

PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 059-21
Classification: Not protectively marked
Title of report: Independent Custody Visiting Scheme Policy
Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide
Report by : Darren Horsman (Strategic Head of Policy and Public Engagement) Date of report: 04 th May 2021 Enquiries to: Darren Horsman (Strategic Head of Policy and Public Engagement)

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To agree the revised Independent Custody Visiting Scheme

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Commissioner agrees the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme

3. Benefits of the proposal

- 3.1. The scheme sets out how the Commissioner will deliver an effective and transparent Independent Custody Visiting Scheme in line with his obligations under the Police Reform Act 2002.
- 3.2. This will also support the Commissioner's effective scrutiny of Essex Police and help ensure that the people of Essex benefit from an effective and efficient police force.

4. Background and proposal

- 4.1. The Independent Custody Visiting Scheme was developed in 2012 and is based on the Home Office Code of Practice on Independent Custody Visiting published pursuant to section 51(6) of the Police Reform Act 2002. The scheme was

updated in 2013 following the issue of the Code of Practice on Independent Custody Visiting by the Home Office dated March 2013.

- 4.2. The scheme is supported by more detailed national standards that expand the relevant procedures and set out established good practice. In 2018 the Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA) introduced a voluntary quality assurance framework which the scheme in Essex is participating in.
- 4.3. This version of the Scheme includes minor amendments to reflect the change in title of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and tightening of the language used throughout the document.

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

- 6. Schemes from other areas were considered and ICVA guidance was also considered. It was possible that the Scheme could not have taken on this feedback and avoided continuing to follow best practice, however, as this would have provided an inferior Scheme this option was not followed.

7. Police and Crime Plan

- 7.1. This is a legal responsibility and helps to ensure effective scrutiny of Essex Police as well as specifically protecting vulnerable people.

8. Police operational implications

- 8.1. Not applicable

9. Financial implication

- 9.1. The strengthening of national best practice and the introduction of ICVAs Quality Assurance Framework in 2018 increased the resources required to effectively support the Scheme, however, these were relatively small increases and represent about 0.1 FTE. Responsibilities for the Scheme has also passed from the Communication and Engagement function to the Performance and Scrutiny function following a restructure of the office in 2019/20.

10. Legal implications

- 10.1. Whilst there are no legal implications arising directly from this report, the Scheme does set out how the Commissioner will deliver on a legal responsibility

11. Staffing implications

- 11.1. See above under financial implications

12. Equality and Diversity implications

- 12.1. While there are no direct equality and diversity implications from this report, the recruitment of ICVs does provide an opportunity for the Scheme to reflect the communities in Essex.

12. Risks

12.1 There are no key risks associated with this proposal

13. Governance Boards

13.1 This policy was presented to the PFCC Senior Management Team Meeting on 28th April 2021

14. Background papers

Appendix 1 – Independent Custody Visiting Scheme Policy

Report Approval

The report will be signed off by the OPFCC Chief Executive and Treasurer prior to review and sign off by the PFCC / DPFCC.

Deputy M.O. Sign: D. Horsman
Print: Darren Horsman
Date: 4.5.2021

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer Sign: J. Berry
Print: Julia Berry
Date: 5 May 2021

Publication

Is the report for publication? YES
NO

If 'NO', please give reasons for non-publication (Where relevant, cite the security classification of the document(s). State 'None' if applicable)
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.....

If the report is not for publication, the Chief Executive will decide if and how the public can be informed of the decision.

Redaction

If the report is for publication, is redaction required:

1. Of Decision Sheet? YES NO
2. Of Appendix? YES NO

If 'YES', please provide details of required redaction:

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Date redaction carried out:

Treasurer / Chief Executive Sign Off – for Redactions only

If redaction is required, the Treasurer or Chief Executive is to sign off that redaction has been completed.

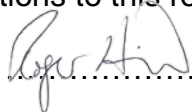
Sign:

Print:

Chief Executive/Treasurer

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign: 

Print: ROGER HIRST

PFCC

Date signed: 30 June 2021

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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.....
.....

Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: