

## London ICV Newsletter

June 2010

### New Chair of the MPA

In February the London Assembly confirmed Kit Malthouse, the Deputy Mayor for Policing, as chair of the MPA. Kit met ICVs at the summer social in 2009 where he presented wards for long service. In his introduction to the revised ICV Handbook he comments "You will be playing a vital role in helping safeguard an individual's rights and entitlements whilst they are detained. You are making a key contribution in maintaining public confidence in the police. Let me take this opportunity, on behalf of Londoners, to thank you for your contributions. The ICV scheme could not continue without your dedication, commitment and support."

### Issues raised with Custody Directorate

Serious or ongoing issues which haven't been resolved locally can be raised with Custody Directorate (CD) via the ICV Panel Coordinator and Scheme Manager. As well as issues from specific panels Coordinators review reports and panel meeting minutes to identify recurrent themes or concerns. Recent topics include: ambient meals and expiry dates. After being raised by several panels CD has identified that a large order received recently contained expiry dates of only 6 weeks. This has now been brought to the attention of the contractor; storage of items, especially drugs in custody suites or cells. CD confirmed that custody suites should not be used for storage but recognised that the physical layout of the station sometimes meant this was an unavoidable temporary option. It's perfectly appropriate for ICVs to raise with custody staff; on a positive note, the number of cleaning complaints has diminished with improved communication between custody staff and contractors.

*The revised ICV Handbook contains guidance on escalation of issues. The Handbook will be available from July 1.*

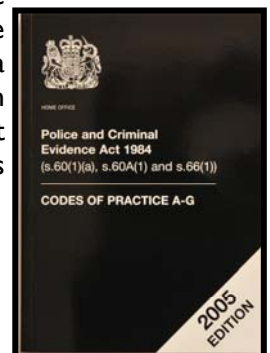
### CS spray presentation

At a recent H and R ICV Panel meeting Andy Corr, Officer Safety Instructor, gave a presentation on the use of CS Spray. The main points were:

- \*the use of CS spray for police officer safety is covered by PACE section 117 which related to reasonable force in the execution of duty.
  - \*the use of CS spray is sometimes the best tactical option as it is not designed to hurt someone but is designed to stop a person and gain control of a situation.
  - \*after CS spray has been used and control of the situation is gained aftercare needs to be given, this includes; Giving the person a paper suit, Taking the individual out of the environment and placing them in a ventilated van, Ensuring they routinely see a doctor or nurse and receive a medical assessment.
  - \*CS spray is designed to react to mucus membranes. The side effects are of the spray include; Audible exclusion, Panic, Sore eyes, which get worse if rubbed
  - \*there is no detrimental effect on asthmatics and the effects usually last about 15 minutes. If the side effects last up to 45 minutes they should be treated as a medical emergency
  - \*if CS spray is carried by a member of the public then it is Section 5 Firearms Offence.
- If your panel is interested in receiving this presentation, or you have ideas for presentations you would find interesting please ask your ICV Coordinator.*

### Amended codes of practice

The revised codes of practise came into force in April 2010. The main change which affects the London ICV scheme is with regards to self introduction, mainly that the police authority has the option of implementing self introduction. The MPA will review the outcome of the second stage of the self introduction pilot in the summer before making a decision on whether or not to take this forward.



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## ICV Profile - Liam Kenny



**Name:** Liam Kenny

**Location:** Hillingdon Panel

**Length of ICV Service:** 9yrs

**Occupation:** Emergency Care Practitioner, London Ambulance Service since 1988.

"I joined the Custody Visitors in Hillingdon in August 2002 after seeing an article in the local

paper. The reason I joined was my curiosity coupled with a desire to do something for the community.

"After a short training session, I was out seeing Uxbridge, Heathrow and West Drayton's custody suites. I quickly became the vice chair and have been the chair for the last 3 years. Vice chair John Hayden, the panel of 18

members and our coordinator Mike (who keeps on retiring) provide excellent support and work very hard to make the scheme a real success.

"In 2008 I became the Vice Chair of Hillingdon's Community Police Consultative Group (CEPG in some boroughs) and hold the portfolio for Older People.

"My full time job takes me around London answering 999 calls from major accidents to more minor illnesses. Despite the sometimes stressful nature of my job, I really enjoy it and the challenges it brings. The jobs are never the same and I feel exhausted but rewarded after a 12 hour shift.

"I've kept honey bees for the past 5 years. I'm now so allergic to the stings that I must give them up. I would list music, driving, scuba diving and travel as my interests and hobbies. The last place I visited was Australia's Great Barrier Reef and returned home just 5 hours before the volcanic ash closed down the airspace for 2 weeks".

**Favourite meal:** Traditional Chicken Tikka

**Favourite place:** Sydney, Australia

## MBE for ICV



Congratulations to Maya Donelan, Hammersmith & Fulham ICV, who has been awarded an MBE for her services to the community in that borough, specifically, her work with Bishop Creighton House. Bishop Creighton House is a local community centre in Fulham which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2008. Maya has been on the Committee since the 1980s and Chairman for about 9

years.

Maya has lived in Fulham for over 40 years; she worked in the antiquarian book business, but for the last 15 years, before she retired, she worked for Raleigh International, a youth development charity which sent young people on expeditions overseas.

Maya has been a member of the H&F ICV panel for 3 years. She also volunteered with the local Youth Offending Team for about 7 years, as a referral order panel member. She is particularly interested in 19th century architecture and has volunteered with the Victorian Society for over 40 years. She is the Hon. Secretary of the Fulham Society. Maya received her award from the Queen at a ceremony at Buckingham Palace in February.

## Refresher training —top tips!

Every newsletter we will include extracts from the initial and refresher training. This edition we are looking at VISIT REPORT FORMS.

Types of errors we commonly see on report forms are:

- 17 minute delay noted, but no reason given
- day of week, date (including month) not stated
- all times should be listed in 24 hour clock;
- no 'visit ended' time stated;
- no relevant date and time for detainee stated;
- total in custody listed as 7 but only 4 sets of detainee details recorded
- 'Total spoken to' left blank
- Observations in the 'matters box' and vice versa
- 'Offered/refused visit' box not ticked

## Unlimited Tenure of ICV Chairs – a personal point of view

Patrick McHale, Chair of the Sutton ICV panel, gives his view on the tenure of ICVP Chairs.

“Historically there has been no limitation on the tenure of ICV Chairs and there are many examples of chairs providing outstanding service over many years. But is it right that chairs have unlimited tenure? A limited tenure of two years for ICV Chairs was one of the proposals considered by the programme board involved in drawing up new governance arrangements in 2006, but the timing of this change was unfortunate. Some of the chairs affected by the proposed limitation were vocal critics of the

MPA and the experience of chairs was important at this time of change; as a result the proposal was shelved.

“Many organisations have a limitation on the tenure for chairs and other senior officials and regard it as vital for good governance. Is it time for ICVs to reconsider unlimited tenure? Benefits of having a regular change of chair may include: development of ICVs, introduction of fresh ideas, and avoiding the situation where a strong chair can be difficult to stand against at the AGM. It would also allow a chair to step down gracefully. Thankfully many retiring chairs continue to serve as ICVs

and so their valuable experience and local knowledge is not lost.

Please discuss this issue at your next panel meeting and if there is support to consider change we can raise it at our next Chairs Meeting.

*This is the personal viewpoint from an existing ICV panel chair. The MPA recognises the excellent contribution panel chairs make and is also mindful of good practice in other community organisations. While the Custody team would be happy to facilitate further discussion it has no plans to impose a limited tenure for ICV panel chairs.*

### Obituary - Jim Lewis

The funeral took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> June of Jim Lewis, a longstanding member of the Bromley ICV Panel. Jim was born in Wales, the youngest of three children. After service in the Army he moved to London where he spent his working life in the construction business. A great reader and traveller, he was also highly skilled at DIY which was reflected in his home. He was also keen to nurture the interest shown by his grandson in military history which took him on a Battlefields Tour. In order to support the community in which he lived, he became an ICV and was conscientious and dependable in carrying out his visits and attending panel meetings. When the phone rang at around 6pm on a Sunday evening, you knew without answering it that it would be Jim calling to fix the forthcoming visit. He will be very much missed by us all, both as a Custody Visitor and as a genuine and very likeable man.

### Obituary - Ian Oppenheim

It was with great sadness that the Tower Hamlets ICV panel received the news of the sudden death of one of its longest serving members, Ian Oppenheim, aged 86, in early February. Ian was one of the panel's most valued and experienced members.

Ian served as an ICV for over 16 years; he joined the scheme as a Lay Visitor in 1992, with a short break when the ICV tenure was limited to just 6 years. He was instrumental in getting the upper age limit of 70 for Lay Visitors changed by the Home Office (who had responsibility for the scheme at that time).

Ian has held the posts of chair and vice chair of the Tower Hamlets panel over the years.

In his professional life, he ran a successful furniture business before he retired. As well as his work for the ICV panel in Tower Hamlets, Ian was



also a school governor and a volunteer at schools and day centres.

On 4 June 2009, the MPA hosted a summer social evening where a long service award was presented to Ian from Kit Malthouse, Chair of the MPA. Peter Tihanyi, (Chair of Tower Hamlets ICV Panel), and Madeleine Craggs (Vice Chair) attended his funeral on 7 February 2010. The MPA has expressed its condolences to his widow, Mrs Dorynne Oppenheim and the rest of his family.

## Coordinator contacts

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 James Tate - [james.tate@mpa.gov.uk](mailto:james.tate@mpa.gov.uk)  
 Hounslow

With the changes to the Custody (ICV) Team some panels are now served by new coordinators. As well as a reduction in the size of the team as part of the restructure of the MPA, two coordinators took the opportunity presented by the restructure to move to new positions within the Authority. Phase two of the restructure meant that the recruitment of permanent replacement staff had to be put on hold. The team currently carries two full time permanent vacancies and a fixed term contract vacancy, positions currently filled by two fixed term contract employees and an agency temp. Advertising for permanent staff will resume in June. Feedback from panels on the new coordinators has been very positive.

## Compendium annual report 2009

As almost all panels have signed off their annual reports, the Custody Team will issue the London ICV Scheme Annual Report in the coming weeks. The report will look very different to last year's first compendium AR. With the aim of producing a more concise, readable report which reflects the custody visiting activities of London, the borough profiles won't be included, though directions to where the borough ARs can be found will be in there. The MPA receives copies of ARs from ICV Schemes across the country and there are some excellent examples of well produced reports that members of the public would actually take the trouble to read. Although no other scheme conducts visiting on the scale that London does we think they provide a good guide to how annual reports can raise the profile of custody visiting and inform the community of the excellent and important work ICVs carry out.

### Welcome to new ICV's!

**The following joined the ICV scheme since February 2010**

#### Hammersmith & Fulham

Carla Revelo, Nicola Saunders

#### Westminster

Rachael Robinson

#### Hackney

Holly Dabbs

#### Bexley

Reginald Brown

#### Ealing

Mohamed Haji, Savraj Singh

#### Haringey

Andrew Frederick

#### Croydon

Karen Muldoon-Ibarra

#### Waltham Forest

Michelle Edwards, Wendy Tuttle

## Dates for your diary 2010

### Initial training:

Mondays 6 & 13 September 6-9pm at the MPA  
 Saturday 27 November, 10am-4pm at the MPA

### Diversity training:

Monday 12 July (TBC), 6-9pm at the MPA  
 October (TBC), 6-9pm at the MPA

### ICV Chairs meetings:

Tuesday 5 October, 6-8.30pm at the MPA

### Christmas social:

Monday 13 December, 6-9.30pm, London Living Room, City Hall.

### Metropolitan Police Authority

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

### FREEPOST address for report forms and application forms only :

ICV Coordinator  
 Metropolitan Police Authority  
**FREEPOST LONI7808**  
 London

### Have your say on policing in London

The MPA is consulting on London's policing priorities. We are interested in your opinion.

Please take part in a short questionnaire to tell us your views. To complete a questionnaire click on [www.mpa.gov.uk/publications/policingplans/haveyoursay/](http://www.mpa.gov.uk/publications/policingplans/haveyoursay/) or call 020 7202 0063, leave your name and address and we will send you a paper copy.

Please feel free to pass details of the consultation on to your friends, family or colleagues. We look forward to hearing your views on policing.