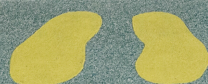


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1.7
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1.3

7.0'
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THE INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING ASSOCIATION

2019/20 ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Police custody is an important and necessary part of the criminal justice system. However, it involves taking away an individual's freedom and their treatment within custody can have huge implications for their lives. Independent custody visiting provides essential community oversight in this high pressure and often unseen around of policing.

I was delighted that we were able to open 2019/20 with an event celebrating how independent custody visiting schemes have reviewed and strengthened their work through participating in the Quality Assurance Framework. ICVs, scheme managers and PCCs came together at the House of Lords to hear the Home Office and Lord Anderson celebrate and thank them for their work.

We were also pleased to see the results of ICVA's campaign to strengthen menstrual care come into law as part of revisions to PACE Codes C and H. Where ICVs told us that detainees weren't able to access the care that they needed, ICVA worked with PCCs, the Home Office, the NPCC and others to design and implement new standards which protect the dignity of all detainees. These standards particularly ensure that female detainees are not left without menstrual products when needed.

ICVs and scheme managers across six schemes have worked tirelessly to trial new methodologies. Dyfed-Powys, Gloucestershire, Humberside, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire have adopted a new methodology, designed by Derbyshire, aiming to strengthen and build on the brilliant work that ICVs do. We will hear the results of this pilot in 2020/21 and will consider how to move forward to continuously improve the services that ICVA delivers.

The closing weeks of 2019/20 were dominated by COVID19 and the state's response to it. As the UK went into lockdown, custody had to continue to work. Custody suites adapted to new social distancing and public health rules and police came unprecedented challenges. Within this climate, independent monitoring is crucial. I am proud that ICV schemes continued to monitor across this period of huge and rapid change. Schemes continued to oversee custody and feedback their reports to ICVA. This, in turn, enabled ICVA to provide feedback to national bodies and helped to shape changes within the custody environment. I applaud and thank schemes and volunteers for your work over this period.

It is a pleasure to present ICVA's work in this summary annual report and to work with my fellow dedicated directors, staff, scheme managers, PCCs and volunteers.

Martyn Underhill
Chair, July 2020

THE NUMBERS

1,500

The approximate number of Independent Custody Visitors, local volunteers who visit police custody, in the UK

11,400

More than 11,400 unannounced visits to police custody took place in 2019/20.

33,000

Independent custody visitors spoke to over 33,000 detainees in 2019/20, asking them about their rights, entitlements and wellbeing

4%

This means that Independent Custody Visitors oversaw the treatment of around 4% of all detainees in the year.

ICVA'S KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

ICVA has been proud to share achievements with schemes across the UK. Whilst ICVA leads, supports and represents schemes, our work would not be possible without our brilliant members.



ICVA worked with the schemes in Derbyshire, Dyfed-Powys, Gloucestershire, Humberside, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire to pilot new methodologies, aiming to strengthen ICV oversight of custody for vulnerable detainees.

ICVA saw the results of its campaign to improve menstrual care come to life when revisions to PACE Codes C and H came into force in August 2019. Thanks to ICVs and ICVA's campaign, detainees must now be proactively offered menstrual product, use toilets in privacy and have dignity upheld.

ICVA's annual focus on detainee dignity inspired and instigated work to strength dignity in police custody.



ICVA delivered support to schemes, delivering a scheme managers' conference and providing distance learning modules on holding the police to account and an induction for new scheme managers.

THE UKNPM



The UK National Preventive Mechanism

ICVA is a member of the UKNPM. The UKNPM was established in March 2009 after the UK ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) in December 2003. It is made of 21 statutory bodies that independently monitor places of detention, those covering police custody include:

- ICVA
- Independent Custody Visitors Scotland
- Northern Ireland Policing Board Independent Custody Visiting Scheme
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland
- Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation

The NPM was set up to ensure regular visits to places of detention in order to prevent torture and other ill treatment, as required by OPCAT. OPCAT recognises that people in detention are particularly vulnerable and requires states to set up a national level body that can support efforts to prevent their ill treatment. The NPM must have, as a minimum, the powers to:

- Regularly examine the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty in all places of detention under the UK's jurisdiction and control; Make recommendations to relevant authorities with the aim of improving the treatment and conditions of persons deprived of their liberty; and
- Submit proposals and observations on existing or draft legislation.

ICVA's Chief Executive was a member of the UKNPM steering group across 2019/20, and ICVA's Chief Operating Officer took over the chair of the policing subgroup. ICVA regularly contributes to UKNPM thematic work including responses to international committees on torture prevention.

<https://www.nationalpreventivemechanism.org.uk/>

THE IMPACT OF ICVS

DIGNITY

ICVs have pressed for improvements to dignity meaning that detainees have access to improved clothes, food, religious items and distraction items whilst in custody.

CONDITIONS

ICVs have reported on poor physical conditions within custody leading to improvements such as noise panels, improved accessibility and better upkeep of custody suites.

SAFEGUARDS

ICVs have fed back where detainees have not accessed safeguards, such as Appropriate Adults, in a timely way. This has led to ongoing scrutiny or local changes and improvements in process.

PROCESS

ICVs have fed back where they have found errors in important processes such as reviews. This has instigated local improvements to ensure that custody runs safely and fairly