



# ICV NEWS

The newsletter for  
Derbyshire's Independent Custody Visitors

DECEMBER 2018

## WELCOME TO THE DECEMBER EDITION OF DERBYSHIRE'S INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITORS NEWSLETTER

ICV News has been designed to keep you informed and updated on any National and Local news, including training events, dates for the diary and any current issues.



**Derbyshire  
Police and Crime  
Commissioner**

Protecting Communities,  
Fighting Crime

## UPDATES FROM ICVA

### DELAYS IN DUTY SOLICITORS

There has been feedback from different areas that they are experiencing delays in accessing duty solicitors. We have been asked to feedback to ICVA if this is a problem in our area so please look out for this on your visits.

### INQUEST NEWSLETTER

The latest INQUEST Newsletter has been released. This month it includes information on mental health and learning disability. If you would like to read it, please click [here](#).

### BLOG FROM KATIE KEMPEN

Katie Kempen, the Chief Executive of ICVA has written a blog celebrating the work that you all do as ICVs and the impact that you have. If you would like to give it a read, please click [here](#).

### BLOG FROM LIZ

Our very own fabulous Liz has written a blog about Custody Record Reviewing and the changes that we are making in Derbyshire. It's a great read! If you'd like to see it, please click [here](#).

## HMICFRS MENTAL HEALTH AND POLICING

HMICFRS published their report into Policing and Mental Health - Picking up the Pieces this week. You can read the full report [here](#): In brief, the main points, (as reported by Zoe Billingham) in the report are:

- The police are doing a good job in difficult circumstances
- This is complex, high risk, high demand work
- Police are picking up the pieces of a broken mental health system, often working far behind their duties and roles
- The burden placed on policing is intolerable
- It is a national crisis requiring urgent action

## MERSEYSIDE INSPECTION OF POLICE CUSTODY

Merseyside has had its inspection report from HMIP/HMICFRS inspection published. Overall the report is a balanced one with both some good practice notes and some causes for concern and recommendations recorded. Key findings from the report which ICVA have discussed with the Merseyside Scheme are:

- 3 notes of good practice centering on health care data sharing, the Liaison and Diversion service being embedded in the suite and the monitoring of response times and outcomes for mental health assessments all leading to improved outcomes for detainees.
- The report also notes that there were positives to be taken from the forces understanding of the public sector equality duty and good training in place for staff.
- The report recorded concerns about female detainees. Female officers were not always available and some male custody staff reported not discussing menstrual care with detainees as they felt uncomfortable to do so.
- The report includes concerns with regard to the use of anti-rip clothing. This clothing was used when detainees did not answer the risk assessment questions, leading the inspectorate to comment that this places the force at risk of using anti-rip clothing as a compliance aid which is inappropriate.
- The anti-rip clothing given to detainees was often of an old 'smock' type garment which is out of date and not mindful of detainee dignity.
- Several areas of PACE Code C were not complied with, in particular those regarding PACE reviews.
- There were often waits for AAs (up to 20 hours recorded). The force does not currently monitor detention times and waits for AAs, although the report does note that the force are aware of the issue and seeking to address it. In addition to this a concern was recorded that not all vulnerable adults who require an AA were assessed by the custody staff as needing one present.

## SAVE THE DATE

We have three dates for you to pop into your diary! The next training event at HQ will be on the 17<sup>th</sup> April, the next Regional Advance Training will take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2019 and the next National Conference will take place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019. More information will be released about all of these events as they approach but they will be themed around equality and diversity.

If you would like to attend the National Conference, we are accepting expressions of interest so please let us know. As in previous years, we will allocate two spaces to North Derbyshire and two to South Derbyshire. Precedence will be given to those who haven't attended the conference before. Otherwise, names will be drawn from a hat if there are more than four expressions of interest.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS!

From all of us here at the OPCC, Merry Christmas! We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a deliriously happy New Year. Please note, the office will be closed from the 21<sup>st</sup> of December till the 2<sup>nd</sup> January. We hope you enjoy our above festive pictures and we look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Liz and Emalem x