

# **ICV Chairs Meeting**

Meeting Notes 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Start time 18:30 via MS Teams

#### Attendees:

Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)
MOPAC

Representatives in attendance:

_Panel	Attendee 1	Attendee 2
Ealing		
Barnet		
Islington		
Kingston		
Lewisham		
Havering		
Hillingdon		
Hounslow		
Brent		

#### 1. Welcome and apologies

Actions and matters arising from September 2019 meeting were discussed and agreed.

### 2. Resuming Visits

MOPAC updated volunteers on the scheme and volunteer retention. MOPAC presented a PowerPoint presentation which detailed information on:

- COVID Testing
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- · Track and Trace
- Risk Assessments
- Summary of important changes to the way the Scheme is being delivered during the pandemic.

This week the Government announced changes to the shielding scheme <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/plans-to-ease-guidance-for-over-2-million-shielding">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/plans-to-ease-guidance-for-over-2-million-shielding</a>

As well as further easing of lockdown measures <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-easing-of-lockdown-restrictions-23-june-2020">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-easing-of-lockdown-restrictions-23-june-2020</a>

Since the start of the lockdown in March 2020, many volunteers who have been shielding have continued to dedicate time and effort to complete virtual visits. Attendees discussed the willingness of volunteers to resume visits and ways to support panels and individuals to return to physical visits.

Many volunteers continue to have concerns about their safety, travelling to and within custody suites and would prefer to keep virtual work until further notice. Some members who have been conducting physical visits discussed their experiences and the sense of safety.

MOPAC is not able to return to City Hall and will continue to deliver panel meetings and training virtually until further notice.

Attendees discussed virtual visits in detail. Members discussed and reviewed new PPE requirements, details of Track and Trace for custody and completing COVID Self-Assessment forms.

Members discussed conducting virtual and physical visits. MOPAC confirmed that individuals conducting physical visits will not need to also conduct a virtual visit in the same week. However, some panels do conduct more than one visit per week, so if the panel have two suites to visit then it may be possible to physically visit one and virtually visit another in the same week.

MOPAC, Mayor and Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA) wish to thank all ICVs for the service they continue to deliver. It was noted that the London Scheme has been commended by ICVA for level of visits that been undertaken during the pandemic. London Scheme has been approached by other schemes for advice and assistance in transitioning to COVID-secure practices.

## 3. MPS Update

updated ICVs on Custody news from March to July 2020. SV from Met Detention detailed the processes and procedures in place which have ensured (up until today) there has not been a single outbreak of cases in any suite across the entire estate.

presented an update via PowerPoint presentation on custody healthcare arrangements and Virtual Courts.

**ACTION:** MOPAC to circulate s PowerPoint presentations after the meeting.

#### **4. AOB**

Members discussed Virtual Court and virtual legal services in custody and the impact on detainees, particularly the most vulnerable. This is not confined to London and is a national issue that has arisen during the pandemic. This is being discussed nationally through the ICV Association and MOPAC will feedback on those discussions to ICVs.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020