

HUMBERSIDE INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME MONITORING REPORT

INTRODUCTION

1. This report presents a monitoring account of the Humberside Independent Custody Visiting Scheme between 1 May 2005 and 31 August 2005.

BACKGROUND

2. The Humberside Independent Custody Visiting Scheme continues to operate with 38 visitors working across the four Divisions of the Force, under the administration of four Panel Reps, one for each Division. The Humberside Police Authority Scheme Administrator is the Consultation and Partnership Officer and there is a nominated Lead Member.
3. Incidents of concern highlighted by visitors, relating to the welfare and treatment of detainees and conditions within custody suites, are reported by the Scheme Administrator to the Administration of Justice Unit. The Administration of Justice Unit conducts an investigation into the issues raised by Custody Visitors and responds directly to the Scheme Administrator. Details are provided in Appendix A of the Report.

MONITORING REPORTS

4. An analysis of the number of detainees visited by Custody Visitors during the period 1 May 2005 to 31 August 2005 is also shown at Appendix A. Copies of the original reports are available for inspection in the office of the Chief Executive to the Police Authority. This appendix also includes comments on issues raised by, and directed to, the Administration of Justice Unit.
5. Appendix B shows the number of scheduled visits to custody suites and the actual visits made by Custody Visitors.

RESIGNATIONS

6. There have been two resignations from B Division during this monitoring period – including the Panel Representative. Letters of thanks have been dispatched and all ID badges have been returned. A new Panel Representative replaced the outgoing one almost immediately with no effect to visits as a result of this.
7. These resignations leave B Division short of visitors but a targeted recruitment campaign has already begun and the situation should ease towards the end of the year. Five new visitors are required to restore the team back to full capacity.
8. There have been two missed visits this period as a result, these are shown in Appendix B.

RECRUITMENT

9. Following the resignation of a number of visitors on the south bank, leaving B Division with only 5 visitors and A Division with a more manageable 10, a targeted recruitment campaign has begun.
10. North Lincolnshire Council has agreed to blanket e-mail all of its employees with a plea for more volunteers and place an advert in its free 'Direct' magazine which is delivered to households in the area. The Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph also ran an article about the scheme on 15 August which created a lot of interest.
11. There have been nine requests for more information and application forms as a result of the targeted recruitment. Three completed applications have been received so far.

REFURBISHMENT/SITE WORKS

12. Members will recall the ongoing issues of refurbishment of the custody suite at Bridlington and the subsequent processing of prisoners through Beverley custody suite as a result. The site works were completed at Bridlington Police Station at the beginning of June and the custody suite resumed processing prisoners on 6 June. Visitors have expressed their pleasure with the new suite.

ISSUES FROM 577'S AND CORRESPONDENCE FROM ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE UNIT (AJU)

13. A number of issues from 577 forms have been passed through to the Administration of Justice Unit during this period, including:
 - Ambiguous risk assessment forms
 - Printing problems when trying to produce consent forms for visits
 - Alleged assault on a female detainee

- An alleged assault on arrest
- Access problems resulting in an aborted visit,

14. The issues have all been addressed following investigations by the Administration of Justice Unit and full details are contained in Appendix A of this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

15. It is recommended that the Committee:

- i. Discusses the information contained in this report with particular attention paid to the content of Appendix A and B.
- ii. Direct any queries regarding the report, or the scheme in general, to the Consultation and Partnership Officer
- iii. Receive a full report on recruitment of new visitors at its next meeting

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Background Documents: ICV File 6.5.2
ICV Rosters File 6.5.9