

**To: Chair and Members
of the Professional Standards Panel
Date 28th July 2011**

Executive Officer: Julie Leng
Presented by: Kath Allaway

Status : For decision

Independent Custody Visiting Annual report 2010-2011

1. Purpose of the report

To provide Police Authority members with an update on the Cleveland Police Authority Independent Custody visiting Scheme in particular in respect of the number of visitors, visits undertaken, training and meetings during 2010–2011.

2. Recommendations

That Members' receive the annual report and agree its publication on the Cleveland Police Authority website.

3. Reasons

Police Authorities are required to operate an Independent Custody Visiting Scheme within the Police Reform Act 2002. National guidance published recommends that regular visits are undertaken by volunteers recruited and managed by the Police Authority, to Police Custody units. Within this guidance Visits are undertaken in pairs and are unannounced. Visitors must be allowed access to the Custody area immediately unless there is a safety issue in which case this must be recorded.

Visits have been undertaken to all Cleveland Police Custody units on a regular basis. Middlesbrough and Hartlepool are visited on a weekly basis, with

Redcar and Cleveland District continuing to be visited two weekly. This reflects the low number of detainees held in the cells at Redcar. Appendix 'A' gives the detailed information relating to the number of visits undertaken, the number of detainees held at the time of visits and the number of detainees seen by the Independent Custody Visitors during 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Any issues identified at the time of the visits are dealt with usually before the visit is completed. If an issue cannot be resolved at the time then the Custody Visitors will contact the Scheme manager who will resolve it with the Custody Inspector or the Reliance Custody Manager. All issues were dealt with in this way during 2010/11 only three issues were not dealt with at the time of the visits, two of these related to delays at the front desk and this was dealt with by the staff being reminded of the requirement to admit ICVs immediately unless there was a safety issue. The third issue although resolved at the time was also brought to the attention of the Scheme manager and also raised at a panel meeting as it related to the on-going difficulties with place of safety 'detention'.

Panel meetings continue to be held on a quarterly basis at Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Hartlepool. These meetings raise issues experienced within the visits and are attended by Independent Custody Visitors, Councillor Ron Lowes, Lead Member of the Police Authority, the Scheme Manager, a representative from the Custody Inspectors and representatives from Reliance. The minutes of the panels are circulated to the Independent Custody Visitors, Lead Member, Custody Inspectors and Reliance Custody Managers. They are available from the scheme manager and from April 2011 will be available on Cleveland Police Authority's website.

Recruitment

During 2010-11 a recruitment campaign resulted in the appointment of seven Custody Visitors across the three panels. The appointments were three males, including one BME and four females. This was offset by the death of one long serving ICV and the resignation of one other ICV.

Middlesbrough Panel has increased its strength with the recruitment of two visitors and is now at 11, enabling weekly visits. Redcar has sufficient visitors to fulfil a rota for two weekly visits however three of the new visitors have been appointed to Redcar and Cleveland Panel, taking the strength to 10, and once fully trained this could result in more visits taking place. Visitors can also undertake more than one visit in their allocated two weeks if they wish. The number of visitors at Hartlepool Panel has increased by two to 7 better facilitating weekly visits whilst relieving the panel co-ordinator slightly although he continues to assist Middlesbrough Panel with visits when asked. Middlesbrough panel visitors also assist with visits at Hartlepool.

Appraisals, Training, briefings and regional meetings.

Appraisals for Custody Visitors were carried out in 2010. All Visitors elected to remain with the Authority. The appraisals are due to be undertaken in July for 2011. Training and briefing sessions have been held on Diversity and Human Rights. The initial training for the new recruits was also used as refresher training for the existing ICVs.

Two Independent Custody Visitors attended the National Conference at Leeds with the Lead Member and Scheme Manager in November 2010.

The Volunteers welcome the attendance of Councillor Lowes as the Police Authority representative at the meetings and briefing sessions and have thanked him for his continued commitment. The Lead member attended Panel meetings, training and briefing sessions and the National Conference.

Unfortunately the Regional Conference was not held in Durham in 2010 nor have the Regional meetings, in Durham or Northumbria, gone ahead, as planned and there is some doubt as to its future due to reduced budgets. If the regional conference is not possible then Cleveland will hold a local conference for its Visitors.

4. Implications

4.1 Finance

There are no financial implications in applying this code, administration and training associated with Custody Visiting is included in the Police Authority annual budget

4.2 Diversity/Equal Opportunities

There are no direct implications from this report although the balance of Independent Custody Visitors is considered when recruiting and positive efforts are made to recruit volunteers from the BME Community.

4.3 Sustainability

There are no sustainability implications within the report, action has been taken or is planned to ensure that the Police Authority comply with legislation and the Code of Practice.

4.4 Risk

Compliance with Legislation and Codes of Practise will negate any risk the Police Authority would face from non compliance.

Julie Leng

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Visit Statistics

No Of Visits undertaken			Detainees		Offered a visit		Visited			
	09/10	10/11	09/10	10/11	09/10	10/11	09/10	%	10/11	%
M	50	39	484	530	370	378	271	73%	260	69%
R&C	32		77	86	66	65	24	36%	28	43%
H	49	46	174	180	160	166	100	63%	101	61%

Independent Custody Visitor Statistics

Total number	Gender		Ethnicity		Total	
	Male	female	White	BME	2010	2011
M	5	6	10	1	11	11
R&C	1	9	10		7	10
H	4	3	7		5	7

Age: (based on data provided by ICVs)

	18-30		31-40		41-50		51-60		61-70		71-80		80+	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
M				1		2	1	1	1	1	1		1	
R&C		2						2		1	1	1		
H	1						1		1				1	

Recruits 2010 (included in above)

	18-30		31-40		41-50		51-60		61-70		71-80		80+	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
M						1	1							
R&C		2						1						
H							1		1					