

Lambeth Independent Custody Visitors Panel

Notes of the panel meeting held on

16th May 2019 at 7pm – at Lambeth Police station.

Present: [REDACTED] (Chair), [REDACTED] (Vice-Chair), [REDACTED] (Vice-Chair), [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Apologies: [REDACTED]

Acronyms: Metropolitan Police Service - MPS

1. Welcome and introductions.

The Chair welcomed everyone and gave apologies.

2. Notes of the last meeting and matters arising.

Members read through notes from previous meeting.

Members requested an update on the 4th Oct comment that new cutlery was about to be rolled out. MPS informed panel that the trial 'roll out' failed the stress test and now paper spoons are back.

ACTION: MOPAC to bring issue of poor cutlery to MPS to resolve centrally.

Regarding detainee [REDACTED] on 13th November: MPS to remind staff to follow up requests for phone calls in timely manner or note reasons for delay in the custody record. MPS was unable to discover why access to the telephone did not occur for the duration of the evening shift.

ACTION: Members noted the formatting of the minutes was poor. MOPAC to reformat minutes and circulate.

Members noted that the action regarding detainee [REDACTED] on 30th December is still outstanding.

ACTION: MOPAC to discuss with custody manager how to feedback on reports now he has access to the system.

Members discussed the ongoing actions and work across the Estate to ensure ICVs understand the supervision, complaints and performance monitoring of the health facilities and staff in Custody Suites.

Panel Coordinator: [REDACTED]

Tel [REDACTED] - EMAIL [REDACTED]

3. Concerns from visit reports.

Members read through Summary report.

27th Feb: [REDACTED] – no entry in custody record made regarding to detainee's child or detainee's call. ICVs' comments not captured by Staff in custody records.

ACTION: MPS to remind staff to capture info from ICVs in the Custody Record.

7th Mar: Members noted no custody number used due to exceptional circumstances. MOPAC commended ICVs on mentioning British Transport Police (BTP).

15th Mar: MOPAC asked ICVs to comment on good practice Designated Detention Officer (DDOs) do, not only the poor practice.

ACTION: Regarding detainee [REDACTED] on 18th Mar, MPS to confirm reason why release on bail rather than transferred to hospital, as noted in the visit report.

27th Mar: no further comments

1st Apr: This is an administrative error on behalf of ICVs as visit actually took place on 14th April. On this date the visit was aborted due to ICVs being made to wait without an escort. MPS did contact and inform MOPAC of reasons escort not available in a timely manner, however MOPAC did not pass this information on to panel.

Members did not accept the computer crash was good enough reason to not make staff available as escort and allow ICVs to conduct visit. ICVs had called custody telephone number but got no response.

Members requested confirmation of process to visit during handover. MPS confirmed that the duration of handovers is actually 6am/pm-8am/pm.

Members discussed handover processes. MPS confirmed they are happy for ICVs to be invited to wait until escort available between 6am/pm-8am/pm. ICVs agreed to continue to visit during these hours.

4th Apr: clarification that acronym NAH is a typo and should be - mental health assessment (MHA).

26th Apr: MPS not had chance to comment. Members discussed detainee [REDACTED] and DDO's unprofessional behaviour.

ACTION: Regarding detainee [REDACTED] on 26th April: MPS to investigate delay seeing Nurse and confirm process for decision to not to take detainee to hospital as requested by detainee.

Panel Coordinator: [REDACTED]

Tel [REDACTED] - EMAIL [REDACTED]

ACTION: ICVs to note down staff shoulder numbers for summary report, this includes the staff informed or notified of actions regarding detainees. MOPAC to confirm DDO escorting on visit and share with MPS.

Visit for 8th Apr: missing a report as members confirmed visit had taken place.

ACTION: ICVs to confer and try to upload report.

4. MPS update

Brixton closure in July.

Bail has now changed to releasing someone for 28 days (used to be three months). After 28 days they are released under Investigation (RUI). There has been a build-up of cases in this time period where the detainee has been released under Investigation (RUI) and custody records not being updated and accurate with this disposal outcome. This is being dealt with by a trail specialist team that has been set up to deal with updating hundreds of historical custody records that have not been updated properly.

5. MOPAC/Chairs issues.

The MOPAC co-ordinator read the MOPAC Update.

Members discussed the possibility of a large notice/sign reminding DDO staff to offer sanitary products to female detainees.

ACTION: MOPAC to discuss with MPS if notices are a possibility in addition to verbal reminders.

6. Rota

ACTION: MOPAC to amend rota to note three-week closure of Brixton and note ICVs to visit Peckham as contingency suite.

Rota agreed.

7. AGM- Election of Chair/ Vice Chair

The current Chair stepped down due to personal reasons.

Two Co- Vice Chairs were confirmed and have agreed to step up to cover Chair functions.

Members discussed the ICVs' relationship with the Lambeth SNB.

8. Any other business.

MOPAC to review August meeting date to see if it's possible to move.

Panel Coordinator: [REDACTED]

Tel [REDACTED] - EMAIL [REDACTED]

Members discussed using conference calls or skype video calls for panel meeting.

ACTION: MOPAC to explore options of using multi-media connections to maximise attendance and allow members more flexibility.

Panel Coordinator: [REDACTED]

Tel [REDACTED] - EMAIL [REDACTED].

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