

Committee(s)	Date:
Police Authority Board – for information Independent Custody Visitor Panel – for information	4 December 2024 22 January 2025
Subject: Independent Custody Visiting Scheme Annual Report 2023/24	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
Report author: Rachael Waldron, ICV Scheme Manager, Town Clerk's Department	

Summary

This report fulfils the requirement to update Members on the progress of the City of London's Independent Custody Visiting Scheme. It presents the panel's annual report and informs members of recent issues raised by the Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) Panel regarding custody provision in the City. Over the past year panel meetings have addressed various challenges related to the custody environment and the immediate operations of the scheme. This includes the re-introduction of Operation Safeguard, Appropriate Adult attendance during custody procedures recruitment and onboarding within the City Scheme.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

Main Report

Background

1. The Independent Custody Visiting scheme is well established and has been functioning in its current capacity since November 2007. Members of the Police Committee agreed in May 2009, that a regular report would be presented to the Committee on an annual basis.
2. Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) conduct unannounced visits in pairs to monitor the treatment and conditions of individuals held in custody. They ensure that the rights and entitlements of detainees are upheld and that their dignity is maintained. These visits are conducted independently and confidentiality in a voluntary capacity, with reports submitted to the City of London Police and the ICV Scheme Manager at the time of the visit. The Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) panel, comprising all custody visitors, meets quarterly with the City of London Police, typically involving the Custody Manager (or Custody Representative in their absence). Serious concerns raised by visitors during these visits are escalated to the ICV Scheme Sponsor via the ICV Scheme Manager.

3. The visits take place weekly, with visits occurring once a week (from April 2023 to March 2024).

Current position

4. The ICV Annual Report summarises key issues identified within the custody environment, outlines remedial actions taken, and highlights examples of effective practices. Additionally, it details the objectives of the Independent Custody Visitors (ICV) Scheme for the current financial year.

Legal Implications

5. In accordance with Section 51 of the Police Reform Act (2002), the City Corporation is required to have in place an Independent Visitors Scheme.

Conclusion

6. The City of London ICV Scheme offers an independent assessment of the treatment of detained individuals. This Scheme reflects the commitment and dedication of Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) in maintaining appropriate oversight of custody practices.
7. The Panel records their thanks to all ICVs for their unwavering commitment to Independent Custody Visiting.
8. Further updates on this Scheme will continue to be provided to Members on an annual basis, ensuring transparency and continued engagement.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – ICV Annual Report 2023/24

Background Papers

ICV Guidelines – January 2017 Police Committee

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