

Independent Custody Visitors Southern Panel

Notes of the meeting held on Thursday 12 May 2022 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 Helen Fisher – Deputy Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner Michelle Ryan- Staffordshire Commissioner's Office	Non-Attendees: Antony Jones Gail Smith Michael Guest Ravi Bhakhri Inspector Tim Heap.
2	Notes and Matters Arising	Previous minutes were agreed. Action point updates- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible room for ICVs – Inspector Tim Heap indicated that his room is always available and that ICVs should indicate they wished to use his room and he would vacate to enable the ICVs. • Inspector Heap was made aware of the incident that had been discussed at the last meeting. • Copy of Custody Record Review forms were distributed after the last meeting. • A new rota had been sent around to all ICVs including a requirement for a new check on Religious Items. 	
3	Visits	ICVs gave feedback on their recent visits. The following issues were raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the two last visits the temperature in the custody block was excessive. Custody Staff also feedback to ICVs that the temperature was excessive but not as hot in the cells. Action: to raise this with Inspector Heap for feedback on how this is being addressed. • A detainee had indicated to the ICV that they didn't want anyone to be notified of their detention but was concerned that their pet dog as alone. ICVs asked what arrangements were, if any, in place to ensure that the animal was cared for. Action: To clarify what the process is in this situation. 	

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4	Police Update	<p><u>Staffing.</u> March and April were extremely tough months for Custody with a large rise in Covid cases. Custody was kept open by a combination of overtime and using backfill Custody trained Sergeants from Neighbourhood and Response.</p> <p>Three new CDOs have just started and were mentored throughout the end of April and the start of May. All have passed their 'probationary' period, and will all soon be signed off as independent. There is another CDO course in June, but it has not yet been decided where these new CDOs will be going.</p> <p>A Custody Sergeants' Course has started and it is hoped that by mid-June Watling Custody will be back to three Sergeants per shift.</p> <p><u>Estates.</u> A full refurbishment of Watling Custody is planned for the summer of 2023. It was originally due in the summer of 2022, but major issues at NACF have meant that this had to be pushed back a year.</p> <p>Over the next couple of months there is major work planned for Watling Custody that will require the shutting of each wing for a prolonged period of time. The nature of the work means that B Wing will be closed between 6th and 15th June and A Wing will be closed between 20th and 24th June.</p> <p>The whole Watling site (not just Custody) will also have to shut for two days to allow an increase in the electricity capacity of the site (due to the increase in usage of electricity following Property being situated at Watling). The dates have not yet been confirmed.</p> <p><u>Performance.</u> Detainee levels are now constantly back to pre-Covid levels. For the months of March and April custody is averaging over 100 detainees per week. Waiting times to be booked into Custody continue to reduce, as do the average length of time that each detainee is detained.</p>
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		<p>Young People in Custody is an area with particular scrutiny. All Sergeants and CDOs have received extra training in relation what needs to be done when a young person is in Police Custody, especially overnight. Young people make up less than 4% of the total number of detainees, and the vast majority of these young people are aged 16 to 17. Very few young people in Police Custody are aged 10 to 13, and extra scrutiny is applied to those of a younger age.</p> <p>The number of detainees bailed continues to rise and the number Released Under Investigation (RUI) continues to fall, which is positive, as it means that there is greater control of detainees once they have left Custody, the Force are able to safeguard injured parties and witnesses far more effectively.</p> <p><u>Miscellaneous.</u> HMICFRS visited the Force in April, including Custody. They spoke to CI Barrow, Insp Cooke, Insp Heap, and a selection of Custody Sergeants and CDOs. The full report will not be published for a few months, but the Force will get a brief update outlining any highlights or areas for development.</p>
5	Commissioner Update	<p><u>Expenses</u> Volunteers were informed of the new process and clarity was given on the new process.</p> <p><u>Quality Assurance Framework</u> The Scheme will be striving to achieve the Platinum Standard this time. Last time Gold Standard was achieved. The submission for the next assessment will be in 18 months' time. A discussion followed on some of the changes required and the worth of collection of some of the data. This included the demographic information of detainees. Further clarification is being sought from ICVA. ICVs were concerned with the impact on the additional requirements.</p> <p><u>Custody Record Reviews</u> The test run had been completed by two ICVs from the Northern Panel. The exercise had been a good opportunity to test the CRR form. It was identified that the exercise required a full copy of the Custody Log to ensure the process was completed fully and correctly</p>

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6	AOB	<p><u>Panel Co-Ordinator Role</u> The panel were still looking to appoint a Panel Co-ordinator and welcomed the recruitment of more volunteers.</p> <p><u>Training</u> ICVs indicated their preference to have face to face training. It was suggested that the ICVA Bitesize training could be a pre-meeting training session rather than via MS Teams.</p>
8	Date and Time of Next Meeting	Thursday 14 July 2022 at 18:30 at Cannock Community Fire Station

Action Log:

Action	Responsible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To contact Inspector Heap for an update on the heating issue in Custody. 	MR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To clarify what occurs where a pet is left at home when a detainee is in custody 	MR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To clarify with ICVA issue on data collection on detainees 	MR