Subject: Management of the Metropolitan Police Service’s Custody Suites and the Provision of Healthcare to Detainees

Report to: Police and Crime Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat  Date: 10 October 2013

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

1.1 This report provides background information to the Police and Crime Committee for its meeting with invited guests to discuss the management of the Metropolitan Police Service’s (MPS) custody suites and the provision of healthcare for detainees.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the Committee notes the report and puts questions on the management of the Metropolitan Police Service’s custody suites and the provision of healthcare for detainees to the invited guests.

3. Background

3.1 The Committee has agreed to use this meeting to discuss with invited guests concerns around new arrangements for MPS custody suites. These new arrangements were introduced in July 2013. Custody has been placed on the force’s “at risk” register and is currently the subject of an investigation by the Health and Safety Executive. The Committee will also explore concerns expressed by the British Medical Association around the provision of forensic and custodial healthcare for detainees in police custody.

4. Issues for Consideration

4.1 The meeting will be in two parts: the first session will focus on the design and implementation of the new custody arrangements, and the process by which the changes were developed. The second session will consider the healthcare afforded to detainees in police custody and to seek assurances that appropriate care is being made available.
4.2 The guests invited to attend this meeting will include:

First session – management of Metropolitan Police Service’s custody suites

- A representative from the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS); and
- Marie Snelling, Mayor’s Office for Police and Crime, Director of IOM (Integrated Offender Management) and Neighbourhoods.

Second session – healthcare of detainees

- Karen Swinson, Head of Nursing, MPS;
- Dr Peter Green, Forensic Medical Examiner;
- Dr Jason Payne-James, Forensic Medical Examiner; and
- Allyson Geil, Former MPS custody nurse.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no direct financial implications to the GLA arising from this report.

List of appendices to this report:
There are none.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers: There are none

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