

ORIGINATOR: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

PAPER NO: AP16/24

**SUBMITTED TO: ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL –
10 JUNE 2016**

SUBJECT: INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME – 2015/16

SUMMARY:

This report summarises the work undertaken by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk to support the operation of the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme in Suffolk between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the PCC:

- (i) notes the content of the report;
- (ii) endorses the ICV Annual Report Summary attached at Appendix A.

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Independent Custody Visiting Scheme in Suffolk comprises two designated Panels to ensure that visits are undertaken at the Constabulary's operational custody facilities at Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich (Martlesham). The information below captures the data for ICV visits between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016.

Panel	No. of Visits	No. of DPs in Custody	No. of DPs avail to be visited	No. of DPs visited	% of DPs visited (of those available)
Bury St Edmunds	49	293	163	146	90%
Ipswich	51	332	157	139	89%
Total	100	625	320	285	89%

- 1.2 The total number of ICVs in Suffolk as at 31 March 2016 was 15. A break-down of the constitution of the Panels is outlined below:

Panel	No. of ICVS in post (31 March 2015)	Optimum no of ICVS
Bury St Edmunds	8	8-12
Ipswich	7	8-12

- 1.3 One custody visitor resigned from the Bury St Edmunds Panel in June 2015 due to the travelling distance to the Police Investigation Centre.
- 1.4 There were a number of retirements from the Ipswich Panel throughout the year. Two retirements in December 2015 – one who had served for 13 years and the other for 8.5 years. In March 2016 two further retirements – one visitor having served for 13 years and the other for 7 years. A further panel member resigned in April 2016 at the end of the six month probation period due to personal and work commitment issues.
- 1.5 In late 2015/early 2016 we advertised for new visitors which resulted in a number of applications. Two visitors were appointed to the Ipswich Panel in April 2016 and six further applications are being progressed subject to police vetting checks and training – three for Ipswich and three for Bury St Edmunds. This recruitment will improve resilience for both panels.

2. ISSUES HIGHLIGHTED BY INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITORS DURING 2015/16

- 2.1 Throughout the year ICVs regularly commented on the professionalism of staff in dealing with detainees and ICVs and in the event of any queries raised, custody officers and staff responded satisfactorily and efficiently. A breakdown of the types of issues raised by detainees is contained in Appendix A.
- 2.2 Given the custody facilities were built in 2011 there have not been any issues raised by ICVs regarding the conditions of the facilities themselves. The main issues that have been highlighted this year relate to the introduction of the Athena IT system and the impact on the processes and staff. ICVs have received regular updates at their

Panel meetings and at the training in November 2015 and February 2016 about how the Constabulary is addressing these problems and supporting staff.

- 2.3 In September 2015 ICVs raised some concerns regarding rousal checks and detainees being advised of their detention being reviewed during their period of rest – these issues were followed up with staff by the Constabulary.
- 2.4 As part of their checks ICVs continue to follow-up on the recommendations from the Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) Custody Inspection in April 2012 for example, checking that custody staff carry anti-ligature knives as a matter of routine. On a couple of occasions ICVs have raised this point with staff who have been working in custody temporarily to ensure that it is included as part of their equipment.

3. OTHER DEVELOPMENTS DURING 2015/16

Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA)

- 3.1 In October 2015 ICVA appointed a new Chief Executive, Katie Kempen, who has been working to review the service provided by ICVA. There have been a number of positive developments in terms of communication with members and improvements to the ICVA website.

LOOKING AHEAD

- 4.1 Given the new recruitment in 2016 there will be a need to undertake continuous training during 2016/17 and plans are being made in conjunction with the Norfolk OPCC and with the Independent Custody Visiting Association to plan this.
- 4.2 The next three yearly review of the Scheme's effectiveness, as per the Home Office Code of Practice, will take place in December 2016.
- 4.3 We continue to work closely with our regional counterparts to share best practice and plans are being made for the ICV Regional Conference 2017 which will be hosted by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire.

5. INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY 2015/16

- 5.1 As outlined in the Home Office Code of Practice for Independent Custody Visiting, the PCC is required to compile an Annual Report at the end of each financial year to highlight the work of the Scheme.
- 5.2 The content of this report for 2015/16 has been drafted in consultation with the ICV Panel Co-ordinators and is attached at Appendix A for consideration and approval.

6. BUDGET POSITION AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The budget spend for 2015/16 was £3,432. This represents an underspend of £568 against the budget of £4,000.
- 6.2 Costs are broken down as follows:

Mileage claims	£2,024
Training	£398
Conferences	£429
Annual subscription to ICVA	£500
Printing and other incidentals	£ 81

- 6.3 In view of the level of spend during 2015/16 and the need for training of new visitors the budget for 2016/17 remains at £4,000.
- 6.4 The linked financial implications in respect of the content of this report relate to the production and design of the ICV Annual Report. This sum is expected to be minimal given that the design is to be undertaken in-house. Further the document will be made available electronically thereby saving on printing costs.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

- 7.1 None.

ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	The originator is a Solicitor and the Monitoring Officer for the PCC for Suffolk
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	N/A
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	N/A
Have human resource implications been considered?	N/A
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	N/A
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	N/A
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	YES
Have all relevant ethical factors been taken into consideration in developing this submission?	YES

In relation to the above, please ensure that all relevant issues have been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission.