

Independent Custody Visiting Association Checklist for Independent Custody Visitors Menstrual Care and Dignity PACE Code C and H changes

July 2019

As a result of ICV reports, a campaign from ICVA and a subsequent review of PACE Code C and H legislation by the Home Office, there have been changes made to the entitlements for women and girls in custody. There have also been changes made in terms of the wording on dignity for all detainees during strip-searches and clothing removal. This checklist is designed to go alongside the Menstrual Care – Pace Code C and H changes bitesize training, available to scheme managers in the ICVA members library. The checklist is for ICVs to use when monitoring the adherence to the new legislation in custody.

In the custody suite

- **Rights and Entitlements leaflets** – are detainees being given the most up to date copy, including the changes? Check and report if they are not!
- **Stock** – does the suite have a good selection of products, individually wrapped and in date?
- **Staff** – are the staff aware of and pro-actively offering women and girls in custody the chance to speak to a female member of staff?
- **Staff** – are the staff aware that they need to pro-actively offer menstrual protection to all female detainees?

When talking to a detainee

- Has the detainee been offered a chance to speak to a member of staff of the same sex?
- Has the detainee been offered menstrual protection?
- Is the detainee aware that the toilet area is pixelated?
- Does the detainee report having been treated with dignity throughout their time in custody?

When looking at the custody record (with permission)

- Does the custody record contain that a female detainee has been offered the opportunity to speak to a female member of staff?
- Has this discussion been offered to be private?
- Does the custody record state that menstrual protection has been offered and by whom?
- If the detainee requires and has been given menstrual protection, does the custody record note when replacement products have been offered?

- Have the force offered replacement menstrual care items at regular intervals, in line with guidance on TSS 'regular' which should be no less than every 6 hours whilst in custody to ensure it is inside the window of safety for detainees?

When completing your report

- Report on rights, entitlements and wellbeing as normal.
- Ensure you report areas of good practice as well as those of concern.

If you have had access to the custody record:

- Record if the detainee was informed that they could speak to a member of staff of their own sex in private.
- Record whether menstrual care was offered.
- Note anything that seems unusual in the custody record.
- Comment on the quality of the custody records information regarding detainee dignity and menstrual care.