

PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 110 - 23
Classification (e.g. Not protectively marked/restricted):
Title of report: Independent Custody Visiting Scheme Annual Reports
Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide
Report by: Katarzyna Grabka (ICV Manager)
Chief Officer: Janet Perry (Chief Financial Officer & Strategic Head of Performance and Resources)
Date of report: 21 June 2023
Enquiries to: Katarzyna Grabka

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for the Commissioner to approve the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme for Essex Annual Reports for 2020/21 and 2021/22

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Commissioner approves the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme for Essex Annual Report 2020/21 and the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme for Essex Annual Report 2021/22

3. Background to the proposal

- 3.1 The Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) Scheme was developed in 2012 and is based on the Home Office Code of Practice for ICV 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 for ICV by the Home Office dated March 2013.
- 3.2 The ICV 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 in which the ICV Scheme in Essex is participating. One of the requirements to achieve a silver award it to publish ICV Annual Reports on

the PFCC website. This is not a statutory requirement but is good practice. The PFCC does have a statutory responsibility to reflect the ICV visits in their own Annual Report.

- 3.3 Previous ICV annual reports up until 2019/20 have been published on the PFCC website and are cited by the public when they contact the ICV Scheme. However, the publication of these reports has fallen behind and the approval of these reports will assist with updating this position.

4. Proposal and associated benefits

- 4.1. The Essex ICV Scheme Annual Reports will be published on the PFCC website, supporting the Commissioner's effective scrutiny of Essex Police and transparency of the provision for the public.

5. Options analysis

- 5.1 We could decide not to produce annual reports for the ICV scheme and just refer to the ICV scheme in the PFCC's main annual report, in order to fulfil our statutory obligation. However, this would not be best practice therefore that option is not recommended.

5. Consultation and engagement

- 6.1 No direct consultation and engagement was carried out in relation to these reports, although we have worked with Essex Police to produce some of the information within the reports and our Independent Custody Advisors.

7. Strategic links

- 7.1 The ICV scheme is a statutory responsibility of the PFCC and Chief Constable. It also supports effective governance of Essex Police by providing independent checks on detainees and allows public transparency of that process.

8. Police operational implications

- 8.1 There are no direct operational policing implications although the reports refer to operational matters within the custody suites

9. Financial implications

- 9.1 There are no additional financial implications from the publication of these annual reports.

10. Legal implications

- 10.1 We do not have a statutory obligation to publish these annual reports, although it is best practice. We do have a statutory responsibility to run the scheme.

11. Staffing implications

- 11.1 There are no additional staffing implications from publishing these annual reports.

12. Equality and Diversity implications

- 12.1 The publication of these annual reports is not expected to disadvantage any individual with a protected characteristic.

13. Risks and mitigations

- 13.1 There is a reputational risk associated with not publishing these reports which this decision will mitigate.

14. Governance Boards

- 14.1 The publication of these annual reports has been discussed at the PFCC Management Team meeting.

15. Links to Future Plans

- 15.1 It is planned that the Essex ICV scheme will be assessed under the ICVA Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) in the autumn, though a specific date has not yet been confirmed. The publication of these annual reports will support our performance against the QAF.

16. Background papers and Appendices

- 16.1 Appendix 1 the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme for Essex - Annual Report 2020/21
- 16.2 Appendix 2 the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme for Essex - Annual Report 2021/22

Report Approval

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

Chief Executive / M.O.
Officer

Sign: ...DHorsman...

Print: Darren Horsman – Deputy Monitoring

Date: 16.08.2023

Chief Finance Officer

Sign: .....

Print: Janet Perry.....

Date: 18 August 2023.....

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

Date signed:

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign:



Print: Jane Gardner

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: 23 August 2023

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC