

DECISIONS NUMBER: PCCG-2014-086

OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR GWENT

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITORS
HELD AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, CROESYCEILIOG, CWMBRAN
ON 11th NOVEMBER 2014**

Present: Mr Justin Johnstone (Chair)
Mr Arthur Elliott
Mr Anthony Angell
Ms Ivy Forkin
Mr Eric Smith
Mr Brian Williams
Mr John Thomas
Mr Brian Thomas

Also in attendance: Mr Paul Harris (Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner)
Inspector Clive Elliot (Newport Custody)
Mrs Sian Curley (Scheme Manager)
Mrs Maria Chapman (Assistant Scheme Manager)
Miss Jessica Tippins (Assistant Scheme Administrator)

Apologies were received from the Police and Crime Commissioner Ian Johnston, Chief Inspector Huw Nicholas and Ms Julie Morgan.

The meeting commenced at 3.00 p.m.

Action

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 30TH JULY 2014

1. Mr Johnstone welcomed the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr Harris.

The minutes were agreed to be an accurate record.

A query was raised regarding if there were any problems during the NATO summit at custody suites. Inspector Elliot confirmed there were no problems encountered as a result of this event.

CUSTODY UPDATE

2. Inspector Elliot made the board aware that work on the buzzers at Ystrad Mynach would begin on Monday (17th November) and that certain areas of the custody suite would be closed whilst this takes place. The Newport custody suite will also be refurbished in the New Year including a number of

camera cells. He was also able to confirm that the custody reviews were still on-going.

We were advised that there is a new scheme being trialled in the Newport area regarding Mental Health street triage. Proposed dates for this trial period are December the 5th/6th & 12th/13th 2014. The scheme will involve a mental health nurse accompanying officers on callouts and assessing individuals with potential mental health issues on location. The OPCC agreed to work with Inspector Elliot to facilitate this pilot.

DEPUTY POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

3. The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC) reminded the group that November marks the two year anniversary of the Police & Crime Commissioner being elected and that he and the Commissioner have been working to capture the highlights from this period. He commented that the Commissioner has been to over 800 different public engagements since being elected which has allowed him to gain real feedback as to what the Police service in Gwent means to its communities. Another highlight has been surrounding the introduction of the victim's charter and the development of the Victim's hub which is due in the Spring of next year. The opening of police stations as a direct result of public feedback was another highlight brought to the group's attention. The final highlight raised was that about changing the 'quantity not quality' approach to crime and he is now confident that crime is being recorded ethically in Gwent.

The DPCC went on to raise the current issue surrounding how 17 year olds are treated in custody. Possibly as early as next Spring, 17 year olds will be treated the same as 15 & 16 year olds.

Finally, DPCC gave thanks on behalf of the Commissioner to the ICVA volunteers for giving their time to ensure independent scrutiny of Gwent's custody system.

DPCC left the meeting.

SCHEME UPDATE

4. Ms Chapman asked all volunteers to ensure the writing on the ICVA report forms is clear and that all long standing issues are recorded fully.

A copy of the scheme update will be sent out with the minutes of this meeting. **JT**

ICVA DIRECTOR FOR WALES REPORT

5. A copy of the report was given to all members for their attention.

CUSTODY HOUSEKEEPING

6. A copy of the report was given to all members for their attention.

HM CHIEF INSPECTOR

7. A joint review of the HMI joint inspection recommendations 2012 was carried out by the OPCC and Insp Elliot. The findings of the completed review would be circulated with the minutes.

A copy of the report was given to all members for their attention. An updated version will be sent out with the minutes. **JT**

SOUTH WALES OPCC'S ANNUAL ICVA SEMINAR

8. A copy of the report was given to all members for their attention. Mrs Chapman advised the group that the seminar was very informative and gave a good overview of South Wales partnership work in custody. Some points from this meeting were highlighted including mental health provision and the TRIAGE Mac diversionary intervention programme which has had a positive impact on re-offending figures for those aged 10-17 years of age. There was also a workshop on performance monitoring which Mrs Chapman is developing for the ICVA Gwent scheme. **MC**

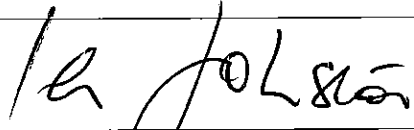
ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9. During a number of visits there have been requests for extra blankets. It was suggested that custody officers frequently ask detainees if they would like extra blankets as the weather turns colder.

The board were notified that a letter had been sent to David Howells on behalf of the group regarding his departure from the scheme.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

6. The next meeting is scheduled to take place at 3pm on 18th February 2015 in Conference Room 1 at Police Headquarters.

| | |
|---|---------------|
| 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 5.12.14. |

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Contact Officer | |
| Name | Sian Curley |
| Position | Head of Corporate Governance |
| Telephone | 01633 643025 |
| Email | Sian.Curley@gwent.pnn.police.uk |
| Background papers | None |