

Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel

26th September 2014

Independent Custody Visitors

Recommendations

That the Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel receive a brief presentation from the Chairs of the North and South Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) regarding their experience of the role.

1.0 Summary

1.1 Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) are members of the community who have been selected through an interview and induction process. They must have no direct involvement in the criminal justice system; for example, as serving police officers or special constables. Their main duty is to visit police stations unannounced to check on the welfare of people in police custody. Visits are always undertaken in pairs.

1.2 As stipulated in the Home Office Code of Practice, 2003:

“Independent Custody Visiting is the well-established system whereby volunteers attend police stations to check on the treatment of detainees and the conditions in which they are held and that their rights and entitlements are being observed. It offers protections to both detainees and the police and reassurance to the community at large.”

1.3 Further information on the role of the ICV is available on the Police and Crime Commissioner’s website:

<http://www.warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk/information/plans-and-performance/Independent%20Custody%20Visitors%20Information.pdf>

1.4 The Chairs of the North and South Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) will be in attendance at the meeting to share their experience of the role. This will then be followed by a brief Question and Answer session, where the Panel is welcome to put relevant questions to the Chairs.