



ICV NEWS

The newsletter for
Derbyshire's Independent Custody Visitors

OCTOBER 2018

WELCOME TO THE OCTOBER 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

GUIDANCE ON SPITGUARDS

ICVA have published guidance and a checklist for you to use if and when you come into contact with a detainee wearing a spitguard in custody. Spitguards are now in wide use across custody. The guidance should equip you to observe their use, report any problems and raise issues with staff. I have attached both to this newsletter so please do take a look.

MENTAL HEALTH COP BLOG - NOT ENOUGH BEDS

The most recent Mental Health Cop blog explores the shortage of mental health beds and, in particular, highlights waits from police custody where those arrested then need assessment or care. This is a very useful blog that directs questions about resources. Please do have a read, share any times that you have come across this in custody. The blog can be found [here](#).

THAMES VALLEY DEATH IN CUSTODY

The media has run reports on the recent death of a detainee in Thames Valley. The reports state that Leroy Junior Medford concealed heroin and then consumed it in custody whilst under constant watch. He later died from a fatal overdose. The reporting clearly outlines the importance of effective constant watches. This is a challenging task for officers, but one that must be done effectively. It is important in your roles as ICVs to check (when possible) that observation levels are being properly adhered to. An article on the death can be found [here](#).

MENSTRUAL CARE

Some of you may be aware that every single PCC (including Deputy Mayors) signed a joint letter supporting the proposed changes to PACE Codes on improved menstrual care. This unity is a powerful symbol that PCCs support your work and the dignity of detainees. Sherry from ICVA stated that she cannot recall a time where every PCC has signed a joint letter, so this is an important and seminal moment.

The APCC collated this response and have sent sincere thanks to everyone involved. This has been an excellent display of partnership and promotion of what ICVs can do. Congratulations!

STORAGE OF RELIGIOUS ITEMS

Sherry has spent significant amounts of time researching how religious items should be stored in police custody. Whilst it was expected that ICVA would need to produce a detailed set of guidance for each faith, they have actually been delighted that faith leaders that they have worked with have come together to suggest a common standard of respect and storage for all items. This guidance has been attached to the newsletter. You will see that this suggests wrapping all religious texts and placing them all on shelves at an equal level, so please, have a read and look out for this next time you're in custody.

INQUEST NEWSLETTER

The latest INQUEST newsletter has been published. This newsletter considers a range of issues across different areas of detention, but particularly considers police accountability in relation to deaths in custody. If you would like to give it a read, click [here](#).

NPM AND OPCAT

Both of these pieces of legislation are important to your role as a custody visitor so we thought we'd give you a small insight and the links to do more research should you wish.

The UK National Preventive Mechanism was established in 2009 to strengthen the protection of people in detention through independent monitoring. The NPM focuses attention on practices in detention that could amount to ill-treatment, and works to ensure its own approaches are consistent with international standards for independent detention monitoring. It is therefore important to the role of an ICV to know and understand how ICV schemes work alongside the NPM. To find out more, click [here](#).

The Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment is an optional UN Protocol that countries sign up to. It has a preventive mandate focused on an innovative, sustained and proactive approach to the prevention of torture and ill treatment. The Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture started its work in February 2007. If you would like to find out more about the OPCAT, click [here](#).

DECEMBER ROTA

Please find attached to this email the December rotas for you. We can't believe it's almost Christmas! Time flies when you're having fun!