

Independent Custody Visitors Southern Panel

Notes of the meeting held on Thursday 12 January 2023 18:30 – Cannock Community Fire Station

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

No:	Item:		
1	Welcome & Apologies	Attendees: Bev Cooper Anita Griffiths Anna Shaw Lisa Tunney Antony Jones Michael Guest Michelle Ryan- Staffordshire Commissioner's Office	Non-Attendees: Anita Griffiths Inspector Tim Heap.
2	Notes and Matters Arising	<p>Previous minutes were agreed and action points completed.</p> <p>The panel took some time to remember and reflect on Ravi Bhakhri who had sadly passed on 16 November 2022. Ravi had been an Independent Custody Visitor since February 2014. Ravi was well known for his sense of humour and his ability to make you feel at ease, two essential assets for an ICV. He will be sorely missed.</p>	
3	Visits	<p>Noting of ICV visits on the Custody Logs</p> <p>The panel indicated they had some concerns. They had noted that when they came to look at a few of the custody logs their visit had not been noted. It was their understanding that these should be noted as soon as they occurred. ICVs were asked to ensure that these omissions were noted on their ICV1 forms. In addition, ICVs were asked to check closely the custody logs for vulnerable children and adults to ensure risk assessments; referral to HCP and AAs had been called and the timeliness of their attendance and make note on the ICV1 forms. Michelle indicated that she would circulate ICVA Check Lists that will support this.</p> <p>ICVs were reminded to ensure they report everything on the ICV1 form. ICVs were also reminded to complete the reverse of the ICV2 form for detainee visited.</p> <p>Feedback on Visits No major issues raised.</p>	

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		ICVs to check that detainees had been informed that they were entitled to a shower, distraction items offered and access to exercise area also offered. In addition to check that Custody Sergeants had visited detainees on their areas following a change of shift.
4	Police Update	<p>STAFFING. Since the last ICV meeting, there have been changes in the Custody Management Team at Chief Inspector and Inspector level. Chief Inspector Lucy Maskew has joined Justice Services, replacing Chief Inspector Dave Barrow who has returned to the Knowledge Hub. Inspector Andy Graham has replaced Inspector Karen Cooke as the Custody Manager for NACF.</p> <p>In relation to Sergeants, there have been a number of retirements but the site will be fully staffed following an ongoing recruitment process. A Custody Sergeant's training Course starts soon where more Sergeants will be trained to go on the custody backfill list, increasing custody's resilience.</p> <p>Three more CDOs joined SACF over the summer and all have now completed their training/mentoring and are signed off as independent. Since the training of CDOs returned to 'in house' training, the quality of the new CDOs has been high. There is a CDO Course in February/March, where 8 new CDOs will commence. The number of Inspectors in Custody is increasing. Six Inspectors will have responsibility for all PACE reviews at both sites between 0700 and 2300 hours, as well as continuing with all of their current responsibilities.</p> <p>ESTATES There has been extensive building work carried out at Watling throughout the summer. Cell A2 has been converted into a disability cell: the HCP room has been refurbished; new affray alarm strips have been installed throughout the custody block and a dedicated detainees kitchen has been installed. For periods of time over the summer, one of the two wings at Watling, or the whole block itself have had to be closed. This meant that there was increased pressure and increased numbers of prisoners at NACF, so staff from Watling were diverted there to help out. There are no major works planned at Watling for the foreseeable future, and there are plans for a major refurbishment for Watling Custody in the summer of 2024.</p>

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	<p>PERFORMANCE.</p> <p>Detainee numbers continue to rise at Watling. During pre-Covid times, the average number of detainees a month at Watling was approximately 380 to 400. However, SACF are regularly booking in 500 prisoners a month. Even though the Custody Sergeants are booking in more prisoners, the average wait times (the time that prisoners are waiting to be booked in) has not increased. In October 2022, 521 prisoners were booked in at Watling, November it was 489, and in December it was 525.</p> <p>Children and Young People in Police Custody remains an area under great scrutiny. All Children and Young People in Custody who are kept in overnight are reviewed by the Custody Inspectors, to ensure that it was necessary for the child to be kept in custody, that they were fully safeguarded, that Appropriate Adults were contacted quickly, that partner agencies were contacted where appropriate, etc.</p> <p>Mental Health is also an area under great scrutiny. The Custody Inspectors review all detainees suffering from mental health issues, to ensure that they remain in custody for as little time as possible, to ensure that all partner agencies are contacted and that all referrals are made, that if they are sectioned, that they are transferred to an appropriate hospital as soon as possible, etc.</p> <p>The number of detainees who are bailed with conditions continues to rise, and the number of detainees who are Released Under Investigation (RUI) continues to fall. This is a positive move, as it allows the Police to have greater control of suspects when released from custody, and allows us to safeguard injured parties and witnesses to a higher level. This is especially so after 28th October 2022 following a change in the law, which removes the presumption that detainees should be RUI, with the presumption being that they will be bailed, either with or without conditions.</p> <p>MISCELLANEOUS.</p> <p>CI Maskew has arranged for a Peer Review into how we deal with CYPs, vulnerability and Safeguarding in Custody throughout Staffordshire. Norfolk Police are conducting the review, headed by a retired Chief Inspector.</p> <p>Update from Chief Inspector Maskew</p>
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		It would be useful if ICVs could check that children have been referred to Liaison and Diversion Team and the HCP and make an appropriate note on the ICV1 confirming this had occurred.
5	Commissioner Update	<p>Completion of ICV1s ICVs to ensure that all boxes are completed fully. A number of forms have been submitted with blank fields. It was acknowledged that when current supplies of ICV1 forms are exhausted, the layout may change slightly</p> <p>Custody Visits It was noted that in the quarterly reports that the majority of visits by ICVs were being undertaken on a Tuesday and Thursday. ICVs were asked if it was possible to vary the day and times of visits.</p> <p>Training Bitesize training sessions would be undertaken as part of the ICV meeting. Date and times would be agreed and circulated together with information on a relevant training sessions. It was agreed that Bitesize Training sessions would be incorporated as part of the quarterly ICV meeting</p> <p>Recruitment Currently waiting for security clearance for 2 new ICVS to join the Northern Panel. The Commissioner's Office will be interviewing for two more ICVs for the Southern Panel at the end of the month. Looking to undertake further ICV recruitment using Facebook as this had been the most successful method recently.</p> <p>Regional Meeting of Scheme Managers A Meeting has been arranged for January for other Scheme Managers. It was anticipated that a regional seminar would be discussed which the ICVs welcomed.</p>
6	AOB	None
8	Date and Time of Next Meeting	Thursday 30 March 2023 at 18:30 Thursday 15 June 2023 at 18:30

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	Thursday 14 September 2023 at 18:30 Thursday 14 December 2023 at 18:30
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Action Log:

Action	Responsible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To circulate ICVA checklists to ICVs to support closer scrutiny of children and vulnerable adults in custody 	MR
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	