

ICV Annual Report 2019-20

Introduction	<p>Nottinghamshire Police have two active custody suites. Bridewell custody suite is located in the City of Nottingham and Mansfield custody suite is located in Mansfield police station in the north of the County. Newark custody suite is not used on a day to day basis, but is still considered part of the custody estate for business continuity purposes. Newark was opened for 2 weeks during May/June 2019 whilst Mansfield custody was closed for refurbishment.</p> <p>Bridewell continues to receive the highest number of detainees out of the two custody suites due to its capacity and location. In total there were over 18,000 detainees held in police custody in Nottinghamshire between April 2019 – March 2020. Planning permission has been granted for a new suite close to Radford Road police station and will replace Bridewell custody suite.</p> <p>Mansfield custody has undergone further refurbishment in the past year which has seen the redecoration and colour coding of the suite to improve health and safety for staff and detainees. Mansfield has also created and refurbished a discrete booking in room and Liaison and Diversion room for private consultations with support workers.</p>
Independent Custody Visiting in Nottinghamshire	<p>Police and Crime Commissioner Paddy Tipping said: “This is a valuable scheme which, overseen by my Volunteer Manager, aims to increase public confidence in the treatment and welfare of detainees. The volunteers provide an impartial view of custody arrangements, giving the local community confidence that scrutiny of the custody suites is unbiased and totally independent.</p> <p>“Their findings are reported back to me and appropriate action taken if there’s a problem.”</p>
Independent Custody Visitors	<p>The ICV scheme in Nottinghamshire currently have 25 active volunteers. During the recent recruitment campaign, efforts were made to target recruitment to create a better balance in volunteer representation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8% of volunteers are from BME communities. • 68% of volunteers are female and 32% are male across a spread of age groups. • 8% of volunteers have a disability.

	<p>ICVs are scheduled to visit each suite 2 – 3 times per week.</p> <p>Reports are made by way of an electronic reporting writing system. ICVs use a tablet to input their reports using cloud based software. These reports are sent to the Inspector and Volunteer Manager for their attention and action is taken to resolve any issues raised when necessary.</p> <p>Visits to detainees arrested under the Terrorism Act (Pace Code H)</p> <p>A small group of specially trained custody visitors are on standby to visit detainees held under the Terrorism Act. These volunteers are vetted to a higher level and receive specialist training to undertake this role.</p>
Governance	<p>ICVs are encouraged to resolve as many issues as possible during the course of their visit with custody staff. These include minor issues for example, organising food and drink or requesting exercise or showers on behalf of detainees. Issues that ICVs report are considered more serious and would include detainees not receiving their rights and entitlements, for example, detainees not being given access to an appropriate adult (for vulnerable or juvenile detainees) or being offered legal advice.</p> <p>More serious concerns which are reported to the scheme manager are raised with the custody inspector by the Volunteer Manager. Issues are also formally discussed with volunteers and the custody Inspector at ICV Team Meetings. Custody visiting is also a standing agenda item on the weekly PCC Team Meeting and more serious matters raised by ICVs can be escalated through this meeting and if necessary, further escalated to the PCC and Chief Constable for discussion. The Volunteer Manager submits quarterly reports to the ACC responsible for custody, Custody Inspector and Chief Inspector. The scheme manager would also bring any serious incident or issue of national concern to the attention of ICVA.</p> <p>ICVs are invited to quarterly team meetings to review the previous quarters data and to discuss concerns that have been raised.</p>

	<p>We offer on-going training and development to our volunteers through attendance at team meetings, regional and national conferences.</p> <p>At Christmas we held a very successful celebration event to thank all our volunteer colleagues. During volunteers week, the Commissioner invited all volunteers to attend an afternoon tea celebration and presented them with certificates and pin badges.</p>
Independent Custody Visiting data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During 2019-20, there were 173 visits to custody made by Independent Custody Visitors. • 677 detainees were offered a visit; 121 (18%) declined the offer. Last year the figures were 681 and 65 (10%) respectively. • An average of 3 detainees were seen during each visit, 0.2 less than last year. • 74% of these visits took place during weekdays and 26% during the weekend. Last year it was 73% and 27% respectively. • Of the 173 unannounced visits made to custody, ICV's were granted immediate access to the custody area in 82% of cases. • Feedback from ICVs have reported few formal complaints which continues from the previous year. • There were 2 visits to the TACT suite during 2019-20.
Independent Custody Visting scheme findings	<p>In 2018-19 ICVs have reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helpful and supportive staff. • Booking in process is efficient with most detainees being booked in within 20 minutes. • That religious requirements are not sufficiently considered. Custody Inspector has revisited the use of the prayer room for detainees and the storage of religious items. • That reading material be actively offered to detainees. There is currently a project to source up to date supplies of books and magazines for both custody suites. • That the Rights and Entitlements document should be updated to the most recent version. • Concerns about the level of staffing in custody.

<p>How the police respond to Independent Custody Visitor findings</p>	<p>Nottinghamshire Police have designated an Inspector as a single point of contact for the ICV scheme. Electronic reports are generated and a notification is sent to the Inspector who considers the content of the ICV report. The Inspector replies directly to the ICV and Volunteer Manager after investigating the concern which has been raised. Significant issues are also logged by the Volunteer Manager for discussion with the Inspector and/or at ICV Team Meetings. All responses are documented and escalated as necessary.</p> <p>There have been some delays in responding to ICV concerns during 2019-20. This has been due to long term sickness of the custody Inspector responsible for the ICV scheme which coincided with the retirement of the Chief Inspector for Custody.</p> <p>Processes are in place to raise serious matters through the weekly PCC Team meeting and if necessary, further escalated to the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable for discussion.</p>
<p>Other areas of note/special events</p>	<p>ICVs have participated in a national pilot scheme testing new ways to monitor custody. ICVs in Nottinghamshire are one of 5 areas across England and Wales who have successfully completed a pilot reviewing custody records. A formal evaluation of the pilot has taken place and a decision is awaited by the Home Office as to whether custody record reviews become a permanent role for ICVs.</p> <p>ICVs have reviewed up to 16 records each month between September 2019 - March 2020. Records reviewed were chosen for review because the detainee had a mental health vulnerability or were juveniles. ICVs review records and check that these vulnerable detainees have received their rights and entitlements and that their health and wellbeing have been appropriately managed whilst in detention. Quarterly reports are created by the Volunteer Manager and submitted to the PCCs Joint Audit and Scrutiny Committee. Issues are also raised by the Volunteer Manager directly with the custody Inspector.</p> <p>Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, face to face visits to custody by ICVs were suspended in March 2019. We anticipate further advice from the Government about when it is safe to return to visiting, but we anticipate that if social distancing remains in place, ICVs will be organised and asked to conduct telephone interviews with detainees via mobile</p>

	phones. Reports will be made by ICVs and sent to the Volunteer Manager for review by the same process used for face to face visits.
Independent Custody Visiting future plans	In Nottinghamshire ICVs continue to monitor custody records in anticipation of a decision from the Home Office to adopt custody reviewing as part of the permanent role of ICVs. We intend to open ICV recruitment again after the Covid-19 pandemic subsides and business returns to normal.
Further information and contact details	<p>If you would like to find out more about the Independent Custody Visiting scheme please consider contacting the scheme manager or researching the websites listed.</p> <p>Kayt Radford, Volunteer Manager, Arnot Hill House, Arnot Hill Park, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 6LU</p> <p>https://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Get-Involved/Volunteering/Volunteering.aspx</p> <p>ICVA's website</p> <p>National Preventive Mechanism</p> <p>Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation</p>