



Independent  
Custody Visitor



## Independent Custody Visitors Northern Panel

Notes of the meeting held on Thursday 16 June 2022 19:00 at Newcastle Community Fire Station

*These notes are not verbatim but aim to give an overview of items discussed and actions arising*

No:	Item:	
1	<b>Welcome &amp; Apologies</b>	<div> <div> <b>Attendees:</b>  Elizabeth Shenton  Andy Carter  Sandra Beard  Cate Whitehouse  Colin Melvin  Helen Fisher – Deputy Police, Fire &amp; Crime Commissioner  Michelle Ryan- Staffordshire Commissioner's Office </div> <div> <b>Non-Attendees:</b>  Elena Johnson  Katie Henshall  Rhiannon Stephenson  Prim Handforth  Margaret Redfearn  Nigel Sanderson  Kerry Berrisford  Inspector Karen Cooke- Staffordshire Police </div> </div>
2	<b>Minutes and Matters Arising</b>	Previous minutes were agreed and action points completed.
3	<b>Visits</b>	<p>The Independent Custody Visitor's gave an overview of their visits. Issues noted included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food wrappers are still being seen in the cells some time after food has been consumed. In some cases, several food wrappers were seen. The ICVs are concerned that the wrappers are not being removed in a timely manner and would like clarification on what the policy is now on removal of rubbish.</li> <li>The panel discussed the process when detainees come in to custody and then have to go to hospital. There had been a recent case when a detainee had come into custody and the <span style="color: red;">n</span> admitted to hospital for a week. Two officers had been deployed to attend and stay with the detainee.</li> <li>Concern was raised with regard to capacity issues and waiting times and how this ties up resources from the front line</li> <li>ICVs asked that Custody staff should be reminded to inform ICVs at the beginning of a visit if there are children or young people being detained.</li> </ul>
4	<b>Police Update</b>	No police update provided.



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		<p>Inspector Cooke was unable to attend. Inspector Cooke has informed the panel that she will be leaving her current post and moving to another area of the force.</p> <p>The Panel wished to thank Inspector Cooke for her contribution to the panel and in particular how she supported the ICVs and has kept the panel well informed of changes within custody and her vision for a better custody environment.</p>
5	<b>Commissioner's Update</b>	<p><b>ICV1 and ICV2 Forms</b></p> <p>ICV1 forms have been agreed and sent to the printers following consultation with ICVs. ICVA are now asking for demographic data. A copy of the briefing note from ICVA was circulated to the panel explaining the reason for the collection of this data. The ICV2 form had been adapted to capture this information. An ICV2 for should be completed for every detainee that is interacted with. Demographic data is available on the Custody Log. ICVs have been asked to complete the new boxes on the ICV2 form using the data from the custody log. It was agreed that, if available, the ICVs could ask for the data for detainees where the custody log is not physically provided.</p> <p><b>Custody Record Reviews</b></p> <p>Additional guidance and support had been given by the Force in terms of identifying where information is within the custody record. The force had also agreed that ICVs would have the full unredacted custody log. It was agreed that a further Custody Record Review would be set up.</p> <p><b>ICVA Quality Assurance Framework</b></p> <p>The panel were informed that the Staffordshire Scheme would be looking to achieve the Platinum standard. In 2018 Staffordshire achieved Gold standard. Only two areas, Derbyshire and Sussex, had previously achieved Platinum. It was agreed that there is significant work involved in going for Platinum.</p> <p><b>Training</b></p> <p>This topic will become a standard item on the agenda. It was agreed that future bite sized training will be delivered as part of future meetings. In addition, a mixture of face to face and on MS Teams would be considered.</p>



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**STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER**  
Police | Fire and Rescue | Crime

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		<p><b>Visits with ICVs</b> Helen Fisher indicated that she would be happy to attend a visit with the ICVs. MR to organise.</p> <p><b>Cross Visiting between Custody Facilities</b> ICVs were offered the opportunity to visit the Southern Custody Facility at Watling. The panel were informed that ICVs from Southern would be offered the same opportunity. The panel asked about the feasibility of visiting another scheme. MR will ask other Schemes about the possibility of this.</p> <p><b>Commissioner's Office – Staffing</b> The panel were informed that Caroline Gascoyne had left. There was no indication yet as to when she would be replaced.</p>
6	<b>AOB</b>	ICVs indicated that the new process of visiting another wing if the allocated wing was too busy was working well.
7	<b>Date and Time of Next Meeting</b>	<b>To be rescheduled at Newcastle Community Fire Station.</b>

<b>Action Log:</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
• To clarify what the policy is on food wrapper/ rubbish removal from cells	MR
• To request that Custody Staff inform ICVs if young persons are being detained at the beginning of a visit	MR
• To arrange a further Custody Record Review Session	MR
• To arrange visit for Deputy PFCC with ICVs	MR
• To investigate possibility of visit to another ICV Scheme	MR
• To reschedule the September Panel Meeting	MR