

STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

Volunteers Committee 10 October 2011

INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING (ICV) REGIONAL SEMINAR

Report of the Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

1. To brief members on the Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) Regional Seminar hosted by the Authority on 24 September 2011.

Background

2. It was agreed that each of the four Police Authorities in the Midlands region would take it in turn to host the Annual ICV Regional Seminar. The first Seminar in 2009, was hosted by West Midlands Police Authority at Lloyd House, Birmingham and last years was hosted by West Mercia Police Authority at Hindlip Hall, Worcester.
3. David Hudson (Southern Area Panel Co-ordinator) and the ICVA Midlands Regional Representative, organises the Seminars, taking on board the delegates' comments from the previous year's evaluation forms, in his planning for subsequent Seminars.
4. This years Seminar was held in the Amenities Block, Weston Road, Stafford and was chaired by David Pearsall (Chairman of the Police Authority) and also attended by Christina Jebb (Chair of the Volunteers Committee), Peter Hayward (Member of the Volunteers Committee) and Damon Taylor (Chief Executive). Mr Pearsall welcomed the 37 delegates and introduced various speakers who had given up their time to talk at the Conference on subjects of particular interest to the delegates.
5. The first speaker was Gavin Williamson (Member of Parliament for Staffordshire South) who gave a presentation on the forthcoming Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) elections and took questions from delegates on a number of related issues including the reasoning behind the Governments introduction of PCCs; the role of a the newly elected PCCs; the selection and funding of prospective candidates and the impact of PCCs on local policing. Mr Williamson was keen to praise the work of Police Authorities but was confident that the appointment of PCCs would be of great benefit to local policing.
6. Next to speak was Inspector Giles Parsons who familiarised delegates with Person Escort Record (PER) forms and explained that ICVs were required to inspect these forms if they were attached to the custody record of a detainee they had visited. Inspector Parsons explained that the purpose of the PER was to ensure that all staff transporting the detained person were provided with all the necessary information about them, including any risk or vulnerabilities they may present. He emphasised that the identification of suicide or self harm is one of the prime purposes of the PER and provided examples of the instances where a detainee would be transferred and completion guidelines. It was evident from the comments made that

some of the delegates had not previously seen PERs and this identified a training need which the Authority agreed to follow up after the Seminar.

7. Delegates then viewed a DVD of “near misses” in custody. This had been provided by West Midlands Police Authority and was narrated by Paul Norton (Community Engagement Officer, West Midlands Police Authority).
8. After lunch, delegates took part in an interactive quiz on custody related matters which provided ICVs with a number of interesting facts.
9. Kevin Jolley (Chief Immigration Officer) provided delegates with an insight into the work of the UK Border Agency and took questions from the floor. His presentation included;
 - Details of the types of foreign nationals in custody
 - Routes to custody and conditions of arrest
 - Types of immigration offenders
 - Intentions of UKBA detention
 - Time limits for detention
 - Transfer problems
10. Nigel Hewitt (Operational Personal Safety Training (OPST) trainer) enlisted the help of a member of the audience to provide a demonstration on search techniques in custody and Inspector Giles Parsons delivered a presentation which provided details of the types of searches carried out; who authorises them; and when they are carried out and by whom. Risk assessment scenarios had been given to delegates and were discussed.
11. The Seminar ended with an Open Forum. Christina Jebb chaired a Panel which consisted of Kevin Jolley, Inspector Parsons and David Hudson and questions were taken from delegates of a range of issues. David Pearsall thanked the speakers and organisers of the Seminar.

Feedback

12. The 36 evaluation forms received from delegates were very positive, with only a few minor housekeeping issues raised. Delegates were very complimentary about the facilities and particularly enjoyed the interactive quiz and the demonstration on search techniques.

Recommend:

That the report be received and noted.

Damon Taylor
Chief Executive

Contact: Jane Milgate (Authority Administrator): 01785 232245

OX287Z/October 2011