

Custody Scrutiny panel

Date: Wednesday 5th March 2025

Time: 18:00 - 20:30

Location: Perry Barr Custody Suite

Panel Members: Dawn Dance (DD - Chair), Alison Walker, Jane Edgington, Shahida Raza

Guests: N/A

WMP: Head of Custody Andy Edwards (AE), Custody Inspector Chris Doody (CD,)

OPCC: Natalie Cox (NC)

Apologies: Stassi Chilas, Mohammed Nadeem, Pauline White, Gary Williams, Joanna Camille-St. Marie, Rebecca Torr, Jacqui Peterkin, Adil Bashir, Superintendent Emma Spencer (ES)

	Item Discussed	Actions
1.	<p>Welcome and introduction by NC.</p> <p>DD Minutes of the last meeting, update on actions taken from last meeting (15/01/25).</p> <p>Action 1 Panel have requested total percentage of articles found during SS within the past two months. – The figure for this is included in the overall data presentation. Records would need to be filtered to clarify, however, positive rates are recorded.</p> <p>Action 2 CD reported that 4 UoF Records were submitted.</p>	
2.	<p>Data Update: AE</p> <p>Custody Block</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Custody volume reduced during February for adults. Child arrests remained at similar levels with January being particularly busy. • More people are being remanded into custody and nationally (England and Wales). 	



- Bournville Custody Block is still on track to re-open on 28/4/25.

Recruitment

Continued recruitment of Sergeants and Detention Escort Officers (DEOs). Recent intake of 12 new Sergeants who will shadow for 12 shifts to familiarize themselves with Custody processes.

Recruitment process for Oldbury and Perry Barr

Oldbury

- 4 Sergeants
- 7 DEOs

Perry Barr

- 4 Sergeants
- 8 DEOs

Technology

Introduction of Neotech to allow live data to be streamed and inform cell availability. It shows information such as time of arrival and booking in.

This is managed by Force Contact who will make decisions about which block PiCs should be taken to for booking in.

Staff absence

This has reduced from 15% to 5%

External partners

St Giles (youth) is embedded within custody
Lucy Wilson Partners.

Strip Searches

For the period Jan- Feb there were over 400 SS records.

More articles are being removed from Persons in Custody (PiCs), indicating successful rationales.

In terms of disproportionality, there has been a slight increase for Black and Asian PiCs.

Child (Juvenile) SS and rationales, which are authorized by Chief Inspector saw a dip in

Action – to confirm whether it was the consultation process or rationale that informed decision to SS.



	<p>January. Child SS during January resulted in 25% positive outcomes.</p> <p>Outcome rates for general SS for period Dec - Jan was 73.6%. SS for February was 35.4%.</p> <p>Staff Resources Resourcing of male and female officers (assigned at birth) for teams, to ensure compliance with same sex officers for SS.</p> <p>UoF 11.4% of all custody records include some UoF.</p> <p>14.3% UoF completed for custody which equates to 16% for all UoF forms.</p> <p>BWV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 73.5% use of BWV – up from 70%. Staff still getting used to wearing cameras due to previous limited availability. Battery life may not last for the duration of an 8-hour shift, depending on use. March 2024 – February 2025 records BWV used for 71.5% for adults, compared to 65% used for children, which will continue to be monitored as children are classed as vulnerable PICs and use of BWV is expected. <p>Trigger reviews 88.4% of reviews completed</p>										
3.	<p>Dip sample of Use of Force records: All Dip sampled records where selected at random by Chair at pre-meeting with NC, CD and Data analyst, PC Matt Raybould.</p> <p>8 Records selected. Records 1 & 2 selected for BWV. Only the 2 Records of BWV viewed due to time.</p> <p>From observing the BWV, do you feel the Use of Force was necessary and proportionate?</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Answers</th> <th>Count</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>6</td> <td>60%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>4</td> <td>40%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Answers	Count	Percentage	Yes	6	60%	No	4	40%	<p>Record 1 positive Panel felt Quick Empathetic reaction and interaction by officers and worked effectively to calm PIC down and explained what was going to happen, UoF was reasonable and proportionate as Pic was trying to harm himself and was getting agitated Although panel felt Maybe too many officers in close space.</p> <p>Record 2 – Neutral Panel felt UOF escalated far too quickly. PIC not spoken to in an informative and calm manner. Detainee controlled eventually but felt</p>
Answers	Count	Percentage									
Yes	6	60%									
No	4	40%									

	<p>After watching the BWV, do you feel the rationale given on the paper record clearly justifies why that Use of Force was used</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Answers</th> <th>Count</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>7</td> <td>70%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not sure</td> <td>2</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>1</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>What is your overall feedback after watching the BWV?</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Answers</th> <th>Count</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Positive</td> <td>5</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Neutral</td> <td>5</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Answers	Count	Percentage	Yes	7	70%	Not sure	2	20%	No	1	10%	Answers	Count	Percentage	Positive	5	50%	Neutral	5	50%	<p>level of force was needed as not managed effectively.</p>
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4.	<p>Dip sample record Strip Search - All dip sampled records where selected at random by Chair at pre-meet with NC, CD and Data analyst, PC Matt Raybould.</p> <p>10 SS records selected with 2 records with CCTV or BWV, which were recorded to view process of decision making and confirmation and authorization process.</p> <p>Do the panel feel the reason for the strip search was necessary and reasonable?</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Answers</th> <th>Count</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>25</td> <td>92.59%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>2</td> <td>7.41%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Do you feel the rationale gives clear justification of why a strip search was authorised?</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Answers</th> <th>Count</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>21</td> <td>77.78%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>4</td> <td>14.81%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unsure</td> <td>2</td> <td>7.41%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Overall scrutiny panel feedback:</p>	Answers	Count	Percentage	Yes	25	92.59%	No	2	7.41%	Answers	Count	Percentage	Yes	21	77.78%	No	4	14.81%	Unsure	2	7.41%	<p>Record 1 BWV watched of booking in process- Positive Panel felt this was handle and managed very well, with being 15yr old and very vulnerable. Was a strip to remove clothing not items. Panel felt was a ppositive interaction from custody sergeant and police officer. Mirroring body language. PIC very vulnerable and was dealt with by the Sgt with dignity</p> <p>Record 2- BWV watched of booking in process- Negative Response officers that brought in PIC seemed to be promoting desk Sgt to do things, eg strip search, get authorisation. PIC was a child and was told what's going to happen before authorisation was sought. PIC offered AA but it seemed too much trouble and reluctant to wait for one. Panel felt not sure whether a strip search was necessary, but the process was poor and didn't support the child in custody.</p> <p>Record 3- Neutral</p>
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	Answers	Count	Percentage	
	Positive	20	74.07%	<p>The search rationale is clear, well documented and clearly listed the authorization. However, no mention of AA being present on record and listed inspector authorization not chief inspector.</p> <p>Record 4- Neutral Panel felt as PIC was already found with bladed article and drugs on him when arrested, therefore strip search carried out with good rational. Detail wasn't clear and fluid of situation.</p> <p>Record 5-positive Good rational with clear consideration and use to other methods used prior to authorisation being sought. Use of wand indicated positive which gave clear grounds to search.</p> <p>Record 6- positive Panel felt clear, detailed explanation of situation and decision process to strip search.</p> <p>Record 7-Neutral Not clear from narrative why officers believed PIC may have more cocaine on him other previous- not clear of timelines of previous. Panel Felt considered it read as was authorised to spite the PIC's volatile behaviour.</p> <p>Record 8 – positive Panel felt clear, detailed explanation of situation and decision process to strip search, however no mention of wands being used, as what was deemed a positive to the search was a key in his socks, which wand would of picked up so can tell wasn't used.</p>
	Negative	6	22.22%	
	Neutral	1	3.7%	
4.	Action noted from discussions for update at next panel			Action 1



		<p>To confirm whether it was the consultation process or rationale that informed decision SS.</p>
5.	Date and location of next panel	<p>Next panel to be held; Wednesday 7th May 2025 at Perry Barr Custody Suite.</p> <p>Please arrive on time - tea and coffee will be served at 5:45pm to allow us to start promptly.</p> <p>Perry Barr Custody Suite Holford Drive Birmingham B42 2TU</p>