

## London ICV Newsletter

December 2010

### ICVA National Conference: Leeds 2010

Holly Dabbs, ICV with the Hackney panel, attended the ICVA National Conference in November and gives us her account of the day.

“At the beginning of November a group of 11 ICVs from different London panels travelled to Leeds for the 'ICVA National Conference'. There were six really interesting talks with speakers ranging from the Home Office to the Samaritans. All speakers spoke of the new government and their impending 'budget cuts' and how this was likely to affect our role as ICVs. Andrew Alexander from the Police Powers and Protection unit at the Home Office highlighted that ICVs would have a critical role when the cuts for the police come into place and that we need to make sure that corners are not being cut in respect of welfare and rights. Interestingly this made some ICVs stress the importance of maintaining their independent monitoring role.

“Alison Kilpatrick, Human Rights advisor to the Northern Ireland Policing board, gave a wonderful talk on the importance of Human Rights. She praised the work of ICVs and said that Human Rights should not be a 'maybe' for detainees but a certainty in every circumstance. Nicholas Long, of the Independent Police Complaints Commission, spoke of a report

into deaths in custody over the last 11 years. The numbers have fallen from 50 in 1999 to 17 this year and he believes the presence of ICVs contributed to the decline. Jan Van Zyl, from the Samaritans, gave an overview of the amazing work they do for the general population and in prisons through the 'listeners' scheme. Jane spoke of an expectation of a rise in suicides in the coming years due to the financial crisis and their efforts in making sure people have access to their services before they reach crisis point.

“Sadly some recent cases of misconduct and neglectful behaviour by police in custody suites across the country were mentioned but this reinforced the importance and relevance of the role we play in our local communities in making sure all detainees are treated with respect and dignity.”

Jo Rixom, Bromley ICV, also attended and said of the event “*It was a unique privilege to attend and benefit from the acumen of some extremely high calibre speakers. I left with huge insight, inspiration, and pride in Custody Visiting. I can't emphasise enough how beneficial I found the experience.*”

[Ian Smith, ICVA CEO and Andy Alexander from the Home Office](#)



**REMEMBER TO SUBMIT YOUR VIEWS ON THE NATIONAL STANDARDS CONSULTATION ON THE ICVA WEBSITE**

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## ICV Chairs meeting: November 2010

At the beginning of November Chairs and Vice Chairs from the majority of London's ICV panels came to the MPA for the second ICV Chairs meeting of the year. Clive Lawton, chair of the MPA Community Engagement and Citizen Focus sub-committee, which has responsibility for overseeing custody visiting for the Authority, opened the meeting and stated that we are facing challenging times at the moment. Detective Superintendent Dave Imroth from the MPS Custody Directorate spoke about proposals to form a central custody command which will manage custody suites in London instead of at borough level. The benefits and challenges of such a

scheme were discussed, as well as the drivers behind the proposal.

ICV Scheme Manager James Tate gave an update of the ICV Scheme, discussing panel performance and developments in the Scheme. The main development is the option to use self-introduction. This is to be discussed at panel meetings, with the panel making the decision whether to go ahead with this option or not.

Almost all panels are represented at the Chairs meetings and it's an opportunity to discuss regional and national developments in custody visiting and explore ways

to make the Scheme better.

Full notes of the meeting were sent to all ICVs. If you have not received these and would like to read them please contact your Coordinator.



## ICV Christmas Social



On a Monday night in mid December ICVs braved the cold to attend the ICV Christmas Social at City Hall. MPS custody staff also attended to help celebrate the festive season and thank ICVs for their hard work over the last year. Criminal Justice Commander Nick Bracken gave a short speech, thanking the ICVs on behalf of the Commissioner and the Deputy

Mayor for Policing for the great work they do. He made presentations to nine ICVs for their long service.

The following ICVs were awarded a long service award on the night :

Alice Evans of Enfield  
 Arun Chattopadhy of Tower Hamlets  
 Gurpashad Bance of Waltham Forest  
 Harold Blackett of Haringey  
 Joseph Akano of Lambeth  
 Peter Tihanyi of Tower Hamlets  
 Peter Osuhon of Brent  
 Peter Waterhouse of Enfield  
 Stephen Phillips of Havering and Redbridge

People who have been awarded an ICV long service award but did not attend the event are:

Abu Saud of Harrow  
 Dinah Gallop of Camden  
 Muhamed Ashgar of Newham  
 Peter Morris of Harrow

Those who did not attend have been or will be given their awards at their panel meetings.



## The 4 R's

An initiative to improve the monitoring of detainees who are intoxicated has been rolled out to MPS custody suites. The 4R magnetic stickers will be attached to cell doors prompting staff to carry out regular checks. They can also prompt ICVs to ask pertinent questions about the detainee.

The 4Rs are;

**Rousing** – *not just checking to see if they are breathing but actually waking them up*

**Response** – *to questions*

**Response** – *to commands or instructions*

**Remembering** – *any pre-existing health conditions*



## Awareness raising

The ICV team took part in several events as part of efforts to raise awareness and recruit members to those panels that need them.

In October, several members of the team attended a 'Volunteering in the Criminal Justice System' event at Greenwich University. The event was aimed at students who would like to volunteer as part of their course or to improve their employment prospects after graduation. Other organisations involved included CRI (Crime Reductions Initiative), Victim Support, St Giles, Prison Advice and Care Trust, Magistrates Association and the Met Volunteer Programme. There was a great deal of interest in the ICV Scheme.

Another member of the team

The Sutton ICV panel had a stall at an open day held at Sutton police station in September.

More than 3,700 visitors attended the event - double the number attending the previous year. The 'glimpse behind the scenes' at the police station included guided tours around the 35 cell custody suite and the control room, which contains the CCTV monitors. Specialist Met teams demonstrated the latest police technology including the bomb squad's robotic vehicle, the electronic taser and firearms equipment. Traffic police showed off their latest cars and motorcycles to youngsters who were only too willing to test out the lights and sirens.

attended a 'Volunteers' Match Making' event in November at the College of North West London. The purpose of this event was to put organisations in contact with students and the general public who wish to volunteer. As well as the ICV Scheme, organisations such as Mind and Age Concern took part. Again, there was an excellent turn out with lots of people taking an interest in the ICV Scheme.

We are always keen to hear suggestions for raising awareness of the importance of the ICV role. A number of ICVs have put posters up in their local libraries about the ICV Scheme so a big thank you to them. Please contact your Coordinator if you would like some posters and leaflets to distribute.

## Sutton police open day 2010

Other popular attractions included the five, eight-week old springer spaniel puppies. After training, the puppies may go on to be used to detect drugs or explosives at the Olympic Games in 2012. Equally popular were the two horses presented with their horsebox by mounted branch.



## Refresher Training: top tips!

In this edition we are looking at **Access**.

1. To the custody suite - immediate access should be granted unless there is a risk of danger to ICVs

2. To a juvenile without an appropriate adult (AA) present - an AA is not needed. Juveniles may be visited with their own consent. If an AA is present then the detained person's views should be sought on whether the AA should stay during visit

3. To detainees - access can be denied if 'judged not in the public interest', but there are strict guidelines - case officer must inform OiC of custody in writing; Inspector decides whether to deny ICVs access; Explanation given and recorded in CR. Denial NOT based on category of detainee (e.g. immigration) and reason should NOT be because detainee is being held incommunicado.

4. To custody records (CR), permission must be granted by the detainee unless deemed incapable by way of intoxication or asleep.

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**Welcome to new  
ICVs!****Barking and Dagenham**

Michelle Okoro

**Bexley**

Jonathan Blake  
Lorraine Sheen

**Brent**

Arabella Anderson  
Loleta Hayles  
Melvyn Leach

**Ealing**

Emma Benwell  
Malcolm Peek

**Greenwich**

Phillip Newman

**Hackney**

Bartholomew Nkwocha  
Jean-Michel Garcia-Alvarez

**Haringey**

John Dixon  
Tara Thompson

**Havering and Redbridge**

Deborah Regal  
Godwin Ogene  
Rachel Cartwright

**Hillingdon**

Gurdeep Sidhu  
Navinda Salotera

**Newham**

Barinder Mudhar  
Olatomi Araromi  
Papia Sultana

**Wandsworth**

Sarah Richmond

**Westminster**

Alexander Davison  
Chris McHugh

And also a big welcome to our  
new ICV Coordinator, Florence  
Haynes, who will be looking after  
Harrow, Lambeth, Lewisham,  
Merton, Southwark and Sutton

**Dates  
for your diary**

Next year's ICV training and  
meeting dates at the MPA offices  
have not yet been finalised.  
Below we have listed the month  
for the planned events. There  
will be an updated list in the  
next newsletter.

**Initial training:**

February (2 consecutive Monday  
evenings)  
May (Saturday)  
September (2 consecutive  
Monday evenings)  
October (Saturday)

**Diversity training:**

March  
October

**ICV Chairs meetings:**

April  
November

**And finally...**

As of December this year a  
quarterly 'issues bulletin' is being  
distributed, if you did not  
receive a copy of this please  
contact your Coordinator.

**A big thank you to you all  
for your hard work and  
dedication over the last  
year.**

**Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year from the  
ICV Team!**

