



THE INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING ASSOCIATION

VALUE REPORT

WHO ARE ICVA?

The Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA) is a national membership organisation that leads, supports and represents local independent custody visiting schemes, run by Police and Crime Commissioners and Police Authorities/Boards across the UK. ICVA is funded through Home Office grant and membership fees. ICVA has two full-time members of staff and a Board comprised of members and independent experts.

Independent custody visiting offers unique and unparalleled insight into the everyday reality across police custody suites in the UK. Particularly in times of instability and change, this insight is invaluable.



Independent custody visiting helps to ensure the rights of detainees are upheld and helps to inform the policy and practice of stakeholders to prevent potential harms.

Our mission: “ICVA leads, supports and represents ICV schemes to be effective, ensure the welfare of detainees, protect the vulnerable and deliver oversight of police custody.”

WHAT DOES ICVA DO?

We **LEAD** schemes by ensuring they receive resources linking to international and domestic standards and guidance, including on human rights and arising issues such as the importance of monitoring during a pandemic. ICVA has worked with members to review independent custody visiting methodology via a wider pilot and evaluation of Derbyshire OPCC's model. ICVA leads schemes to strive for excellence by developing a Quality Assurance Framework.



We **SUPPORT** schemes by providing training and guidance documents ensuring schemes nationally have strong awareness of key issues. We work with schemes to look in depth at thematic issues each year, such as vulnerability or children in custody. We facilitate networking and shared learning between schemes, including through our online forum for independent custody visitors and regular national communications and events.

"The ICVA is an active and involved key member of the UK's NPM. I have seen, at first hand, the contribution it makes to custody visiting systems around the country and its role in protecting people in police custody and preventing ill-treatment - it is really making a difference."



John Wadham, Chair of UKNPM

We **REPRESENT** schemes by being a member of the National Preventive Mechanism on behalf of independent custody visiting. ICVA currently chairs the Policing Sub-Group, ensuring that issues from schemes lead national detention monitoring work. ICVA also represents schemes at national forums such as Home Office meetings, National Police Chiefs' Council and the Ministerial Board for Deaths in Custody, taking insights from these groups and disseminating them to schemes and police forces.

HOW DOES ICVA ADD VALUE?

1. ICVA was able to respond quickly and collate independent feedback on the state of custody across England and Wales during COVID19, leading to improved practice in custody suites.

2. ICVA fulfils part of the state's responsibility under the Optional Protocol for the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT), and helps prevent ill treatment in custody.

3. ICVA co-ordinates and supports those who visit terrorism detention, ensuring effective feedback to the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation.

4. ICVA highlights national themes where change is required and worked with schemes, using feedback on menstrual care to significantly improve work on the ground and update both Authorised Professional Practice and PACE Codes.

5. ICVA provides training for over 1,500 ICVs and scheme managers on a range of topics, both those requested by members and those reflecting national custody trends/issues.

6. ICVA adds value to partners (inspectionates, Youth Justice Board, Independent Office of Police Complaints etc.) by sharing resources, thematic reviews and more.

7. ICVA delivers bespoke guidance and support at times of high-pressure including custody inspections, following a death in custody and during high profile detentions.

8. ICVA works with partners to ensure robust insight and feedback on independent custody visiting is received and acted upon, and is currently working with the Criminal Justice Alliance to research public scrutiny of race and gender in police custody.

WHAT DO OUR MEMBERS SAY?



Paddy Tipping,
Nottinghamshire PCC
Chair of the Association of
Police and Crime
Commissioners

"ICVA's support is invaluable. The Association's training and guidance on new and best practice has helped to ensure that our own, nationally accredited, custody visiting scheme has remained first class, with enthusiastic, committed volunteers.

"Custody visiting is a vital part of the checks and balances process. ICVA has done an excellent job in helping PCCs to provide a more consistent level and quality of service giving confidence to both detainees and officers that there is a fair and effective scheme in place."

ICVA's members are at the centre of everything ICVA does as an organisation.



This word cloud has been created from member feedback on how ICVA brings value to its membership.

ICVA have been an invaluable resource to the running of my Scheme, both through their national work and support at regional level. They have provided advice, guidance and strategy whilst continuing to promote Custody Visiting at the highest level possible nationally to ensure that Schemes have been empowered to continue to discharge their statutory function.



Simon Atherton, Norfolk ICV Scheme

Members have consistently reported high satisfaction rates with ICVA's services. We are always keen to do more and hear from interested parties. If you would like to get in touch with ICVA, please email info@icva.org.uk. You can also find us on Twitter @custodyvisiting and @projectICVA and on instagram custody_visiting.