

DECISION NUMBER: PCCG-2015-052

OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR GWENT

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITORS
HELD AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, CROESYCEILIOG, CWMBRAN
ON 11th MAY 2015**

Present: Mr Brian Thomas (Temporary Chair)
Mr Eric Smith
Mr Arthur Elliott
Mr Anthony Angell
Mr Brian Williams

Also in attendance: Mrs Siân Curley (Scheme Manager)
Mrs Maria Chapman (Assistant Scheme Manager)
Miss Jessica Tippins (Assistant Scheme Administrator)
Detective Inspector Steve Hudson (Custody Inspector)

Apologies were received from the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Paul Harris, Inspector Dave Stroud, Mr Justin Johnstone, Mr John Thomas and Ms Julie Morgan.

The meeting commenced at 2.45 p.m.

Action

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11TH NOVEMBER 2014

1. The minutes were agreed to be an accurate record.

CUSTODY UPDATE

2. Detective Inspector Steve Hudson (SH) provided the group with the custody update on behalf of Inspector Dave Stroud (DS).

SH confirmed that the transition to the new operating model had taken place and was working efficiently with all custody staff working on a four on, four off rota.

SH updated the group that he had contacted the Head of Estates and Facilities regarding the buzzers at Ystrad Mynach but at the time of the meeting no response had been provided. Mrs Maria Chapman (MC) confirmed she had spoken to the Head Of Criminal Justice, Data Management And Information Security Department and was assured the work would be completed by the end of May 2015.

Micah Hassel and Mark Smith were confirmed as the new custody inspectors.

A number of issues were raised following SH's update. Mr Brain Williams (BW) queried that in Newport there is no bell when a buzzer is pressed but there is a light. SH confirmed he would look into this after the meeting.

SH/DS

BW also raised that there was increasing delays following visits in getting forms signed by the custody sergeant. It was confirmed that as long as no issues were raised visitors could get their reports signed off by the custody detention officers (CDO).

Mr Anthony Angell commented on the appearance of the Newport custody suite stating that there is very little space for the visitors to write up their reports as the rooms are being used for storage. MC agreed to raise the issue with estates.

MC

SCHEME UPDATE

3. MC provided the group with the scheme update.

The group were made aware that Miss Ivy Forkin had tendered her resignation as an independent custody visitor. The group all agreed that she will be greatly missed.

A recruitment drive for independent custody visitors was confirmed to take place over the summer.

All members were reminded to randomly check custody records to ensure an independent evaluation of the custody process.

MC made the group aware of the new section.136 mental health concordat which was close to being signed. This would mean that people with mental health issues will not be detained in custody but be taken to a place of safety.

Mr Arthur Elliott (AE) asked for an update on the pilot scheme where nurses are on call with officers. MC confirmed that the pilots were still on-going.

MC confirmed that a training session will take place before the 13th August meeting. Visitors were asked what topics they would like to cover in training. Topics identified were mental health in custody and youth custody. The training would begin at 1pm until 3pm when the Independent Custody Visitor Association (ICVA) meeting would take place.

**KEY POINTS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE JOINT INSPECTORATE
BUSINESS PLAN 2015/16**

4. MC brought the groups attention to the Criminal Justice Joint Inspection (CJJI) Business Plan 2015 which was provided with the agenda.

LETTER FROM ICVA CHIEF EXECUTIVE IAN SMITH

5. MC brought the groups attention to the letter from ICVA Chief Executive Ian Smith.

TRAINING ON APPROPRIATE ADULTS

6. MC delivered training to the group around appropriate adults.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7. The next meeting will consist of training at **1pm until 3pm**, with the meeting at **3pm** on the **13th August 2015** in **Conference Room 1** at Police Headquarters, Croesyceiliog.

Meeting concluded at 4.02pm

Ian Johnston QPM, Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent	
I have monitored the Independent Custody Scheme minutes as per my statutory responsibility under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and am satisfied with progress.	
Signed	Date

Contact Officer	
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Background papers	None

