



ORIGINATOR: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

PAPER NO. AP13/27

SUBMITTED TO: ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

SUBJECT: INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME – 2012/13

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. For the period to 22 November 2012 the Scheme was the responsibility of the former Suffolk Police Authority.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the PCC:

- (i) notes the content of the report;
- (ii) endorses the ICV Annual Report Summary attached at Appendix 3.

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 2012 and 31 March 2013.

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	50	257	175	132	75%
Ipswich	46	308	210	173	82%
Total	96	565	385	305	79%

- 1.2 The total number of ICVs in Suffolk as at 31 March 2013 was 19. A break-down of the constitution of the Panels is outlined below:

Panel	No. of ICVS in post (31 March 2013)	Optimum no of ICVS
Bury St Edmunds	9	10-12
Ipswich	11	10-12

- 1.3 One ICV was appointed to the Bury St Edmunds Panel in early April which brings the Panel membership up to 10 and total number of ICVs to 20.

2. ISSUES HIGHLIGHTED BY INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITORS DURING 2012/13

- 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.
- 2.2 No major issues of concern were raised by ICVs – further details are included in the Annual Report attached. Some housekeeping and health & safety issues were highlighted which related to a blocked drain in an exercise yard, the stock of disposable underwear and staining to the floor covering. All of these issues were raised with the Constabulary and action taken, where appropriate, to resolve the points raised.

3. REVIEW OF THE HOME OFFICE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING

- 3.1 On the 25 March 2013, a revised Home Office Code of Practice for Independent Custody Visiting was laid in Parliament. The revised Code has been updated to reflect the new arrangements and requirements for ICVs visiting suspected terrorist detainees; to reflect changes to police accountability mechanisms, in particular the transfer of responsibility to provide ICV schemes to PCCs; and to take account of legislative changes since the Code was last revised in early 2010. The revised Code was subject to consultation, which closed on 28 January. The revised Code and details of the responses to the consultation are available on request.

4. INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY 2012/13

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 The content of this report for 2012/13 has been drafted in consultation with the ICV Panel Co-ordinators and is attached at Appendix A for consideration and approval. It includes further statistics and a summary of achievements.

5. HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY (HMIC) AND HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF PRISONS (HMIP) INSPECTION

- 5.1 Between 16 and 20 April 2012, the HMIC/HMIP Police Custody Inspection Team undertook an unannounced inspection of the custody provision for Norfolk and Suffolk and the resulting report was extremely positive. A selection of ICVs from both counties were spoken to as part of the inspection process.
- 5.2 Following publication of the final report on the inspection, an action plan was developed to address any recommendations made; and representatives from the Joint Police Custody Inspection Team re-visited Norfolk and Suffolk on 26 April 2013 to provide a 'health check' as to progress against these recommendations. At the close of this meeting members of the Custody Inspection Team were fully satisfied that all actions highlighted had been progressed accordingly.
- 5.3 Since the publication of the final HMIC/HMIP report and subsequent action plan, ICVs have continued to assist in ensuring the high standards are upheld.

6. BUDGET POSITION AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The outturn figure for 2012/13 was £3,900. This represents an underspend of £1,600 against the budget of £5,500.
- 6.2 Costs are broken down as follows:

Mileage claims	£2,150
Training	£790
Conferences	£260
Annual subscription to ICVA	£500
Printing and other incidentals	£200

- 6.3 In view of the level of spend the budget for 2012/13 has been reduced to £5,000.
- 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; and 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?	No
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?	N/A
In relation to the above, have all relevant issues been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission?	N/A