1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Purpose

It is the responsibility of the Staffordshire Commissioners Office (SCO), in accordance with section 51 of the Police Reform Act 2002, to operate an Independent Custody Visiting Scheme which provides an independent check on the way the Force carry out their duties with regard to DP's. These arrangements allow the SCO to secure greater understanding and confidence in the operation of the custody environment and the treatment of Detained Persons (DPs).

The SCO produce quarterly statistical data and annual statistical data from the information provided by Independent Custody Visitors on their ICV1 report forms collected as part of visits made to the Custody Suites in Staffordshire. The production of statistical data assists in the management of the scheme and provides insight at a regional and national level of visits conducted to DP's. Statistical data is contained in pages 3 & 4.

Background

Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) are volunteers appointed from the local community. Their role is to observe, comment and report on the conditions under which persons are detained in Police custody. Their visits provide an independent check on the way Police Officers carry out their duties in relation to the statutory and other rules governing the welfare of DP's.

In Staffordshire there are two ICV Panels. The Northern Area Panel has 7 members and is responsible for visits to the Northern Area Custody Facility (NACF) at Etruria. The Southern Area Panel (SACF) also comprises 9 members and visits the Watling Custody Facility at Gailey.

ICVs are required to conduct their visits in pairs and following each visit they complete an ICV1 Form recording the arrival, start and end time for each visit, the gender of the DP and whether an adult or young person. It records the number of DPs present, the number accepting a visit and the reasons why a visit was not accepted or able to be conducted. The form also has space for the ICVs and Custody Sergeants to make and respond to comments and also for the ICVs to record matters raised by the DP's they visit.

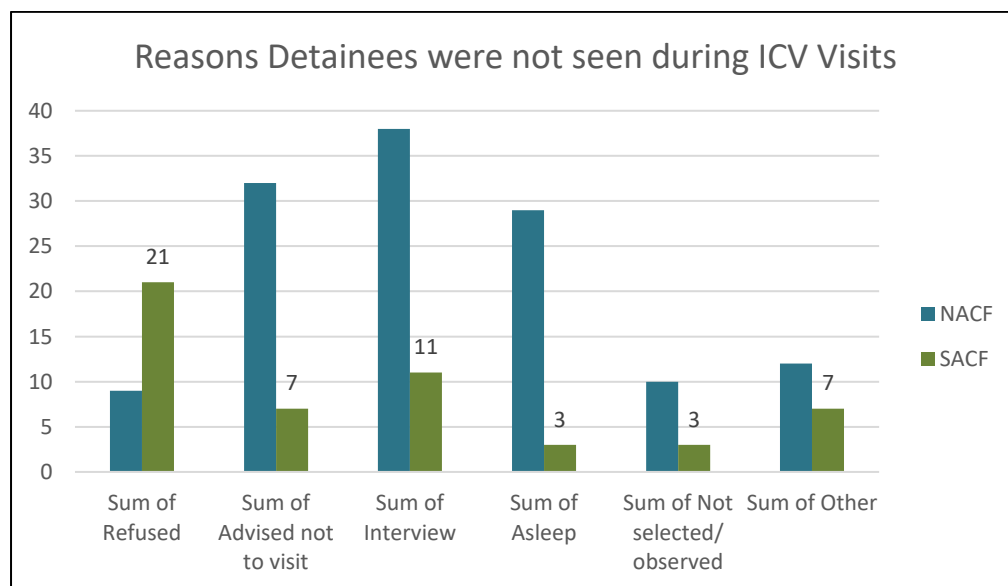
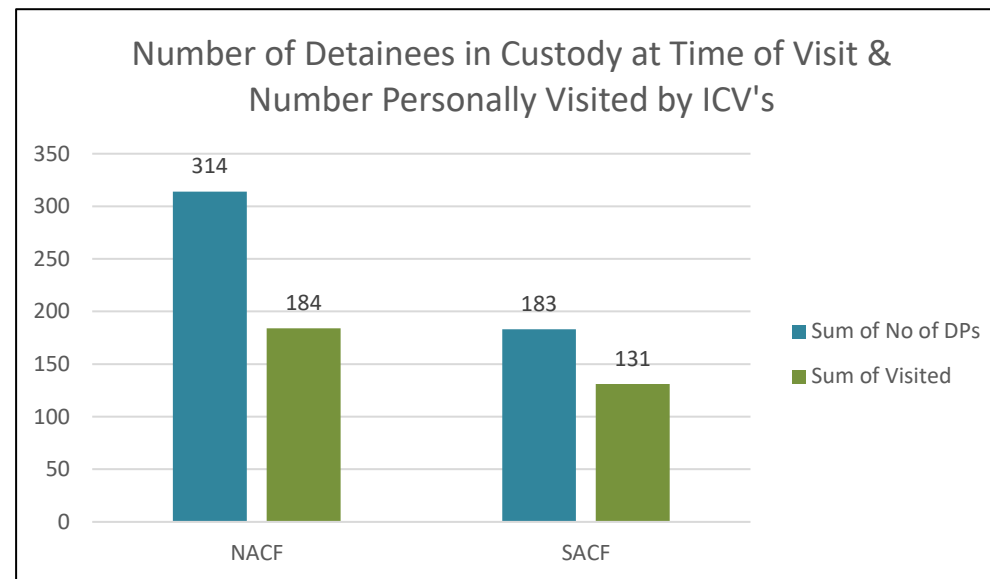
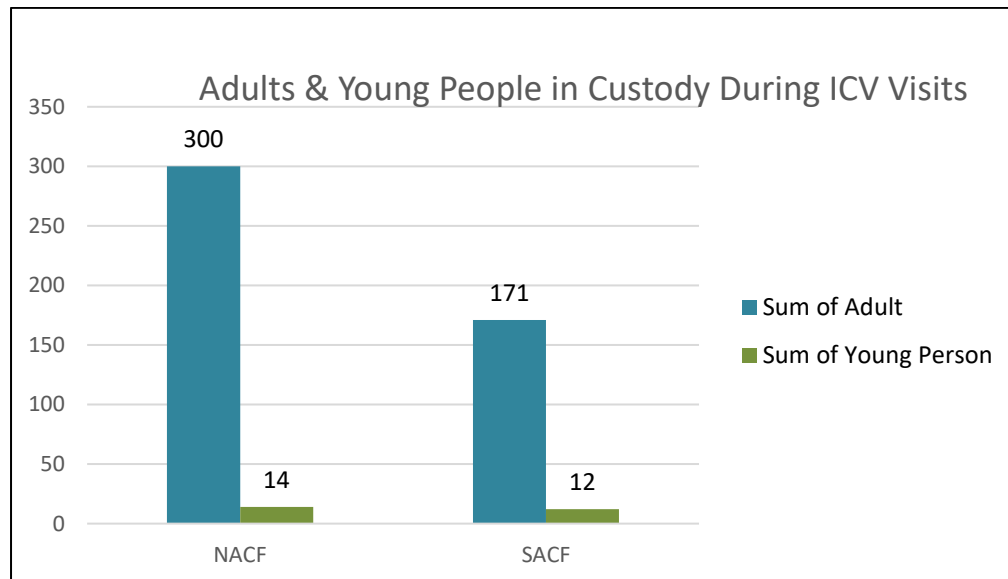
Summary

- During this reporting period there have been 18 requests by the ICVs of formal issue resolution by Staffordshire Police, all of which have been responded to with an acceptable level of resolution and there are no outstanding matters.
- The ICV waiting time for admittance to the Custody Facilities shows 64 out of 96 admittances being immediate and 95 being within 5 minutes. Two exceeded 5 minutes due to extreme levels of demand in the facility and in one case a visit was abandoned. The short wait time for admittance in the majority of visits demonstrating openness to visits by Staffordshire Police.
- Work is ongoing to enhance the number of visits during the night hours, through recruitment of additional volunteers, this is to be balanced with the detainees right to a sleep period.
- The SCO wishes to thank the Custody Teams in Staffordshire Police and the Independent Custody Visitors for their commitment to ensuring that the welfare of detainees has been maintained in Staffordshire Custody Facilities.

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Detainee Statistics

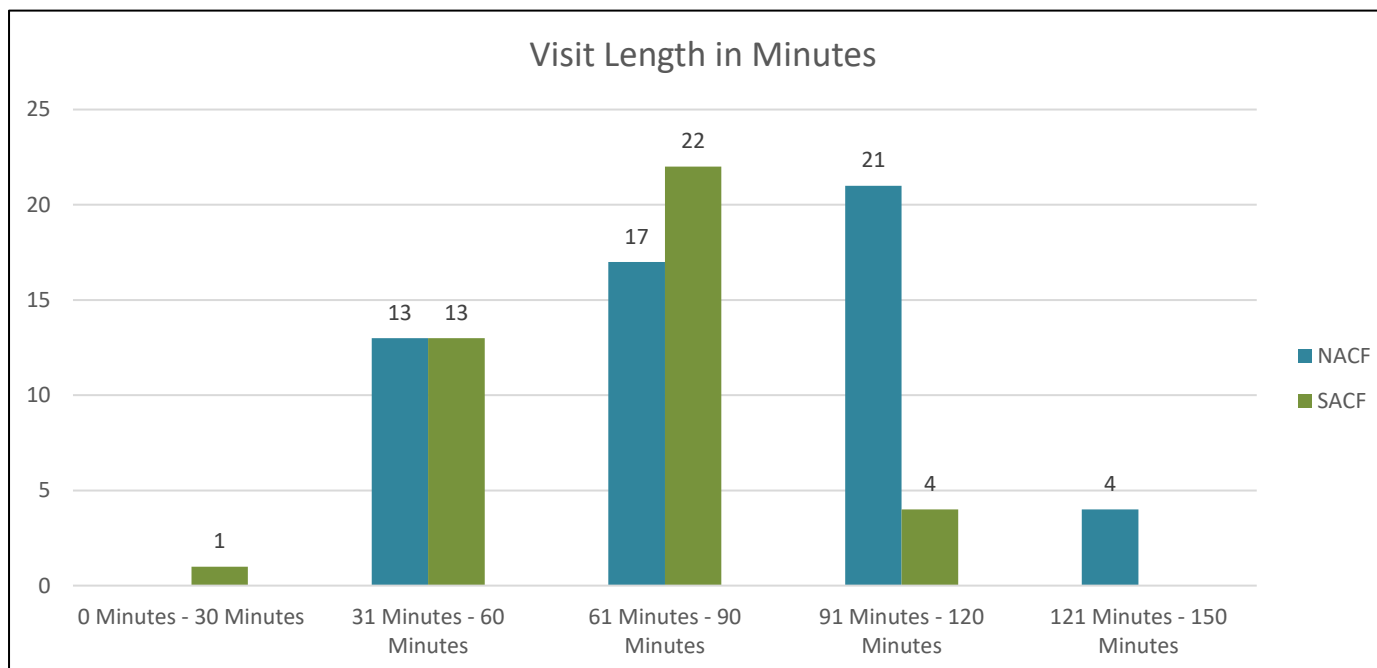
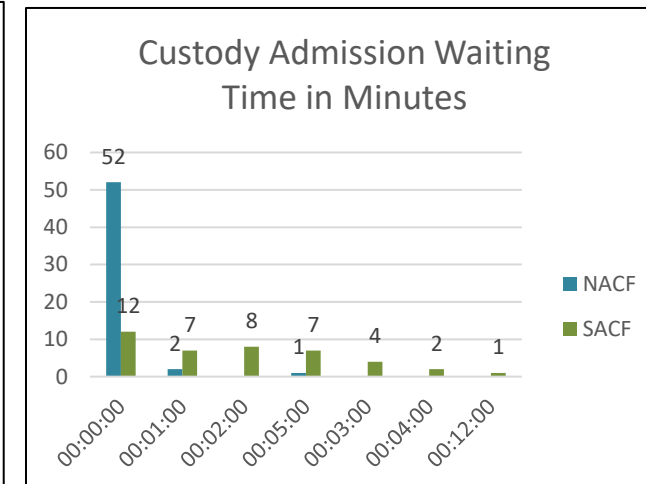
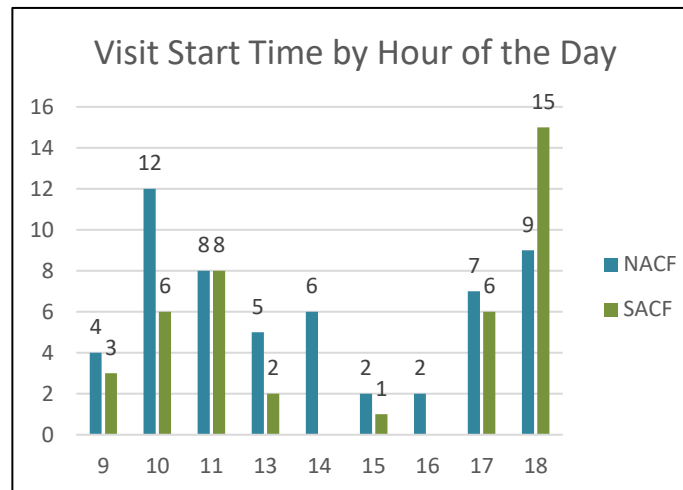
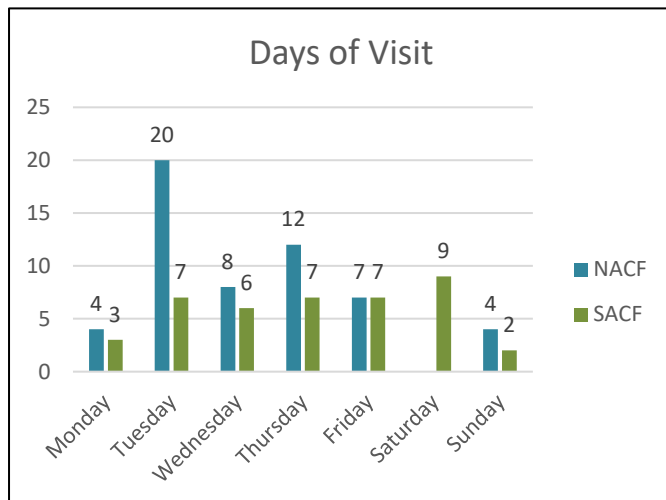


Between 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2024 15,962 people were detained by Staffordshire Police.

Proportionally, of all detainees for Staffordshire Police for the 12-month period prior to this report, adults represented 94.7% and juveniles 5.3%.

Of those present on ICV visits in this year adults make up the majority of detainees 94.7% across all panels, 5.3% were juveniles. These numbers are therefore representative of the detainee profile of Staffordshire Police custody facilities.

Visit Statistics



ICVs should be admitted immediately to the custody area. The visit start time should be recorded at the moment they have been admitted to the custody area. If access is delayed for more than five minutes the credibility of the visit could be questioned. Access to the general custody suite from the reception area should only be delayed when the Custody Officer considers that the ICV may be placed in immediate danger if they are allowed to enter.

Average visit length across all panels for the period is **80 minutes**.

Actual time spent by Staffordshire's ICVs inspecting Custody Suites in this period amounts to **125 hours and 08 minutes**.