



London ICV Newsletter

April 2007

Automatic External Defibrillator Scheme Extended

The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) has made a significant move to further reduce the risk of deaths in custody with the introduction of Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) into the 64 custody sites within the MPS estate. This follows considerable consultation with stakeholders including Forensic Medical Examiners (FMEs), the Police Federation and the Superintendents Association. The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) strongly supported AED provision in its recommendations following the death in custody of Manjit Kaur.

Cardiac Arrest, the sudden unexpected loss of heart function, breathing and consciousness, is fatal without immediate treatment. The only effective treatment is to deliver an electric shock

to the heart. An AED is a portable device that delivers this electric shock. Built in computers assess the patients heart rhythm, determine whether defibrillation is needed and administer the appropriate shock.

Over a year ago the Directorate of Professional Standards (DPS) embarked upon a pilot scheme to site AEDs in 3 custody suites, Camden, Ealing and Southwark. Whilst the pilot did not demonstrate a successful life saving intervention the equipment provided significant reassurance to police personnel. That none of the sites were willing to return the equipment is an indication of the pilot's success.

Acting on behalf of the Safer Detention Working Party chaired by Operation Emerald, the DPS committed over £100,000 to AED provision. The purchase of life saving equipment centrally,

ensured maximum discount and more importantly consistency across the MPS estate.

The devices will be delivered to the MPS in April and the roll out programme will commence following staff training. The Property Services Department will manage the siting of devices to ensure all personnel are aware of their location. Following installation it will be the custody manager's responsibility to ensure consumable parts are replaced.

Plans are currently under review to incorporate AED training into yearly first aid courses and to train all officer and wider police personnel on joining the MPS.

This work demonstrates the MPS's continued commitment to the delivery of a professional service to the London community.

With thanks to Superintendent Paul McGregor of the DPS, for this information.

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Training Dates

Initial Training:

(For new ICVs)
 Saturday 12th May
 at MPA, 10 Dean Farrar St
 SW1H 0NY
 10am-5pm
THIS IS NOW FULL

Mondays 25th June &
 2nd July
 At MPA, 10 Dean Farrar St
 SW1H 0NY
 6pm-9pm
 Please contact your panel
 Coordinator to book a
 place.

Cooperation with Richmond Panel

Former Hammersmith & Fulham panel Chair, Maggie Maloney, writes about the cooperation between Hammersmith & Fulham and Richmond panels. The two panels have been successfully working together to make visits in Hammersmith & Fulham since September 2006, when the then chair of Richmond panel offered the services of the Richmond panel members for visits.

Richmond panel has a full complement of members, but currently only one

custody suite in regular use, which rarely holds more than a few detainees. This meant that Richmond members were carrying out visits on average less than once a month and spoke to few detainees. As a result some of the Richmond ICVs felt they were not getting much practical experience or the opportunity to develop their skills as custody visitors. To this extent the situation of Richmond panel was complementary to that of our own panel, whose members have been on average doing

two visits a month and some of whom at times have been over-stretched. Since October, five Richmond panel members have volunteered to take part in our visit rota, so some visits in Hammersmith & Fulham have been done by a pair comprising one member of our own panel and one member of Richmond panel. This has been welcomed by our panel because it has provided much needed practical help in enabling us to maintain the visiting programme. It has also been beneficial

in bringing a new perspective to our work, by exchanging ideas and comparing notes with members of another panel, about some practical issues which arise during visits. We are very grateful to Richmond panel for this and we hope it has been an equally positive experience for their members, who have participated in this collaboration. We look forward to continuing the arrangement into early 2007, so long as it continues to benefit both panels.

ICV Handbook and Memorandum of Understanding

A Handbook for the London ICV Scheme has been produced to coincide with the new administrative arrangements. The MPA originally commissioned Ian Smith, Chief Executive of ICVA to produce a Handbook for the London Scheme. The final document incorporates much of the original, but is tailored to reflect agreed policies and practices that apply to the London scheme. The Handbook is available on the MPA's website, but there is no need to print it, as all ICVs will be given their

own ring bound copy by their Coordinator at their next panel meeting. A copy will also be produced for every custody suite - custody managers already have an electronic version. The Handbook has been designed to provide ICVs with a useful reference point concerning the London scheme and visiting practice.

Coordinators will also be giving every ICV a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), accompanied by a letter from the MPA's Chief

Executive, Catherine Crawford. Under code 21 of the Codes of Practice governing custody visiting, all police authorities are required to have a MoU in place. We would like these to be signed and returned to Coordinators by 30th June. ICVs in panels who are not meeting in April or May will be sent a copy of the MoU by post and can access the Handbook on the MPA website or request for a copy to be posted to them. The MoU outlines what the MPA offers custody visitors, as well as what is expected of custody visitors and

serves to clarify expectations and accountability on both sides.

We hope that both the Handbook and the MoU will add to the sense of improvement and consistency of practice in custody visiting across London, and that you will continue to work with us to help safeguard the rights and entitlements of detainees and seek improvements where necessary.



Death In Police Custody Statistics 2005/6

Some 118 people died during or after contact with the police in England and Wales in the financial year 2005/6, 11 up on the previous year. Of these 118, 28 (8 less than in 2004/5) died in or following police custody. The statistics below show the breakdown of these figures:

Male

18 white
2 white/black Caribbean
1 Asian
1 black Caribbean

Female

5 White
1 Asian

The average age of those who died in or

following custody was 41.

The definition of death in or following police custody extends beyond the custody suite to include deaths at time of arrest, on the way to hospital, in hospital following an arrest and deaths after release from injuries and medical problems caused or identified whilst in hospital. Hence:

- only three of the people who died were declared dead in police stations;
- two were pronounced dead at the scene of arrest following a struggle;
- and the remaining 23 died in hospital having

been injured, taken ill or identified as unwell while in police custody.

Of the six deaths in or following police custody in the MPS:

- one man was found dead in a cell by the FME called to check on him;
- two males died of heart problems after being transferred to hospital;
- one male died in hospital of methanol poisoning;
- one female died in hospital after an apparent suicide attempt;
- and one male died from drugs (MDMA) toxicity.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), which compiles

these statistics and investigates deaths following police contact, has started to examine post release suicides. In 2005-6 it identified 40 apparent suicides within two days of release from police custody or where the custody experience might have been relevant to the subsequent suicide. Of these, 14 people had mental health needs and 16 had links to drink or drugs abuse.

Thanks to Dinah Gallop of Camden ICVP for this article.

Formalised Custody Visiting Arrangements for BTP

The British Transport Police Authority (BTPA) has asked the MPA to provide a custody visiting service for several of its facilities in London. BTPA is not subject to the Police Reform Act 2002 s51, which means that the Authority is not required under law to have an independent custody visiting scheme. ICVs have already been visiting some BTP

facilities and BTP and BTPA agree that custody visiting is a helpful safeguard for detainees held in their facilities.

The contract with the MPA will formalise those arrangements and ensure, for instance, that ICVs are covered by the MPA's insurance policy when making visits to BTP facilities. From 1 April, the contract provides for one visit per week to Tottenham

Court Road (Camden) and one visit per month to facilities at Ebury Bridge (Westminster) and West Ham (Newham). A small number of visits to the mobile custody facility may also be included as appropriate.

The MPA will provide BTPA with a quarterly report on visits to all facilities and provision has been made for a BTPA Member to

participate in the interview process for new ICVs once a year. ICVs will be able to gain access to BTP facilities using their MPA identity pass and continue to use MPA visit report forms. If you have any questions about the new arrangements, please speak to your Coordinator.



Metropolitan Police Authority

10 Dean Farrar Street
London
SW1H 0NY
Phone: 0808 100 1036
Fax: 020 7202 0200
Minicom 020 7202 0173.

FREEPOST address for report forms and application forms only :

ICV Coordinator
Metropolitan Police Authority
FREEPOST LONI7808
London
SW1H 0DY

ICVA

PO Box 1053, Colne, BB9 4BL
E-mail: info@icva.org.uk

Coordinators Contacts

Ann (ann.battle@mpa.gov.uk or **07768 886 278**) - Camden, Hackney, Haringey, Islington.

Emma (emma.nuttall@mpa.gov.uk or **07768 905 678**) - Barnet, Enfield, Waltham Forest (and Bromley)

George (george.fry@mpa.gov.uk or **07768 855 250**) - Hammersmith & Fulham, Hounslow, Kingston, Richmond, Wandsworth.

James (james.tate@mpa.gov.uk or **07768 846 763**) - Brent, Ealing, Harrow, Hillingdon.

Jennifer (jennifer.ankrah@mpa.gov.uk or **07768 902 575**) - Kensington & Chelsea, North Westminster, South Westminster (and Greenwich).

Mike (mike.dodsworth@mpa.gov.uk or **07768 864 877**) - Barking & Dagenham, Havering & Redbridge, Newham, Tower Hamlets (and Bexley).

Sarah (sarah.walker@mpa.gov.uk or **07768 868 055**) - Croydon, Lambeth, Merton, Southwark, Sutton (and Lewisham).

8th Coordinator (details to follow).

**ICV
Coordinators**

ICV Lead Member John Roberts writes; "ICV Coordinators are now responsible for directly supporting all panels in London. The Coordinators have been working with Chairs and administrators over the past few months to ensure a smooth transition for panels. It is the Coordinators role, working closely with the Chair, to facilitate the smooth running of your panel. They are there to support you and your fellow panel members and to provide guidance, when it is needed. Their priority will be to provide a high level of service and support to each of the panels that they serve.

In terms of their knowledge base, Coordinators have been through the same Initial training as ICVs and have had training around PACE, the Codes of Practice and National Standards governing custody visiting. In addition, Coordinators will make arrangements with Chairs to observe a visit to each of the custody suites in their area, as part of their ongoing learning and development. Coordinators will have particularly close contact with panel Chairs, but all ICVs should also have their Coordinators contact details.

Finally may I thank you all for your constructive comments over the last year, and I look forward to seeing you in the near future."


Smoking Ban

From 1 July 2007 under the Health Act 2006, the Smoke-free (premises and enforcement) Regulations come into force. The legislation will impact on custody areas and detainees. Draft guidelines produced by the MPS indicate that custody areas will be smoke free and detainees in custody will not be allowed to smoke in cells, exercise yards, custody suites or rooms associated with the custody procedure. MPS Legal advice has confirmed that refusing to allow detainees to smoke would not be a breach of their human rights.

Custody visitors may experience the impact of the smoking ban, as some detainees may be more agitated as a result of not being able to smoke. It is not clear at the moment whether nicotine patches will be offered to detainees but it is likely that this would be at the discretion of the Forensic Medical Examiner.

PACE Review - The Home Office are currently undertaking a review of the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Act. The document for review can be found at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2007-pace-review If you wish to supply feedback the closing date to submit to the MPA is 4th May 2007, otherwise you can respond directly to the Home Office at: pacereview@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk by 31 May 2007.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Can all ICVs please ensure they fill in the full details of the detainees that are detained at the stations on visit report forms. Please include detainee number, gender, adult/juvenile status, PACE/Immigration and whether a visit was offered or not as without this the forms and therefore the visit cannot be entered on to the database.

Next Issue.....

Please submit articles, pictures, or 'Questions for the Lead Member' by 25th May to Emma at the MPA.