

Agenda Item No 9

Report by the Clerk and Chief Executive.

**INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME:
REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2005 TO 31 MARCH 2006**

Background

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

- (i) Responsibility for oversight of the Scheme be devolved to the Professional Standards Committee;
- (ii) The work of the Scheme be reported twice a year to the Professional Standards Committee and that Committee receive a review of the operation of the Scheme in 12 months time.

This report is the second six-monthly report to the Committee, the first six month report and the 12 month review having been made to the Committee in November 2005.

Recommended: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) consideration be given to granting a Custody Visitor from the West Cumbria Panel a twelve month break from the Scheme. .

Detail

Operation of the Scheme in the period September 2005 – March 2006

Membership of the four Panels for the six month period is as follows –

Panel	1 October 2005	31 March 2006
Barrow	9	9
Kendal	11	11
North	9	9
West	14	13

One Custody Visitor has resigned from the West Cumbria Panel. There have been no new appointments to the Scheme in the period covered by the report, though Members should note that a recruitment exercise is to be conducted commencing in May 2006.

During the period covered by this report two Custody Visitors have been taken through a disciplinary process though neither was removed from the Scheme.

A Custody Visitor on the West Cumbria Panel has requested a twelve month break from making visits whilst acting as chair to another local organisation. The Scheme in Cumbria requires each Custody Visitor to undertake a minimum of six visits, attend Panel meetings and training events. The Committee is asked to consider whether or not to grant this request.

The Authority's Scheme seeks to have Panels of 15 Independent Custody Visitors. This level of Panel membership, together with the minimum level of visits set as a target for each Custody Visitor, will allow the Panels to achieve the level of visiting to designated police stations agreed with the Chief Constable – a weekly visit to each of the designated police stations. These targets were brought into effect during 2005 and an increase in the number of visits made has been achieved. Each of the Panels cover one designated police station and a varying number of non-designated police stations, though it should be noted during the period covered by the report as an ongoing consequence of the loss of facilities at Rickergate in Carlisle there were two designated custody facilities in North Cumbria (Carlisle Crown Court and Penrith Police Station) In the period October 2005 - March 2006 visits were made as follows:-

Panel	Police Station	No. of Visits	Detainees in Custody	Detainees Seen
Barrow	Barrow*	15	36	20
Kendal	Kendal*	10	10	6
Kendal	Windermere	2	0	0
North	Carlisle*	4	2	0
North	Penrith*	6	3	3
North	Appleby	1	-	-
West	Workington*	20	85	37
West	Whitehaven	12	0	0
West	Cleator Moor	1	0	0
Total		71	136	66

(Note: * indicates designated police station).

Details of visits are attached at Appendix 1.

In the period April to September 2005 55 visits were conducted and 70 of the 144 people in detention at the time of a visit were seen.

The vast majority of report forms produced on visits state that there are no matters of concern. Issues raised included –

1. Ongoing concerns of the North Cumbria Panel concerning the temporary facilities available at the Crown Court.
2. The Panel in Kendal has commented on the length of time taken to address a damp problem in one particular cell caused by a leak in the roof.
3. The Kendal Panel has also highlighted the desirability of installing CCTV cameras in the exercise area.
4. Delays gaining access to the cell area have not been an issue in the period covered by this report.
5. The Kendal Panel have decided to make no further visits to Windermere as the cells are no longer in use. Visits will recommence if the cells are brought back into use at a future date.

C R Alcock
Clerk & Chief Executive.

19th April 2006

Background papers: Report to, and Minute of, Cumbria Police Authority on 17th September 2004.

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.

Professional Standards Committee
Agenda Item No.9Appendix 1**INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME – VISITS**

Panel	Police Station	Date of Visit	Day of Visit	Time of Visit	Detainees in Custody	Detainees Seen
Barrow	Barrow	12.10.05	Wed	10.15	2	2
	Barrow	19.10.05	Wed	19.00	3	3
	Barrow	18.11.05	Fri	13.14	4	0
	Barrow	21.11.05	Mon	19.00	1	1
	Barrow	30.11.05	Wed	18.35	4	4
	Barrow	08.12.05	Thurs	13.20	4	2
	Barrow	23.12.05	Fri	12.00	4	1
	Barrow	06.01.06	Fri	18.15	1	1
	Barrow	12.01.06	Thurs	18.45	0	0
	Barrow	21.01.06	Sat	18.30	1	0
	Barrow	23.01.06	Mon	11.00	2	1
	Barrow	23.02.06	Thurs	10.40	0	0
	Barrow	04.03.06	Sat	11.13	1	0
	Barrow	09.03.06	Thurs	10.30	3	1
	Barrow	30.03.06	Thurs	10.00	6	4
Kendal	Kendal	06.01.06	Fri	11.00	0	0
	Kendal	10.01.06	Tues	15.00	5	3
	Kendal	19.01.06	Thurs	18.30	1	0
	Kendal	25.01.06	Wed	11.00	2	2
	Kendal	10.02.06	Fri	16.50	0	0
	Kendal	15.02.06	Wed	18.40	0	0
	Kendal	26.02.06	Sun	08.30	0	0
	Kendal	04.03.06	Sat	11.35	1	1
	Kendal	08.03.06	Wed	13.10	0	0
	Kendal	21.03.06	Tues	18.00	1	0
	Windermere	13.12.05	Tues	10.12	0	0
	Windermere	20.02.06	Mon	11.00	0	0
North Cumbria	Carlisle	11.10.05	Tues	10.55	0	0
	Carlisle	19.10.05	Wed	19.51	0	0
	Carlisle	25.01.06	Wed	19.40	2	0
	Carlisle	06.03.06	Mon	11.55	0	0
	Penrith	11.11.05	Fri	18.00	2	2
	Penrith	03.12.05	Sat	14.00	0	0
	Penrith	19.12.05	Mon	12.03	1	1
	Penrith	17.01.06	Tues	14.00	1	1
	Penrith	08.02.06	Wed	19.20	1	1
	Penrith	29.03.06	Wed	15.00	0	0
	Appleby	17.12.05	Sat	--.--	-	-

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

West Cumbria	Workington	05.10.05	Wed	18.35	3	0
	Workington	25.10.05	Tues	14.00	4	4
	Workington	03.11.05	Sat	18.35	2	1
	Workington	18.11.05	Fri	17.45	2	1
	Workington	22.11.05	Tues	20.03	7	2
	Workington	30.11.05	Wed	12.34	6	2
	Workington	08.12.05	Thurs	16.00	6	2
	Workington	15.12.05	Thurs	14.20	1	1
	Workington	21.12.05	Wed	17.30	6	2
	Workington	30.12.05	Fri	12.55	6	2
	Workington	06.01.06	Fri	12.03	4	2
	Workington	09.01.06	Mon	14.24	1	1
	Workington	17.01.06	Tues	15.15	1	0
	Workington	23.01.06	Mon	14.07	4	3
	Workington	30.01.06	Mon	18.35	2	0
	Workington	17.02.06	Fri	19.02	5	1
	Workington	20.02.06	Mon	13.02	8	5
	Workington	23.02.06	Thurs	14.46	5	0
	Workington	15.03.06	Wed	14.09	11	7
	Workington	22.03.06	Wed	18.05	1	1
	Whitehaven	25.10.05	Tues	15.00	0	0
	Whitehaven	03.11.05	Thurs	18.00	0	0
	Whitehaven	18.11.05	Fri	17.02	0	0
	Whitehaven	30.11.05	Wed	13.35	0	0
	Whitehaven	15.12.05	Thurs	13.35	0	0
	Whitehaven	30.12.05	Fri	14.00	0	0
	Whitehaven	06.01.06	Fri	11.08	0	0
	Whitehaven	17.01.06	Tues	14.30	0	0
	Whitehaven	30.01.06	Mon	18.00	0	0
	Whitehaven	17.02.06	Fri	18.04	0	0
	Whitehaven	27.02.06	Mon	13.57	0	0
	Whitehaven	15.03.06	Wed	15.09	0	0
	Cleator Moor	09.01.06	Mon	13.37	0	0