

Panel date:	26th March 2024
Number of panel members in attendance:	14
Constabulary attendees:	4
OPCC attendees:	Jack Hudson (JH) Matilda Pearson (MP) Charmaine Christie (CC) Shona McKenzie (SM) Helen Slater (HS)
Additional attendees:	0
Agenda Item 1	<p><u>Minutes and Actions from Previous Meeting</u></p> <p>Previous Minutes and Actions agreed.</p> <p>JT gave a verbal update against the outstanding action for more detail to be provided around occurrences of ABD from Use of Force Scrutiny Panel in February 2024. The update will also be added to the minutes from that meeting for clarity.</p>
Agenda Item 2	<p><u>Introduction to the meeting and what we want to achieve.</u></p> <p>MP introduced the purpose of the Community Scrutiny Panel for Custody. It is being introduced to increase transparency, scrutiny and performance within police custody. The objectives of custody scrutiny are to independently:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assess and report on detention and custody processes. • review and advise on matters of disproportionality; and • assist in generating a transparent product suitable for public consideration at the end of each annual Panel cycle. <p>MP explained that after the introduction to the custody journey by DG,</p>

	<p>panel members would be invited to identify areas that they may want to scrutinise.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 3</p>	<p><u>ICV Role</u></p> <p>SM gave a brief introduction to the role of an Independent Custody Visitor (ICV). ICVs are members of the local community who visit police stations unannounced to check on the treatment of detainees, the conditions in which they are being held and that their rights and entitlements are being observed. They are a crucial part of reassuring the public that the Police are being independently held to account.</p> <p>The Cambridgeshire ICV Scheme is a member of the Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA), which is a Home Office-funded organisation set up to support custody visiting nationwide. SM detailed who can be an ICV, how and when the visits take place and how the visits are reported.</p> <p>An experienced ICV gave a short demonstration of what might happen on a visit.</p> <p>MP confirmed to the panel that there is absolutely no intention to duplicate the work of ICVs and that the intention of Custody Scrutiny is to compliment this work. This is also part of the reason that an ICV has been chosen to chair the custody panel as they should be able to keep scrutiny sessions on track and steer panel members away from conversations where there is overlap with the workload of ICVs, therefore maintaining efficiency of the meetings.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 4/5</p>	<p><u>Custody Journey and Q&A</u></p> <p>Custody Sergeant DG gave an overview of the custody booking in process.</p> <p>JH reminded panel members that the role of the scrutiny panel is to hold Chief Constable and Constabulary to account for the effective and efficient delivery of service.</p>

	<p>MP explained that if questions are raised in a scrutiny panel, they will be passed on to the constabulary to respond. Oftentimes an explanation will be given as to why things are done as they are, feedback (positive or negative) will be passed to staff members for learning.</p> <p><u>Panel Member questions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should Observation Levels be set higher for first hour in custody? <i>DG explained how Observation Levels are set and clarified that they are under constant review.</i> • Are staffing levels within a custody suite a purely budgetary decision? <i>JT explained that staffing levels are based on demand profiles and space limitations.</i> • Is death in custody data available? • What is the retention period for CCTV from within the custody suites? • What is the average length of booking in process? <i>DG advised anywhere between 12 mins for simple booking in and up to 1.5 hours for more complex cases.</i> • Panel members discussed post traumatic trauma after being detained and queried how this is managed. <p><i>ACTION: CB to find out about the retention period of CCTV in custody.</i></p> <p><i>ACTION: Panel member identified that DP from second booking was not under control of the officer. DG to feed back to officer.</i></p>
<p>Agenda Item 6</p>	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>All panel members will be offered a visit to Huntingdon Police Custody Suite.</p> <p>The two available slots are: Tuesday 23rd April @ 9am Thursday 25th April @ 3pm</p> <p>MP reminded panel members that there is a new email address for Community Scrutiny Panel matters</p>

	<p>communityscrutinypanel@cambs.police.uk.</p> <p>Panel members are invited to use this mailbox to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send any remaining questions raised at the meeting. • Consider the custody journey and share any initial thoughts on aspects that you can see value in scrutinising. • Share any general feedback you have regarding that introduction to custody to the Community Scrutiny Panel cycle. <p>ACTION: HS to circulate dates and sign-up details to panel members.</p> <p>ACTION: CB to communicate date of stop and search training.</p>
Date of next meetings	<p>25th April 2024 – Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel</p> <p>14th May 2024 - Community Scrutiny Panel AGM</p> <p>23rd May 2024 – Use of Force Scrutiny Panel</p> <p>27th June 2024 – Custody Scrutiny Panel</p> <p>25th July 2024 - Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel</p> <p>29th August 2024 - Use of Force Scrutiny Panel</p> <p>26th September 2024 - Custody Scrutiny Panel</p> <p>24th October 2024 - Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel</p> <p>21st November 2024 - Use of Force Scrutiny Panel</p> <p>12th December 2024 - Custody Scrutiny Panel</p> <p>30th January 2025 - Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel</p> <p>27th February 2025 - Use of Force Scrutiny Panel</p> <p>27th March 2025 - Custody Scrutiny Panel</p>

Feedback received from panel members after the meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there any way to get a copy of the Pace Code book that we were handed last night. As for I found it interesting looking at the arrest sheet and the book it also explained the Sgt actions. • From the video it appears that the booking in process may be an area to consider looking at in more detail. For me, it is difficult to identify anything else without an understanding of what the underlying risks are and whether there are areas that routinely cause concern. • We were told there were 3 custody sergeants so would that mean 3 people could be dealt with at the custody desk at the
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same time? If so, the space did not seem to allow for confidentiality which is perhaps something to consider in the light of the personal questions about health etc that people are asked during the risk assessment process. Perhaps space and time do not allow for this, but it might mean that true answers are not given by guests.

- The discharge process was briefly talked about and there was some concern about those who might have been wrongfully arrested. Should that process be scrutinised as well?
- I wonder if there is merit for the custody panel to follow someone's journey through custody - from arrival in the car park, to leaving the building. This could include the detainee's written record and CCTV images. Perhaps following an adult and also following a juvenile. And perhaps including someone who stays beyond the normal maximum stay so needs Inspector permission to remain in custody.