

Metropolitan Police Authority

Independent Custody Visiting Programme Board

Terms of Reference

March 2005

Background:

At its meeting of 5 February, 2005, the Community Engagement Committee of the Metropolitan Authority (MPA) approved the establishment of the London Independent Custody Visitor Programme Board.

The Police Reform Act 2002, paragraph 51, places a statutory obligation on the MPA to have in place an effective Independent Custody Visiting Scheme which includes responsibility for:

- organising the infrastructure of the IVC Scheme.
- recruitment and conditions of service of administrators as well as volunteers delivering the service
- training of administrators and visitors, and
- overseeing the quality of the service.

Purpose:

In responding positively to these responsibilities, the London ICV Programme Board will have responsibility to:

- oversee the present process of transition and reform of the Scheme
- provide an ongoing oversight framework for the MPA in implementing its statutory responsibilities for the ICV Scheme.

The Board will thus provide the instrument for ensuring that the MPA has a compliant and exemplary scheme. Secondly, it will also serve as a conduit for information sharing between the partnership elements of custody (i.e MPA, MPS, and ICVs). And thirdly it will provide a vehicle for raising the profile for the MPA Scheme throughout London.

Responsibilities:

More specifically, the objectives of the London ICV Programme Board will be to:

1. Provide a regular forum to oversee the development and implementation of policy, guidance and good practice on custody visiting in London.
2. Maintain an effective three-way communication network between the MPA, MPS and ICVs.
3. Bring forward and address outstanding and emerging operational issues identified by ICVs.
4. Provide a forum for MPS to keep MPA and ICVs updated on issues concerning custody strategy and operations.

Accountability Structure:

The Board will strengthen the relationship of the ICV Scheme to the MPAs decision-making process by reporting directly to the MPA Community Engagement Committee. The Board will have no executive powers. ICVPs will be a standing

agenda item at every meeting of the Community Engagement Committee, and as such the Board will have the opportunity to bring forward those strategic and policy custody issues requiring resolution.

Staff of the MPA Community Engagement Unit will provide the administrative and secretariat support to the Board.

Membership:

The membership of the Board will comprise the MPA, MPS and ICVs. More specifically, membership will comprise:

MPA 1. Lead Member for ICV & Chair of Programme Board (Aneeta Prem)
2. Deputy Chair of MPA (Reshard Auladin)
3. Deputy Clerk and Deputy Chief Executive and Solicitor to the MPA (David Riddle)

MPS 4. Commander of Custody Directorate
5. Superintendent from Custody Directorate

ICVs 6. Elected London ICVA Representative
7. 3 Panel Chairs elected by their peers

With respect to the representation from the 32 Independent Custody Visitors Panels, it is important that the diversity of London be reflected as much as possible by the four ICV representatives in terms of both geography and population.

In addition, with respect to specific Board meeting agenda items, it is expected that other ICVs and Administrators may wish to attend in bringing forward reports of issues of concern, and/or the products of project groups bringing forward the various elements of the Review recommendations.

Meetings

The London ICV Programme Board will meet on a quarterly basis at the offices of the MPA and meetings will not be open to the public