

HAMPSHIRE INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITOR SCHEME

2018/19





POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER

Serving
Hampshire
Isle of Wight
Portsmouth
Southampton

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FOREWORD

I am proud to present this annual report highlighting the vital work of Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) across Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton.

ICVs are the eyes and ears of the public and provide reassurance that those held in police custody are being treated fairly and humanely and that custody blocks are being maintained to the required standards. In this way, they play a vital part in helping me fulfil my statutory role to hold the Chief Constable to account and provide accessibility, visibility and accountability of Hampshire Constabulary.

There are now 40 ICVs across the Hampshire Constabulary area who delivered nearly 200 visits in 2018/19. They spoke with over 1100 detainees and they provided a further 200 with some form of informal support.

As well as highlighting some important trends in the profile of those held in custody, the learnings and feedback captured on ICV visits has resulted in a number of positive changes being adopted by Hampshire Constabulary custody staff. These include a review of sleeping arrangements, the introduction of a revised ICV report form which captures both qualitative and quantitative information, and improvements to the availability of female hygiene products. With the support of custody staff, these changes have quickly become embedded in custody procedures.

This year also saw another successful annual ICV seminar, which is an opportunity for ICV volunteers to meet up and share experiences and good practice. And I was delighted to have the opportunity to thank the ICVs at my annual Safer Awards and present the award for Independent Custody Visitor of the Year to an ICV with over 15 years of service.

As we look ahead to next year we will see changes to custody provision in Hampshire with the opening of the new Eastern PIC (Police Investigation Centre) in Portsmouth which will bring existing provision together in one single purpose custody suite, mirroring arrangements across the rest of the Constabulary area.

I will continue to raise awareness of the vital work that our volunteers do, including increased use of social media and getting out into local community groups to deliver presentations about the scheme.

I would like to thank all of our Independent Custody Visitors for their service and for the vital contribution they make.

Michael Lane



YOU
YOUR FAMILY
YOUR COMMUNITY

SAFER

INTRODUCTION

Until the publication of the Scarman Report following the Brixton riots (1981), no provision existed for the independent monitoring of the welfare of detainees held in police custody. Lord Scarman recommended that provision be made for random checks by people other than police officers on the interrogation and detention of suspects in police stations¹. The aim of this was to promote public confidence in policing, ensuring all policing activity was accessible and transparent to scrutiny by the public. The Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) provision was initially a voluntary one for police authorities until 2002² when it became a statutory provision.

ICVs in Hampshire are recruited by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) but are independent of both the OPCC and Hampshire Constabulary. ICVs make unannounced visits to police stations at any time or day of the week and can speak to anyone who is currently detained within the custody suite.

Custody visiting, formerly known as lay visiting, was established in 1983 and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight scheme began in 1987. The Police and Crime Act (2002) made custody visiting statutory and the Home Office introduced the 'Code of Practice on Independent Custody Visiting'. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act (2011) introduced Police and Crime Commissioners and gave them the responsibility for operating and overseeing a scheme in their police force area.

An ICV is a volunteer who visits people who have been detained in custody in a police station. For many people, arriving in a custody suite can be a daunting and frightening experience without being aware of their rights or entitlements. An ICV's main responsibility is to check on the welfare of a detained person and make sure they are being treated properly whilst in custody. An ICV ensures that a detainee understands their rights (under PACE³), why they are in custody, that they have access to free legal advice, and that they can contact someone to inform them of their whereabouts.

ICVs can inspect cells and the facilities within the custody suite for health and safety purposes. ICVs can also inspect the custody record, which is a record of everything that happens to a detainee whilst in custody. If an ICV discovers any issues, these can initially be raised with the custody sergeant present or the custody inspector if the matter cannot be remedied immediately or is of a serious nature that requires senior attention. ICVs make a report of each visit highlighting any issues discovered, and a copy of the report is then forwarded onto the OPCC's ICV scheme manager. Visits are usually undertaken in pairs.

¹Lay Police Station Visitors - "I recommend provision for the random checks by persons other than police officers on the interrogation and detention of suspects in the police station" The Scarman Report: The Brixton Disorders

²The Police Reform Act 2002.

³The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984

THE HAMPSHIRE SCHEME

VOLUNTEERS

The Hampshire ICV scheme comprises of 40 volunteers, 20 of whom are women and 20 are men, ranging from 18 to 70+ in age. The majority of volunteers (39) identify as white British.

CUSTODY PROVISION

Custody provision within Hampshire is divided into four areas, Eastern, Northern, Western and the Isle of Wight. The Eastern area consists of Portsmouth Central and Waterlooville police stations. The Northern area consists of Basingstoke Police Investigation Centre (PIC). The Western area consists of Southampton PIC and the Isle of Wight consists of Newport police station. In total there are 129 custody cells in Hampshire which are located as follows:



The scheme is divided into four local panels which mirror Hampshire Constabulary's four custody areas, these are Eastern (South East Panel), Isle of Wight (IOW Panel), Northern (Northern Panel) and Western (South West Panel). Each Panel is led by a lead convenor who supports the scheme manager.

GOVERNANCE OF THE SCHEME

SCHEME MANAGER AND CONVENORS

The scheme is managed by a scheme manager employed by the OPCC. The scheme manager is responsible for all recruitment, selection and appointment of ICVs. The scheme manager ensures that an adequate number of ICVs are available at all times and is responsible for the induction of new recruits to the scheme.

The panel convenors are responsible for the day to day running of each panel including providing training to new recruits to the scheme. Panel meetings occur four times a year and enable panel members to meet face to face with the scheme coordinator and custody inspector (or their deputy), to express any concerns or observations they may have.

REPORTS AND CONCERNS

Following a visit to a custody suite, ICVs produce a report which is then forwarded to the scheme manager. Any areas for action that are not able to be addressed at the time of the visit are recorded and flagged to the custody inspector or a more senior officer through the chain of command. If the ICVs are still not satisfied, they can raise the issue with the scheme manager at the OPCC who will liaise it with the custody inspector at quarterly meetings or directly with the custody lead for Hampshire Constabulary.

CUSTODY VISITING DATA

ICV DATA 2018/19

During 2018/19, the ICVs conducted nearly 200 (190) visits to Hampshire’s various custody suites. This figure is lower compared with previous years this is because the number of custody suites across Hampshire Constabulary area has been reduced through the closure of smaller custody suites and the opening of new and larger ones. The table below provides a breakdown of the total number of ICV visits conducted by each of the panels. The most visits were conducted by the South West panel (50). Table 1 shows a breakdown of visits per panel.

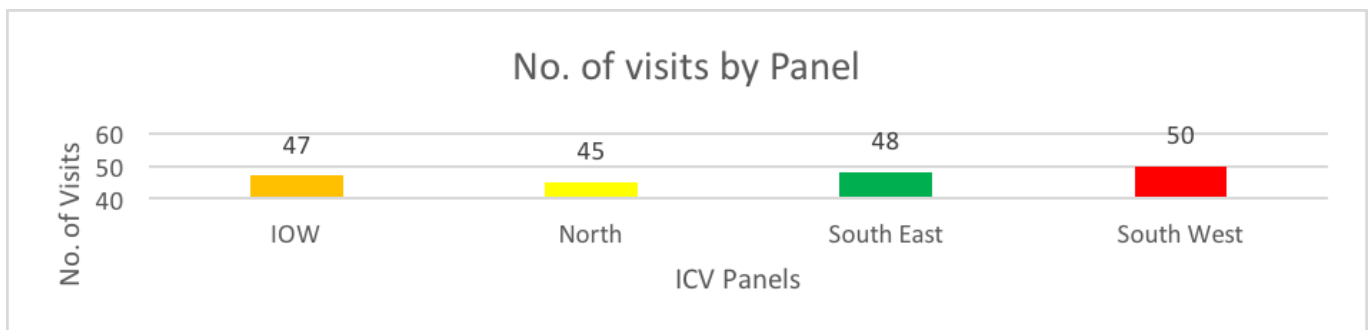


Table 1

The table 2 below shows the times and days that ICVs conducted their visits. The earliest visit took place at 06:30 am and the latest visit took place at 23:00 pm.

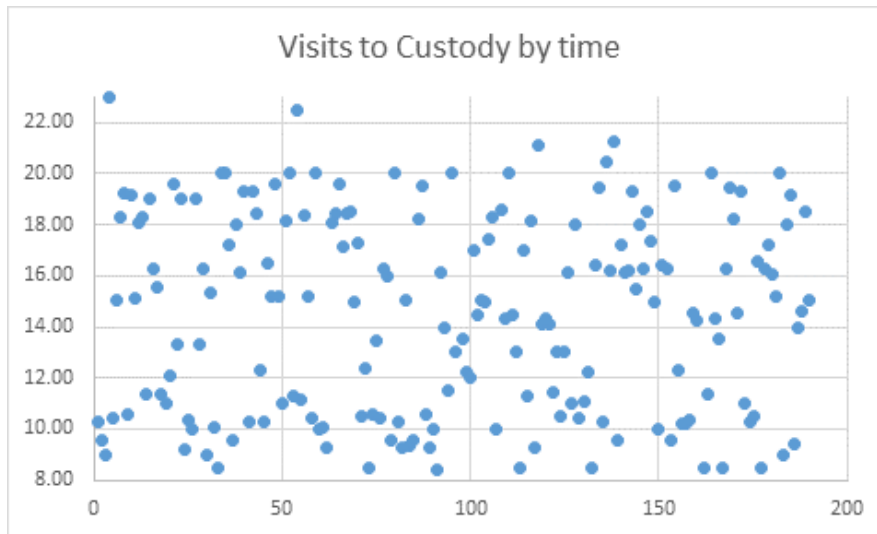


Table 2

The most visits took place jointly on Tuesday and Wednesdays with a total of 39 visits undertaken by ICVs on these two days, the least number of visits took place on Saturday with 15 visits being undertaken. Number of visits by day is broken down in table 3 below.

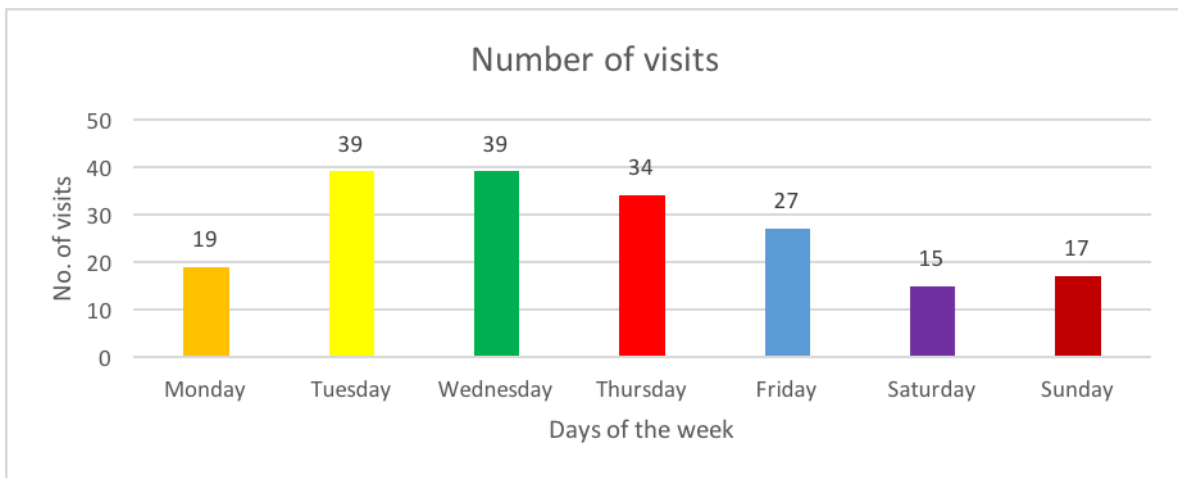


Table 3

The number of people who were in detention during ICV visits was 1588 (custody population), of these 1087 were offered an interview of which 975 detained persons were interviewed. The uptake rate of those who accepted and were interviewed was 90% which is slightly lower than previous years but this is in line with a reduced custody estate provision. The number of people who were interviewed represents 4.1% of the custody population for 2018/19 (23,634). In total 613 people (39%) of the custody population at the time of the visit were not interviewed. In line with previous years the top two reasons why a detainee was not interviewed was because they were being interviewed alongside their solicitor or were asleep in their cell. Table 4 below shows the reasons why detainees were not interviewed.

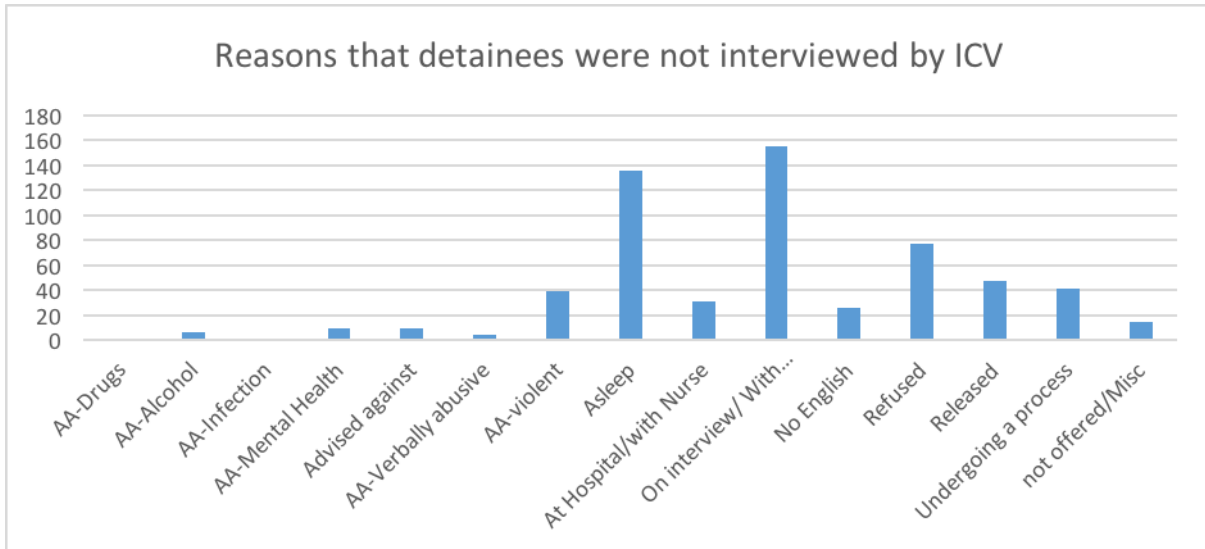


Table 4

CUSTODY RECORD

The custody record is a detailed electronic log of everything that happens to a detainee during their detention. During an interview with a detained person, if visitors identify a concern, they are able to check the custody record but must gain the detainee’s consent to do so. However, visitors with concerns about a detainee whom they cannot interview can check the custody log without consent but must note the reason for doing this in their report. This is usually done if visitors believe a detainee to be particularly vulnerable i.e. a very young person or a detainee with mental health issues. Therefore, in addition to those interviewed face to face, visitors checked the custody logs of 55 detainees whom they were not able to talk to, which included children and young people, vulnerable adults and those who could not speak English.

DETAINEE NUMBERS

The combined population of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight is just under 2 million residents (1.9m), of which 1.2% of the population were detained in custody. The number of people detained in custody in 2018/19 was 23,634, a slight decline compared with the previous year. There were 883 fewer people in custody in 2018/19 compared with 2017/18, a reduction of 3.6%. However, compared with 2016/17, the number of people detained in custody has increased by 2,561 people or 12%.

Tables 5 and 6 below show the fluctuations in custody population in Hampshire for the previous three years.

Year	Number of detainees
2016/17	21073
2017/18	24517
2018/19	23634

Table 5

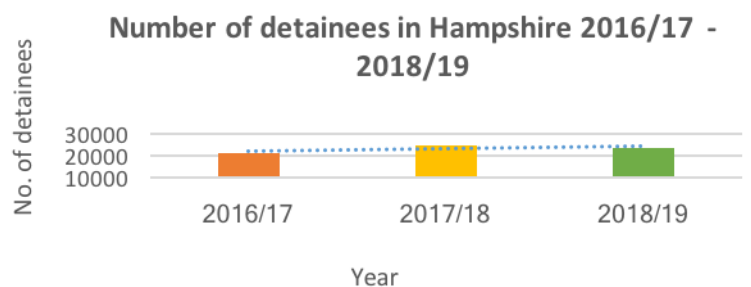


Table 6

DETAINEES BY CUSTODY SUITE

The number of people detained in Hampshire’s custody suites has increased between 2016/17 and 2018/19, with the largest increase occurring in the Eastern area. The Western area and specifically Southampton PIC remains the busiest custody centre across the Hampshire policing area. The Western area of Hampshire accounted for 34% of all detainees, followed by the combined Eastern area (33%), the Northern area (25%) and the Isle of Wight (8%).

The three biggest crime types under which individuals were arrested and brought into custody were violence against the person, theft offences, and criminal damage. This represents a clear balance between the high threat and risk of harm offences and volume offences which impact on the public. Tables 7 and 8 below show the footfall in Hampshire’s custody suites broken down by the four areas and the percentage increase over three years.

Custody Suite	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	%
East	6571	8192	7884	19.90
IOW	1550	1704	1785	15.10
North	5152	6037	5978	16.00
West	6984	8259	7987	14.30
Other	816	325		N/A
Total	21073	24517	23634	12.10

Table 7

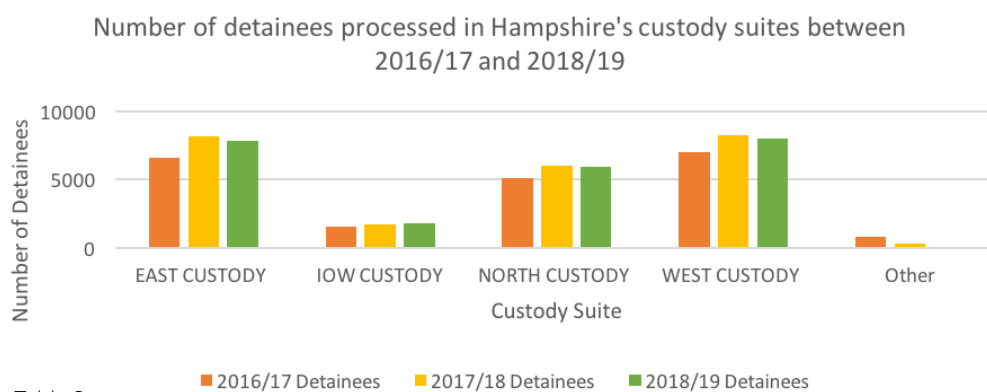


Table 8

ETHNICITY⁴

In the last 12 months, 88% of those detained in custody have been white which is reflective of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight population. The 2011 census indicated that 89% of the population in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight identified themselves as white British. However, urban areas within Hampshire such as Southampton, Portsmouth and Basingstoke have larger numbers of ethnic minority communities and diversity which is reflected in the custody ethnicity data in the tables 9 and 10 below. The percentage of black people detained in the East, North and West ranged between 7% - 9% whilst the percentage of Asian detainees ranged between 2% - 5%.

⁴Due to how this data is collected, the ethnicity data is unable to be broken down any further than the current headings shown in this report

	White	Black	Asian	Arabic/ North African	Other/ not stated	Totals
East	7015	555	156	114	44	7884
IOW	1733	22	19	7	4	1785
North	5102	560	203	63	50	5978
West	6899	629	362	55	42	7987
Totals	20749	1766	740	239	140	23634

Table 9

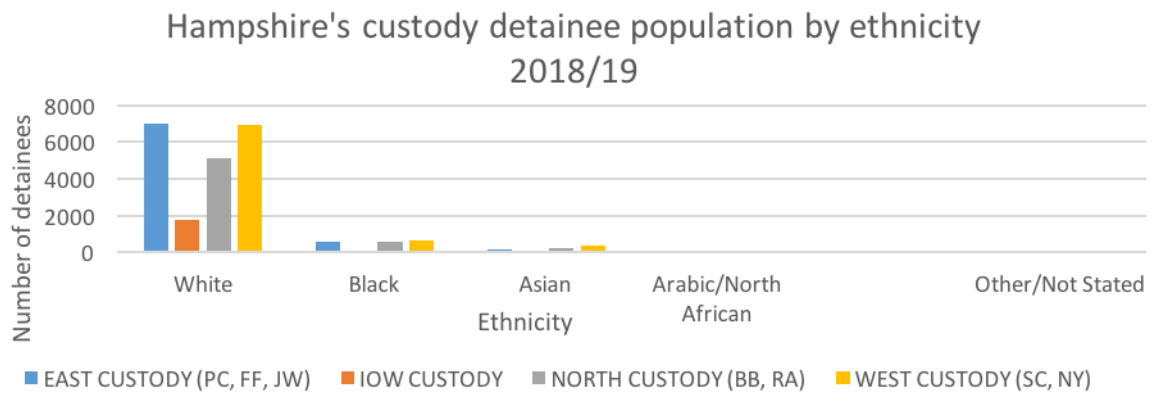


Table 10

SEX

The overwhelming majority of detainees in Hampshire’s custody suites were males, who accounted for 85% of all detainees. Tables 11 and 12 below show the breakdown of sex of all those detained.

Sex	Number of detainees
Male	20029
Female	3580
Not stated	25
Total	23634

Table 11

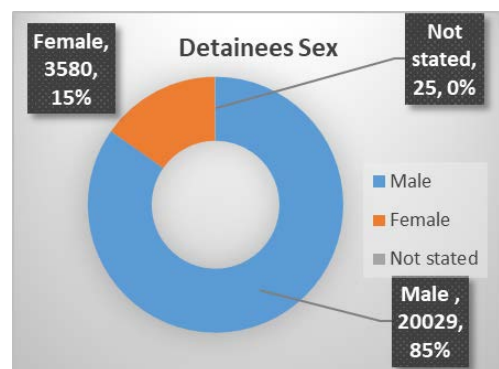


Table 12

The number of detained children and young people aged 17 and younger decreased slightly compared to the previous year. The figure fell by 3 people in 2018/19, a decrease of 0.2% compared to 2017/18. The figure for the number of adults (18 and above) who were detained also fell compared with the previous year, by 883 people or 3.9%. Tables 13 and 14 show the ages of all those detained in 2018/19.

AGE

Sex	Adult	Youth
17 & under		1968
18 - 25	6043	
26 & above	15618	
Total	21660	1968

Table 13

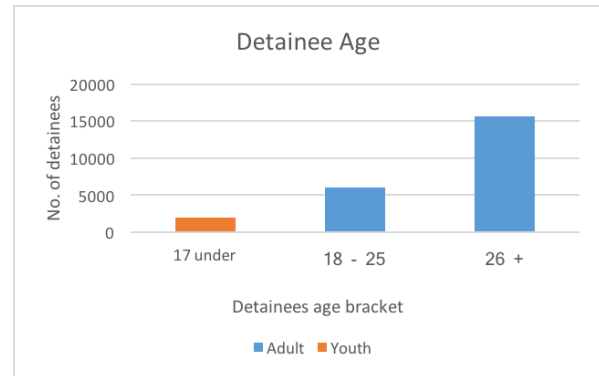


Table 14

SCHEME HIGHLIGHTS

THE ANNUAL SEMINAR

The annual Hampshire ICV scheme seminar took place on 21 September 2018. The event was held at Hampshire Constabulary’s training school at Netley and is part of the volunteers’ continuous professional development programme. It is an opportunity for all the ICV volunteers to meet up together, to share good practice as well as their experiences of being part of the scheme, and to receive updates on any changes which may impact on them as scheme volunteers, such as changes in legislation.

The volunteers who attended the event received presentations on mental health in custody from Insp Huw Griffiths (the Constabulary’s mental health lead), and on the Hampshire Liaison and Diversion custody scheme from Abigail Benussi. This service assesses and supports vulnerable people in custody to access services that they need. It also ensures that a person’s vulnerability is taken into account by the police and courts. The service works with people with mental health problems, alcohol or substance misuse problems, learning disabilities, head injury, autism, ADHD, and other vulnerabilities. During the afternoon session, the volunteers received a presentation from Sherry Ralph (ICVA) on women in custody.

SAFER AWARDS

The Police and Crime Commissioner’s Safer Awards event took place in December. The event, which was held at Winchester Guildhall, was an opportunity for the Commissioner and his team to thank volunteers who work across the criminal justice landscape to make Hampshire and the Isle of Wight even safer.

Kieran O’Kelly, who has been an ICV for over 15 years, received the Independent Custody Visitor of the Year award from the Commissioner. Kieran has checked on the welfare and wellbeing of thousands of detainees in Hampshire Constabulary custody to ensure that they are being treated fairly and humanely, and to check the conditions in custody blocks are maintained to the required standard.

REVIEW OF SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS

An amendment was made to PACE which stated that detainees should be informed at the first opportunity that a sleeping review has been conducted which should also be noted on the custody record.

REPORTING TEMPLATE

A revised ICV reporting form was introduced in the year following a request from ICVA for a greater level of qualitative data to be collected from detainees. An updated form was piloted for part of the year which was later formerly adopted after the trial period and is now used across the Hampshire scheme.

SANITARY PRODUCTS

Hampshire Constabulary has been at the forefront of the campaign to ensure that there are sanitary (hygiene) products available to female detainees whilst they are in custody. An initiative was implemented to offer and provide a good range of free sanitary protection to any female brought into custody as a matter of course in the year. Female detainees were also given the opportunity to speak to an officer of the same sex. This would later be incorporated into PACE.

FUTURE PLANS

The Hampshire ICV scheme has been improving year by year and is aspiring towards achieving gold accreditation under ICVA's Quality Assurance Framework which is assessed annually.

The recruitment and progression of volunteers is an important factor in the development and success of the scheme. The recruitment of new ICVs is an annual process which helps to maintain the schemes dynamism.

Members of the scheme are further supported through the provision of annual workshops and training, to prevent complacency and ensure skills and expertise of the scheme volunteers remain up to date.

It is anticipated that the new Eastern PIC (Police Investigation Centre) will open during 2019 and rationalise the existing custody provision within the Eastern area into a single purpose built custody suite, situated in Portsmouth. The new PIC will consist of 36 cells and bring the Eastern area into line with the existing custody provision in the Northern and Western areas.

Work will continue throughout 2019/20 to raise awareness about the benefits of the scheme and the essential work that volunteers carry out. Visitors continue to provide public reassurance that detainees are treated as they should be whilst in custody. This will involve increased use of social media as well as getting out into local community groups to deliver presentations about the scheme.

FURTHER INFORMATION & CONTACT DETAILS

If you would like any further information about the Hampshire ICV scheme or would be interested in becoming an ICV, please contact:

ICV Scheme Manager

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire
St George's Chambers
St George's Street
Winchester, SO23 8AJ

Tel: 01962 871595
Mob: 07795 335033

Web: hampshire-pcc.gov.uk
Email: opcc@hampshire.pnn.police.uk
Facebook: Police and Crime for Hampshire
Twitter: @HantsPCC and @HantsICV

For information about ICVA, please contact:

The Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA)

C/O Edwards and Keeping
Unity Chambers
34 High East Street, Dorchester
Dorset, DT1 1HA

Web: icva.org.uk
Email: Info@ICVA.org.uk

For further information about ICV Schemes:

The Home Office Code of Practice on Independent Custody Visiting
bit.ly/ICVcodeofpractice

The Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA) National Standards
icva.org.uk/publications

Association of Chief Police Officers Guidance on The Safer Detention and Handling of Persons in Police Custody 2nd Edition
bit.ly/ACPOguide

Relevant legislation such as The Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) Code C
bit.ly/PACEcodeC and The Human Rights Act (1998)

If you would like this document in a different or more accessible format please contact us.



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