

**To: Chair and Members
of the Professional Standards Panel
Date 29th July 2010**

Executive Officer: Julie Leng
Presented by: Kath Allaway

Status : For decision

Independent Custody Visitors Home Office Code of Practice

1. Purpose of the report

The Home Office has issued a new code of practice in respect of the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme. There is likely to be National guidance produced in the future to go with the Code of Practice but it is not clear when this will be published. The action plan attached at appendix A has therefore been produced to ensure that Cleveland Police Authority is complying with the new Code.

2. Recommendations

That members note the receipt of the Code of Practice and accept the action plan to ensure that the Authority complies with the Code.

3. Reasons

A new Code of Practice was issued by the Home Office at the end of April in respect of Independent Custody Visiting Schemes. A copy is available if members want to view the full code however the Action plan at appendix A shows the principles of the code and the action required to ensure that the Police Authority complies with the Code.

In most aspects the Police Authority already complies with the Code but some areas require attention and these are highlighted in red. In some areas it has been possible to implement the action between receiving the code and this meeting.

The Scheme administrator has worked with the Lead Member for Custody Visiting to implement the improvements and liaison has taken place with the Independent Custody 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. (More details in the Annual report on this agenda)

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 within a reasonable period of time.

4.4 Risk

Compliance with this code will negate any risk of non compliance that the Police Authority could face if action wasn't taken.

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