

Cumbria Police Authority

People and Performance Committee

25 October 2011

Agenda Item No 13

Report by the Acting Chief Executive

**INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME:
VISIT STATISTICS FOR THE PERIOD 1 April 2011 TO 30 September 2011**

Background

In September 2004 the Police Authority made a series of decisions about the operation and oversight of the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme in Cumbria including that –

- (1) Responsibility and oversight of the scheme be devolved to the Professional Standards Committee (now People and Performance Committee)
- (2) The work of the scheme will be reported twice a year

This report covers the activity within the scheme in the sixth month period from 1 April 2011 to 30 September 2011.

Recommended that:

- (1) The reappointment of those Independent Custody Visitors eligible for and seeking a second or third three year term be approved.
- (2) Members note the report.

Detail

The Independent Custody Visiting Scheme are volunteers who live or work in Cumbria, and visit Police Stations unannounced to check on the welfare of people in Police Custody. There are currently four panels across Cumbria.

In addition to the Independent Custody Visitor Scheme, Cumbria Police Authority also runs an Animal Welfare Scheme; a panel of 5 volunteers make unannounced visits to the dog section at Police Headquarters.

Scheme Membership

Membership of the four panels for the six month period as follows –

Panel	1.4.2011	30.9.2011
West	12	8
Barrow	12	13
Kendal	11	9
North	10	8

At the present time one of the ICVs on the West Cumbria Panel is currently taking a break from the Scheme.

Recruitment

Four new Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) were appointed following the recruitment campaign in Barrow in June 2011 following receipt of a number of resignations from the scheme. An induction session (including diversity training) was attended by all the new ICVs. The Love Learning event in Barrow was attended to promote the scheme and generate further interest.

A further recruitment campaign is currently underway across the North, West and Kendal panels. In total 15 application forms were submitted, 9 for the North Panel, 4 for the West Panel and 1 for Kendal. Interviews are scheduled to take place during week commencing Monday 24th October and an Induction session has been organized for the beginning of November.

Re-appointments

A total of five ICV's who have completed two three year terms are now eligible to apply for a further three year term, as approved at the Police Authority's Professional Standards Committee in April 2010. Four out of the five ICV's have expressed an interest to continue with a final third year term. Nine years will be the maximum continuous period that a Custody Visitor may remain in the Scheme.

Independent Custody Visitors eligible for reappointment November 2011

North Panel	2
Barrow Panel	1
West Panel	0
Kendal Panel	1

Confirmation of re-appointments

All Independent Custody Visitors eligible for re-appointment, have been contacted, and asked to inform the Authority of their intention to continue within the scheme for a further three year period. Those seeking re-appointment will be invited to a review meeting with the Panel Chair, Lead Member for the Police Authority, Rob Huck and the Acting Scheme Administrator.

Observational Visits & Statistics

Observational visits have continued across the county visiting custody suits between 10:00pm and 12:00 midnight to observe activity. The Custody staff have welcomed this request. Feedback from the ICV's has been very positive and they have found the observational visits insightful providing a better understanding in the procedures of within Custody Suits.

ICV's across the county have requested a further observational visit be explored following the positive feedback received from visits to HMP Haverigg and Lancaster Farms Young Offenders Institute. A visit to HMP Preston has been put forward as a suggestion; this option is currently being explored.

Each Panel aims to undertake one visit every week to each of the four designated police stations Barrow, Carlisle, Kendal and Workington. These targets were introduced in 2005 following consultation with the Chief Constable. Each Panel covers one designated police station and some also visit a number of non-designated police stations.

In addition the North Cumbria Panel makes visits to Penrith Police Station when it is being used under Operation Safeguard, though no such visits were made in the period March 2011 to September 2011.

In addition the North Cumbria Panel made a visit to Appleby Police Station during the Appleby Horse Fair week in June 2011.

For comparison purposes the visit statistics for the previous six months are set out below –

Visit Period October – 31 March 2011

Six Month Period October 10 – 31 March 2011	No. of Visits	Detainees in Custody	Detainees Seen	% Seen
Barrow	24	65	25	38%
Kendal	26	31	17	55%
West (Workington Only)	22	111	34	31%
North	21	106	48	45%

Visit Period April – 30 September 2011

Six Month Period April 10 – September 10	No. of Visits	Detainees in Custody	Detainees Seen	% Seen
Barrow	24	71	31	44%
Kendal	23	62	19	31%

West (Workington Only)	20	105	44	42%
North	23	127	73	57%

20010/11 Visits

Number of Visits	Detainees in Custody	Detainees Seen
183	678	291

Over the 183 visits made 678 detainees were in custody. Out of the 678 detainees held 291 were seen, representing 43% of detainees.

Cumbria ICV Annual Conference – 11 June

The Cumbria Independent Custody Visiting Scheme, Annual Conference was held on Saturday 11th June 2011, at the Rheged, Penrith. A total of 24 Independent Custody Visitors (ICV's), attended the conference with representation from the four panels as follows:

Panel	Attendance
Kendal	6
North	9
West	3
Barrow	9

Three Police Authority Members - Mr R Huck, Mrs L Shaw, Mrs M Johnson, Mr J Mallinson and Mr J Woolley attended along with Stuart Edwards (Chief Executive), Linda Rowbotham (Administration Manager) and Emily Pratt (Acting Community Engagement Officer). Inspectors Neil Carlton and Janice Spedding and Sergeant Jenny Murray from Cumbria Constabulary also attended.

The conference had five main topics, which firstly included a particularly informative presentation by Ian MacDonald from the Border Agency. He provided information on the role of the Border Agency and the challenges they are currently facing. A presentation on Transgender was then presented by Emma Bancroft which focused on providing a better understanding to ICV's on identifying transgender correctly and the impact this may have on people being detained in custody.

In the afternoon Cath Dickinson from the Drug Intervention Programme provided a presentation on what support the Drug Intervention team offer to detainees which was well received by the ICV's attending. During the day we also received a live demonstration from PC John Bunting and PC Paddy Bainbridge accompanied by their dogs from the Constabulary's Dog Handling Section. This was very popular with the ICV's and received excellent feedback.

The final provision of training presented by Win Lawlor focussed on raising awareness of the Gypsy and Traveller community.

Feedback

Comments regarding the event were very positive, a total of 27 evaluations were returned, comments included:-

- “All speakers excellent and related well to the ICV role”
- “A quality conference – perhaps a microphone could have been used at times”
- “Input from Emma was particularly useful for custody environment”
- “Police dogs demo very good”

Question 1 Were all your enquiries regarding the seminar answered quickly and accurately? – Yes 22 - (85%).

Question 2 – In your opinion were the trainers approachable and easy to understand? – Yes 26 - (96%).

Question 3 – In your opinion did the trainers (Average over all trainers)

1. Have a sound knowledge of the subject? – Yes 27 (100%)
2. Facilitate group learning? - Yes 27 (100%)
3. Create interest in the topic? - Yes 27 (100%)
4. Answer your questions satisfactorily? - Yes 27 (100%)
5. Deliver at an appropriate pace? - Yes 27 (100%)
6. Use effective training delivery methods? - Yes 27 (100%)

Question 4 – How satisfied were you with the following aspects of the seminar?

- Day and Time of the event - 23 very satisfied, 4 satisfied
- Venue – 26 satisfied, 1 satisfied
- Seating – 23 satisfied, 3 satisfied, 1 not satisfied
- Equipment – 23 very satisfied, 1 not satisfied
- Breaks – 24 very satisfied, 3 satisfied
- Meals – 24 very satisfied, 3 satisfied

Question 5 - Course Objectives – The objectives of the seminar are listed below, please indicate whether or not you feel each one was met

	Met	Not Met	Not Known	Not Answered
1. An awareness of the Border Agency and there role in detention	26			1
2. An understanding of	25			2

Transgender and its complexities.				
3. A better understanding of the Drug intervention Programme and the work they do.	26			1
4. An awareness of the Gypsy & Traveller Community.	24	1		2

Question 6 – Following the seminar, how do you feel that your level of knowledge/skills has improved?

- Not at all (0)
- Slightly (0)
- Significantly (26)
- Not answered (1)

Question 7 – Please indicate any areas in which you feel you may need further training?

- None

Question 8 – Please indicate which aspects of the seminar you most enjoyed and why. Comments:

- “All excellent, but the UK Border Agency of particular interest.”
- “Found all sections equally useful.”
- “Enjoyed all aspects”.
- “All subjects very informative.”

Question 9 - Are there any ways in which you feel the seminar could be improved?

- “No, excellent seminar”.
- “Was satisfied with the training event”.

All the comments received on the evaluation forms will be considered for future planning events

North West Regional Conference

The regional Conference was held on 24 September 2011. The Conference was attended by 14 ICV's, - 4 from the Barrow Panel, 1 from Kendal, 6 from North and 1 from the West Panel. One Police Authority Member attended and an officer from Cumbria's Justice Team.

Topics for the Conference included a presentation on the Independent Joint Inspection of Custody presented by an Inspector John Clucas from Lancashire Constabulary. This was followed by a presentation from

Kusminder Chahal on Human Rights and Diversity which was one of the main areas covered through the day.

During the afternoon a presentation was made by Ian MacDonald on custody suites and the UK Border Agency and the relationship between the two. This was followed by a presentation on 'Why would there be restricted access to detainees?' from Chief Inspector Brian Davies and Inspector Dave Turner from Greater Manchester Police.

Animal Welfare Scheme

The five Animal Welfare Visitors – who are all also ICVs – have continued to make monthly visits during 2010-11. Two of the existing Animal Welfare Visitors have resigned from the scheme and the process for appointing two new members is currently underway.

During the year most visits were made to the Dog Section kennels at Carleton Hall though occasional visits are made to observe the police dogs participating in a joint training exercise off site. The Visitors continue to comment positively on the care the police dogs receive and their treatment by their handlers. The condition of the kennel floor at the Dog Section kennels at Carlton Hall was raised as a concern; this has been reported back to the Constabulary for their attention and the Estates Team are currently making arrangements for work to be carried out.

S Edwards
Chief Executive.

25 October 2011

Background documents: Report to, and Minute of, Cumbria Police Authority on 17th September 2004.
APA GEM 037/2010 - New Home Office Code of Practice - Custody Visiting, 8 April 2010

Race and Diversity Implications: The Authority has a duty to ensure that the Scheme is representative of the community it serves.

Human Rights Implications: The Scheme plays an important role in ensuring that the rights of detainees in police custody are respected.

Strategic Risks: The Authority has a statutory duty to establish and maintain an Independent Custody Visiting Scheme.

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Independent Custody Visiting Scheme Kendal Panel 01.04.11 - 30.09.11

Date	Day	Arr	In	Out	No. Detained	Available to be seen	Juveniles	Visited	Detainees	Standard of Accommodation	Support Avail	Comments
Kendal												
05.04.11	Tues	18:50	19:00	19:20	7	2	0	2	y y y y y y y y y y	y y n n y y y y y y		
18.04.11	Mon	18:05	18:05	18:42	3	3	0	3	y y y y	y y y y n n y y y y y y		
28.04.11	Thurs	19:25	19:35	20:15	3	3	0	0		y y y y y y y y y y y y		
04.05.11	Wed	15:00	15:01	15:18	0	0	0	0		y y y y y y y y y y y y		
11.05.11	Wed	18:34	18:44	19:07	1	1	0	1	y y y y n n n y y y y y	y y y y y y y y y y y y		
19.05.11	Thurs	16:05	16:05	16:30	2	0	0	0	y y y y	y y y y y y y y y y y y		
25.05.11	Wed	09:00	09:00	09:15	1	1	0	1	y y y y	y y y y y y y y y y y y		
03.06.11	Fri	19:00	19:00		2	1	0	1	y y y y y y y y	y y y y y y y y y y y y		
09.06.11	Thurs	19:45	10:50	11:00	2	0	0	0		y y y y y y y y y y y y		
16.06.11	Thurs	13:30	13:32	14:00	1	0	0	0		y y y y y y y y y y y y		
22.06.11	Wed	12:00	12:02	12:20	22	2	0	1		y y y y y y y y y y y y		
27.06.11	Mon	18:23	18:25	08:24	0	0	0	0		y y y y y y y y y y y y		
TOTAL					44	13	0	9				
06.07.11	Wed	20:50	20:50	21:05	4	4	0	3	y y y y y y y y y y y y	y y y y y y y y y y y y		1 detainee requested washing facilities and exercise.
12.07.11	Tues	11:55	11:56	12:25	0	0	0	0		y y y y y y y y y y y y		
19.07.11	Tues	10:50	10:50	20:20	2	1	0	1	y y y y y y y y	y y y y y y y y y y y y		
27.07.11	Wed	21:31	21:32	22:40	0	0	0	0		y y y y y y y y y y y y		
02.08.11	Tues	10:50	10:50	11:00	3	1	0	1	y y y y y y y y	y y y y y y y y y y y y		
09.08.11	Tues	17:00	17:00		2	1	0	1	y y y y y y y y	y y y y y y y y y y y y		
20.08.11	Sat	18:45	18:45	19:30	1	1	0	0		y y y y y y y y y y y y		
22.08.11	Mon	11:05	11:10	11:30	2	2	1	1	y y y y y y y y	y y y y y y y y y y y y		
31.08.11	Wed	17:25	17:30	17:55	1	1	0	1	y y y y y y y y	y y y y y y y y y y y y		
21.09.11	Wed	12:30	12:32	13:00	3	3	0	2	y y y y y y y y	y y y y y y y y y y y y		
29.09.11	Thur	09:00	09:00	09:15	0	0	0	0				
TOTAL					18	14	0	10				
TOTAL					62	27	0	19				

- 2 detainees being interviewed. 2 detainees agreed to visit. 1 detainee complained of excessive heat reported.
- 1 detainee needed interpreter and requested exercise - being dealt with. Cell very warm.
- Entry delayed as external speaker phone not working. Reception area closed ICV used her mobile phone to contact 0845 number and access gained through side entrance. Detainees not held under PACE - informed visit not necessary. 3 detainees sleeping and observed through hatch.
- Delay in admission for safety reasons - following admission asked to wait in medical room for completion of admission.
- 1 detainee awaiting interview. 1 detainee very intoxicated. cell 5 out of action - needs full clean
- Toilet flush in cell 3 needs attention
- 1 detainee being processed by immigration - watched process.
- 1 detainee being checked by medical staff. 1 detainee being processed.
- Further to recent report toilet in C3 now working. Detainee observed through hatch - sleeping.
- 1 detainee refused visit. 1 detainee being interviewed
- 1 detainee requested washing facilities and exercise.
- 2 detainees being interviewed.
- 1 detainee observed through door. 1 detainee sleeping. Exercise yard not in use due to building work.
- 1 detainee about to be released but spoke to him. 1 detainee sleeping. Door still missing on exercise yard. Issue with positioning of cameras in all but cell 5.
- Dirty clothing on floor in shower area. On arrival shown into custody waiting room and spoke to custody sgt through intercom.
- 10 minute wait in custody suite
- There were no detainees - everywhere clean and tidy

Independent Custody Visiting Scheme North Panel 01.04.11 - 30.09.11

Date	Day	Arr	In	Out	No. Detained	Available to be seen	Visited	Detainees	Standard of Accommodation	Support Avail	Comments
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No. Detained
Available to be seen
Visited

Detainees
Standard of Accommodation
Support Avail
Comments

Durran Hill, Carlisle												
Date	Day	Arr	In	Out	No. Detained	Available to be seen	Visited	Detainees	Standard of Accommodation	Support Avail	Comments	
09.04.11	Sat	15:15	15:35		4	3	0	3	y	y	y	
11.04.11	Mon	17:00	17:00	17:50	8	7	1	7	y	y	y	
21.04.11	Thurs	15:45	15:50	16:05	7	4	0	1	y	y	y	
28.04.11	Thurs	12:02	12:05	12:40	9	9	1	8	y	y	y	
01.05.11	Sun	21:20	21:23	21:50	4	3	0	2	y	y	y	
11.05.11	Wed	17:05	17:05		1	1	0	1	y	y	y	
21.05.11	Sat	15:05	15:09	16:00	7	5	1	5	y	y	y	
22.05.11	Sun	11:05	11:05	11:40	9	8	0	5	y	y	y	
30.05.11	Mon	14:00	14:01	14:35	5	4	0	4	y	y	y	
11.06.11	Sat	17:40	17:40	02:24	4	4	0	1	y	y	y	
22.06.11	Wed	16:05	16:08	16:30	6	0	1	1	y	y	y	
30.06.11	Thurs	19:55	19:55	20:45	4	4	0	3	y	y	y	
TOTAL					68	52	3	41				
06.07.11	Wed	16:10	16:11	17:19	5	4	0	3	y	y	y	
13.07.11	Wed	12:21	12:21	12:50	7	6	0	2	y	y	y	
21.07.11	Thurs	01:12	21:05	21:45	6	5	0	4	y	y	y	
29.07.11	Fri	20:05	20:12		7	0	0	4	y	y	y	
03.08.11	Wed	20:08	20:08	20:45	3	2	0	1	y	y	y	
11.08.11	Thurs	16:46	17:15		5	5	1	2	y	y	y	
20.08.11	Sat	08:04	02:04	08:25	2	1	0	1	y	y	y	
26.08.11	Fri	20:56	21:03	22:10	11	9	1	7	y	y	y	
15.09.11	Thurs	11:06	11:06	11:54	4	3	0	2	y	y	y	
20.09.11	Tues	13:10	13:11		5	5	0	5	y	y	y	
28.09.11	Wed	17:10	17:10	17:35	4	2	0	1	y	y	y	
TOTAL					59	42	2	32				
TOTAL					127	94	5	73				

Appleby												
Date	Day	Arr	In	Out	No. Detained	Available to be seen	Visited	Detainees	Standard of Accommodation	Support Avail	Comments	
04.06.11	Sat	17:05	17:05		2	0	0	0	y	y	y	

- 1 detainee in interview, 1 detainee requested nurse for possible broken thumb
- 1 detainee requested inhaler - dealt with, 1 detainee requested food and drink - dealt with, 1 detainee requested visit to nurse, 1 detainee released whilst doing visit
- 3 declined visits, 3 in interview
- 1 detainee requested water, 1 detainee requested blanket, 1 detainee requested medical attention. 1 detainee being interviewed, 1 detainee unhappy with quality of food, 1 detainee showing withdrawal symptom signs
- 1 detainee refused visit, 1 detainee in hospital.
- 1 detainee requested blanket, sink in cell 16 not working - requested another cell - granted. 2 detainees not been offered exercise intro to 1 detainee not clear. Microwave dirty - roof. 1 detainee requested notification to home.
- 3 detainees sleeping, 1 detainee in interview, 1 detained declined visit but requested book, 1 detainee requested own solicitor and books, 1 detainee requested reading material.
- 1 detainee sleeping, 2 detainees declined visits, 1 detainee requested confirmation of girlfriend being informed
- 1 detainee seen but not spoken to, 2 detainees declined visit
- 2 detainees declined visit, 1 detainee seen but not spoken to, 1 detainee being booked in
- 1 detainee on 24 hr. watch due to medical condition. 1 detainee declined. 1 detainee spoken to through hatch 1 detainee requested information on proceedings - Sgt. Explained.
- 1 detainee observed through door. 1 detainee violent on arrest and requested nurse. 1 detainee not interviewed awaiting parent.
- Detainees non English speaking 1 detainee on way to hospital. 1 detainee awaiting mental health assessment. 1 detainee in hospital. 1 detainee with nurse.
- 1 detainee requested medication - reported to custody staff. 1 visit abandoned because of condition of detainee due to alcohol. 1 detainee being interviewed.
- 2 detainees declined visit, 1 detainee requested exercise, 1 detainee non-English speaking. 1 detainee being interviewed.
- 1 detainee requested blanket. 1 detainee in interview 1 detainee being booked in.
- 3 detainees refused visit. 1 detainee awaiting nurse. 1 detainee requested reading material.
- 1 detainee awaiting medical assessment
- 2 detainees declined visit. 2 detainees being interviewed. 1 detainee requested exercise. Medical room occupied by nurse.
- 1 detainee refused visit. 1 detainee very emotional
- 4 detainees needed to see nurse.
- Cell 15 - been in here 3 hours, feels not being kept informed about what happens next. Has declined visit from solicitor.
- 1 detainee drunk and declined visit, 1 detainee in process of being discharged. Food prep area upstairs and not inspected.

