

Cumbria Police Authority

Professional Standards Committee

19 July 2010

Agenda Item No 7

Report by the Acting Chief Executive

Background

The Cumbria Independent Custody Visiting Scheme annual Conference was held on Saturday 12th June 2010, at the StoneCross Manor Hotel Kendal. The purpose of this report is to bring to the attention of the Committee the feedback received from the Conference.

Recommended: That, the report be noted

Detail

The Cumbria Independent Custody Visiting Scheme, Annual Conference was held on Saturday 12th June 2010, at the StoneCross Manor Hotel, Kendal. A total of 32 Independent Custody Visitors (ICV's), attended the conference with representation from the four panels as follows:

Panel	Attendance
Kendal	9
North	8
West	5
Barrow	5

Three Police Authority Members - Mrs L Shaw, Mr R Huck and Mr R Cole (PA Chair), Joanne Thornborrow, Scheme Administrator, Inspector Neil Carlton, Cumbria Constabulary, and two representatives from Lancashire Police Authority were also in attendance.

The conference had three main topics, concentrating on the role of a Custody Sergeant, (Jason McKenna – Kendal Station) and the Role of a Detention Officer (Dennis Tanner – Durranshill) which were particularly informative. In the afternoon there was a demonstration on Personal Safety and Restraint Techniques. This was well received and received excellent feedback from the ICV's attending.

Other topics for inclusion concentrated on the care of detainees with mental health issues in police custody, which was provided by Janet Weiss – Lead Custody Nurse Practitioner from MEDACS Healthcare.

Barrow Panel Members Geoff McCreedy and Colin Hodgson provided a lively discussion around the positive and negative issues involved with the "Self Introduction" scheme. The majority of the debate focused around the

negatives associated with this type of introduction, and Human Rights issues were raised. Amanda Webster and Jay Nicholas, who were representing the Lancashire Independent Custody Visitor Scheme, informed the conference, that self introduction is not used within their scheme. Figures provided by Panel Member, Geoff McCreedy indicated that since the introduction of the self introduction in Barrow, there has been an increase in the number of detainees being seen by ICVs.

The final provision of training focussed on diversity awareness, Kusminder Chahal, an independent trainer, worked with groups looking at how their behaviour and perceptions may raise diversity issues.

Feedback

Comments regarding the event were very positive, a total of 20 evaluations were returned, comments included:-

- “The whole conference was excellent; it was a pleasure to be involved”
- “Thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of the day, especially input by the Detention Officer and Custody Sergeant”
- “The Conference should be compulsory for all ICV's”
- “Good to be reminded of issues”

Question 1 Were all your enquiries regarding the seminar answered quickly and accurately? – Yes 20 - (100%).

Question 2 – In your opinion were the trainers approachable and easy to understand? – Yes 20 - (100%).

Question 3 – In your opinion did the trainers

1. Have a sound knowledge of the subject? – Yes 19 (95%) – No 1 (5%)
2. Facilitate group learning? - Yes 20 (100%)
3. Create interest in the topic? - Yes 20 (100%)

Question 4 – Following the Seminar, how do you feel that your level of knowledge/skills has improved?

Significantly – 12 (60%)
Slightly - 5 ((25%)
No Response - 3 (15%)

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
1. An awareness of mental health issues as they apply to the role of the Custody Visitor.	19 (95%)		1 (5%)
2. Diversity Awareness whilst in Custody.	18 (90%)		2 (10%)
3. A discussion of visits and issues with a Custody Sergeant and a Detention Officer.	19 (95%)		1 (5%)
4. The positives and negatives around self introduction.	17 (85%)	1 (5%)	2 (10%)

Question 6 – please indicate any areas in which you feel you may need further training:

- Self Introduction (1)
- Completing Forms Correctly (1)
- Observational Visit to Durranshill (1)

All the comments received on the evaluation forms will be considered for the planning of the event for next year and input will be given at future panel meetings to agree the final content. Joanne Thornborrow, Scheme Administrator, is currently in the process of organising observational visits for West and North Panel Members.

Regional Conference

The next event for the ICV's will be the North West Regional Conference to be held in September 2010.

Stuart Edwards
Acting Chief Executive

21 June 2010

Background Documents – Programme for the annual conference 12 June 2010, Completed Feedback Forms

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 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

For further information, please contact Joanne Thornborrow (Scheme Administrator) telephone 01768 217416.