



Ukraine Delegation

On the 15 October the MPA welcomed a delegation of six visitors from the Ukraine who were keen to learn about our custody-visiting scheme. John Roberts, MPA Member, David Riddle, Deputy Chief Executive, Suzanne Idehen, Chair of Camden panel, George Fry, ICV Coordinator and Kerry McClelland, ICV Scheme Manager, joined Ian Smith, Chief Executive of ICVA in sharing information about custody visiting with the visitors. Suzanne Idehen was able to talk them through a typical visit in London and share her experiences of issues for detainees in London which was particularly helpful. We were also able to give the delegates a copy of our ICV Handbook, information leaflets and visit report forms for them to take back to colleagues in the Ukraine.

Custody visiting exists in the Ukraine, but it is in the early stages of development, currently operating in 12 of the country's 27 regions. At the moment the custody-visiting scheme is part of the Ministry of the Interior, but it is hoped that in time the scheme



will become independent of government and become the responsibility of an independent, non-governmental agency. The Ukraine does not currently have any legislation that supports custody visiting as a right for detainees, and this is something that the group are hoping to address.

There are approximately 750 police stations with custody facilities in the Ukraine, with some 200,000 police officers. Currently there is only sufficient capacity for custody visits to take place to one or two facilities every month, in the 12 regions covered.

A party consisting of two representatives from non-governmental organisations, two police officers and an Inspector carry out the visits. Conditions in police cells are generally poor and detainees are usually

required to share cells. After spending a couple of hours discussing the scheme, the MPA had arranged for the party to visit the custody suite at Charing Cross, where they had the opportunity to talk with custody staff, view cells and have a tour of the custody suite.

The Ukrainian party were spending a week in the UK, visiting several police authorities and attending the Scottish ICV Conference (where they are pictured above) to learn more about custody visiting in the UK.

The delegates found their visit to the MPA and Charing Cross very helpful and interesting, and hope to be able to use some of the knowledge gained about custody visiting practices in the UK, back home in the Ukraine.

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Expenses Policy

Please be reminded that to ensure prompt processing of your expenses, ICVs should:

- Keep receipts, tickets and Oyster print outs – public bodies can't pay expenses without them.
- Make a note of visits – your coordinator won't be able to look them up for you.
- If you make telephone calls to arrange visits, and you wish to claim for them, write on your claim form who you called and when.

Please claim promptly as claims that date back more than 3 months cannot be paid.



Peace Week

London Week of Peace ran from 9 - 16 September 2007 and incorporated events involving the Metropolitan Police Service in every borough across London.

The MPA supported the Week and its vision to

involve all Londoners in a celebration of diversity with the goal of promoting justice, equality and respect and contributing to a more cohesive society.

At the London Week of Peace fundraising dinner and awards presentation

on Thursday 13 September, the MPA sponsored the Bravery Award for an individual who showed exceptional courage in keeping the peace, and was presented by MPA Deputy Chair Cindy Butts.

In a press statement about the Week Cindy said "The message is simple - add your voice to the appeal to end violence, promote peace and work together to help make London a safer city for everyone." ICVA trainer Helen Schofield also attended the dinner as part of an MPA table of representatives.

Helen said "It was a

rewarding event with the opportunity to hear from many different individuals and organisations about their contribution to peace in London. It was moving to hear from so many young people about the work they had been doing, especially in schools. I was especially touched by the mother who worked so hard to bring about peace and understanding in her community after her son was killed. There is so much good going on out there yet unfortunately it is the negative things that are mostly reported on in the media."



Cindy Butts presenting the award for Bravery.

Chairs Meeting

The first of a new format of ICV Chairs meetings took place on Tuesday 23 October at the MPA. Chairs and Vice Chairs from 22 panels attended the meeting with MPA staff and John Roberts, MPA Lead Member. Keith Limburn Assistant Director of Property at the MPS, gave a presentation on the new cleaning contract and answered questions on cleaning issues. Following Keith's presentation a number of other issues of concern to Chairs were discussed, including panels' experiences of waiting times for FMEs, the increase in immigration detainees

being held for long periods of time and the new arrangements for access to information from NSPIS, which have recently been introduced by the MPS, in line with Data Protection.

Another item on the agenda was the MPA Youth Scrutiny, which ICVs have been asked to feed in to alongside other groups, through their local Community Engagement Group or Consultative Group who are leading on the community consultations.

There was an update on recruitment and training provision and on the ICV Reference group. We

also discussed the first cluster meeting which took place at the Irish Centre in Hammersmith during October, and saw Dave Imroth from the Custody Directorate attend to talk about planned custody clusters in west London and a new staffing model for custody in London. Liam Kenny, Chair of Hillingdon, gave a useful presentation on using the media to promote custody visiting.

The atmosphere was informal and relaxed and the focus of the meeting was custody issues in London. The

MPA has had feedback from several Chairs including Margaret Gubbins of Bromley Panel who found it to be 'a pleasant and constructive meeting.' Chairs meetings will take place twice a year at the MPA and will complement cluster meetings, which provide an opportunity for Chairs to get together in smaller forums to discuss local concerns. Each meeting will have a speaker or a theme and it is hoped that meetings will provide an opportunity for Chairs to discuss issues of mutual interest or concern relating to custody visiting.



ICVA National Conference 2007

This year's ICVA national conference took place on 17 November at Alton Towers Conference Centre, Staffordshire.

A party of 12 ICVs and two Coordinators attended from the London scheme, along with the three MPA representatives on the ICVA National Executive Committee.

A drinks reception was held on the evening prior to the conference, hosted by Staffordshire

Police Authority, which gave ICVs from across the UK the chance to meet and discuss experiences.

Speakers at the conference on the Saturday included; Mr Neil Curtis from the Home Office's Policing Powers and Protection Unit, Mr Robert Taylor Asst. Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police, Mr Everett Henry of HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, Ms Fiona

Collins from the Immigration Services Department and Mr Joe Malloy of Staffordshire Police.

A whole range of topics from managing immigration detention to ICV protocol for visiting detainees held under the Terrorism Act, were discussed.

The MPA is currently in the process of compiling a comprehensive conference report, which will include articles by some of the

ICVs that attended, and this will be distributed to all ICVs in due course.

ICVs that attended the conference said that they found it worthwhile and interesting,, even if the coach journey was a little eventful, and long. We hope they will be sharing information from the conference with their panels at their upcoming meetings.

Pilot Information Evening

On the 7 November the first ICV Information Evening was held at the MPA. The aim of the event was to publicise the work of the ICV scheme and the MPA's responsibilities, thereby improving awareness across London and seeking to recruit new ICVs to the scheme.

Adverts had been placed in the Metro and Evening Standard in the weeks running up to the event, and resulted in 38 people registering. Of these, 24 attended the event and those who did not have been sent an application pack by email or post.

The evening consisted of a series of short presentations by staff and ICVs explaining the role and function of the MPA generally, as well as its responsibility to run and manage the ICV scheme.

Attendees were shown a

video example of a custody visit and talked through some of the situations a visitor might come across, as well as some of the practicalities of custody visits.

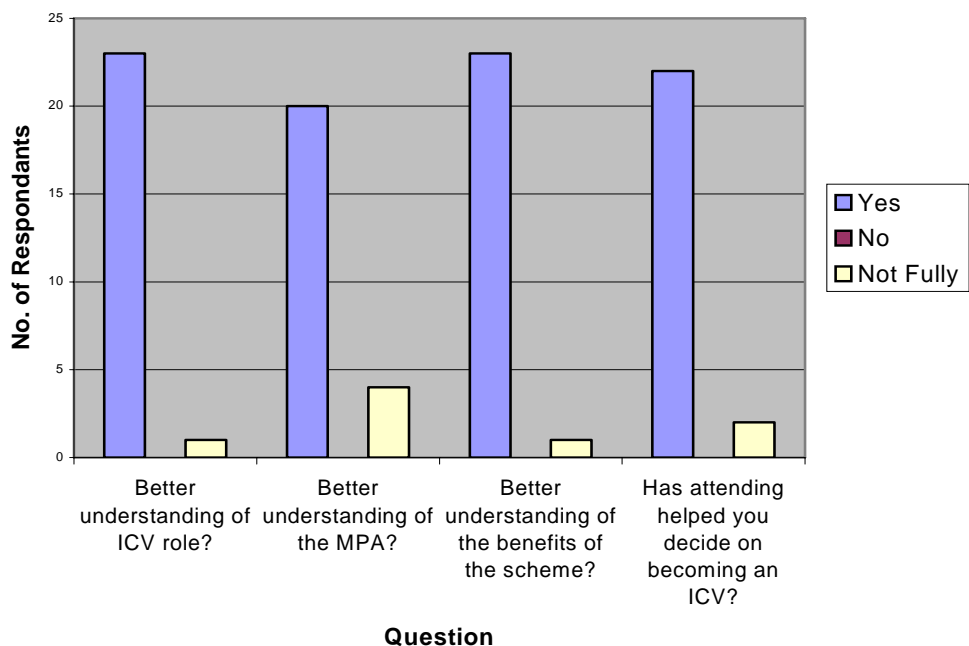
The event was well

received by those who attended and all completed evaluation forms gave positive feedback.

Feedback received will obviously shape the future development of

such evenings. We will also be monitoring the number of applicants that come through this route.

ICV Information Event Feedback





Contacts

Metropolitan Police Authority

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Phone: 0808 100 1036
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Minicom 020 7202 0173

FREEPOST address for report, application and vetting forms:

ICV Coordinator
Metropolitan Police Authority
FREEPOST LONI7808
London
SW1H 0DY

ICVA

PO Box 1053
Colne
BB9 4BL

E-mail: info@icva.org.uk
Web: www.icva.org.uk

New Staff

The ICV Team is now up to full strength at the MPA, having recently welcomed Cindy Doyle-MacRae and Tony Hawker to the team.

Cindy will be responsible for the south east London panels of Croydon, Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich.

Tony will be Coordinator for the north central panels of Camden, Hackney (once it detaches from Tower Hamlets), Haringey and Islington.

Once both Cindy and Tony are fully inducted, and brought up to speed with the current issues of the scheme, they will take over full Coordinator responsibility for their panels. Almost immediately the new Coordinators will be attending their panels' meetings, accompanied by the Coordinator who currently supports the panel, for handover purposes.

Contact details for both Cindy and Tony will be circulated to their panels as soon as they are confirmed.



*Wishing ICVs
& Very
Merry Christmas
&
Best Wishes
for a
Prosperous and
Happy
2008!*



Operation Trident Presentation to Enfield ICVP

Inspector Steve Tyler from Operation Trident visited Enfield ICV panel in October and gave a highly interesting and well received presentation on the work of the unit in Enfield, as well as across London.

Insp Tyler explained to the panel that Trident's five main, hot spot boroughs are Hackney, Lambeth, Southwark, Brent and Haringey.

Only one borough in the Metropolitan Police Area, Havering, has not recorded a Trident shooting incident (at time of writing this article).

The presentation gave an insight into Trident criminality, in that in the late 1990s and early 2000s, it was mainly perpetrated by Jamaican-born nationals. However, in the last four years there has been a steep rise in the involvement of British-born suspects, many being second and third generation African-Caribbean, making this more a 'home grown' problem.

Much of Trident gun crime is, unsurprisingly, linked to the poorer London boroughs, areas of deprivation, high ethnic minority population and high unemployment.

Enfield ICVs asked many questions such as, 'Why don't residents always know when a shooting takes place?' and 'What are they doing to convince the younger members of the community not turn to guns?' In response Insp Tyler showed the panel examples of adverts that had been used on TV, radio and in presentations to schools.

The panel found the evening enlightening and highly emotive, and thanked Insp Tyler for his time.

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Please submit articles, pictures, or 'Questions for the Lead Member' by 7 January 2008 to Emma at the MPA.