

Report of the Chief Executive to the Chair and Members of the Professional Standards Panel

Presenting Officer: Joe McCarthy/Cllr Ron Lowes

Status: For Decision

Independent Custody Visitors Carers Allowance

1. **Purpose**
2. To consider including a carers allowance into the Independent Custody Visitors Scheme.
3. **Recommendations**
4. That members agree the payment of a carers allowance in respect of training and panel meetings.
5. **Reasons**
6. When members agreed to make a payment of an annual honorarium to Independent Custody Visitors it was also agreed that consideration would be given to payment of a carers allowance.
7. The Police Authority takes seriously its commitment to training the Independent Custody Visitors and also holding regular panel meetings. Whilst visits can be undertaken at the convenience of the pairs of Visitors arranging each visit it is not possible for individual visitors to have such control over training and meetings.
8. To enable those visitors with dependents to attend training and panel meetings it was agreed to look at the payment of a carers allowance in respect of such dependents. The recommendation is in line with the carers allowance included in the Members allowance scheme.

9. **Recommendations**

10. This report recommends that:-

11. Where a carer is employed as part of a professional organisation then claims must be supported by a receipt. In all other circumstances no more than £5 per hour will be paid. The allowance is payable in respect of children under 16 and other dependents where there is medical or social work evidence that care is required. The allowance is not payable where the carer is a relative of the Custody Visitor.

12. **Implications**

13. Financial

14. It is difficult to predict the implication of this recommendation as it will depend on the number of claims received. At the present time there is only one visitor that the scheme administrator is aware of that it might effect. The panel meetings are generally 1.5 hrs and once a quarter. Training can be up to half a day and again quarterly. It is expected that any financial implications will be minimal.

15. Diversity and Equal Opportunities

16. There are no direct implications of this report however the presence of such an allowance may encourage applicants who would otherwise not have been able to apply.

17. Human Rights Act Implications

18. There are no implications.

19. Sustainability

20. This report is sustainable within the Police Authority budget as the implications are expected to be minimal. Any improvement in the scheme that may encourage applicants will improve the sustainability of the scheme.

21. Risk

22. There are no risks in this report.

Joe McCarthy
Chief Executive

Appendix 1

Cleveland Police Authority Independent Custody Scheme Payments.

Honorarium

This is paid annually to those Custody Visitors undertaking visits at the time of the payment. It will not be paid to those who are on a period of leave of absence but a proportion may be paid once those visitors commence visits again.

Whilst ICV is a volunteer scheme the honorarium recognises the amount of stationary and telephone calls made by the ICVs in arranging visits. It is not in any way a payment for undertaking visits, attending training or attending panel meetings.

Mileage Allowance

Motor vehicle allowance is in accordance with those agreed by the PSC for support staff. In 2009 is as follows:

		Per mile First 8500m	After 8500m
Band A	451 – 999cc	42.9p	11.7p
Band B	1000-1199cc	47.7p	12.2p
Band C	over 1200cc	60.1p	14.2p

Carers Allowance

Where a carer is employed as part of a professional organisation then claims must be supported by a receipt. In all other circumstances no more than £5 per hour will be paid. The allowance is payable in respect of children under 16 and other dependents where there is medical or social work evidence that care is required. The allowance is not payable where the carer is a relative of the Custody Visitor.