

Lambeth Independent Custody Visitors Panel

Notes of the panel meeting held on

13 August 2019 at 6.30pm – at Brixton Police Station

Present:

[REDACTED]

Apologies:

[REDACTED]

1. Welcome and introductions.

The vice-chair welcomed everyone and apologies were noted.

2. Notes of the last meeting and matters arising.

The notes of the meeting held on 18 May were agreed, subject to the following additions:

Visits to Peckham Custody Suite.

Noted that the Panel had visited the Peckham Custody Suite for a 3 week period 8 – 22 July.

New cutlery.

Noted that the issue with cutlery continued and that paper spoons would remain in use for the time being.

Access to a phone.

The panel was advised that for monitoring purposes only one detainee at a time could use the phone. If another detainee required the attention of the custody staff, whilst the phone was in use, a light will come on and a buzzer will sound.

Panel Coordinator:

[REDACTED]

Tel [REDACTED] - EMAIL [REDACTED]

CITY HALL, THE QUEEN'S WALK, LONDON SE1 2AA

3. Delayed entry to the custody suite

It was reported that the visiting ICVs' entry to the custody suite was delayed by 30 to 40 minutes, after which they abandoned the visit.

It was explained the computer system within the custody suite had crashed and all available officers were backing all available information onto a paper based back up system. As a result, the presence of the custody visitors was overlooked. It was an oversight due to the pressure of the incident. No decision was taken to exclude the ICVs.

It was acknowledged that the ICVs should have been given access and the reason for the delay should have been given on the night.

The ICVs were advised to call the PACE inspector's number to gain entry should a similar situation arise.

4. Concerns from visit reports.

26 May – It was confirmed that additional dental products like Fixodent will be provided if required.

5. MOPAC/Chairs issues.

The MOPAC quarterly update report was noted.

Support from MOPAC

Since the departure of a dedicated MOPAC contact officer, the level of support to the panel and individual ICVs had declined to the point it affected the panel's motivation and commitment to the scheme.

The lack of a dedicated MOPAC contact officer meant that rotas had been produced without reference to the ICVs' availability.

The panel was advised that MOPAC did not have the resources to provide the level of support previously provided. MOPAC was aware of the dissatisfaction expressed by ICVs at their panel meetings and the panel Chairs' meetings.

A new support structure has been introduced and improvements had been made. The tender specification for the support to ICV scheme was currently being reviewed with a view to interviewing interested parties in September/October.

Panel Coordinator: [REDACTED]

Tel [REDACTED] - EMAIL [REDACTED]

6. Rota.

The rota was agreed.

7. Training.

The panel worked through the Vulnerability training package.

The assertiveness training package was circulated.

8. Other documents circulated.

The following documents were circulated.

- Chairs meeting notes for the 20 July 2019
- ICVA Conference notes from March 2019
- Translation sheets

9. Date of future Panel meetings.

- 14 November 2019

Panel Coordinator: [REDACTED]

Tel [REDACTED] - EMAIL [REDACTED]

CITY HALL, THE QUEEN'S WALK, LONDON SE1 2AA