

Custody Scrutiny Panel

Date: Wednesday 11th September 2024

Time: 18:00 - 20:15

Location: Perry Barr Custody Suite

Panel Members: Dawn Dance (DD - Chair), Alison Walker, Jane Edgington, Adil Bashir, Shahida Raza, Paulette Sawyers, Rebecca Torr, Jacqui

Guests: N/A

WMP: Superintendent Emma Spencer (ES), Custody Inspector Chris Doody (CD), Custody Chief Inspector Andy Edwards (AE)

OPCC: Natalie Cox (NC)

Apologies: Stassi Chilas, Mohammed Nadeem, Pauline White, Gary Williams, Joanna Camille-St. Marie, Amber-Louise Elliker

	Item Discussed	Actions
1.	<p>Welcome and introduction by NC.</p> <p>New Panellist from WMP, CI Andy Edwards who has replaced Inspector Jason Nunn, along with CI Lucy Wilson.</p> <p>Introductions from Panel members.</p> <p>DD Minutes of the last meeting, update on any actions taken from last meeting.</p> <p>Action 3: Missing UoF data to be provided for next Panel meeting.</p>	<p>Action 3 from minutes dated 03/07/24 remains outstanding - to be carried over to next Panel meeting.</p>



<p>2.</p>	<p>UPDATE: Insp. ES</p> <p>Custody Block Bournville Custody Block to be reopened hopefully by April 2025, to reduce wait and travel times for detainees.</p> <p>Recruitment Training for Sergeants Detention Escort Officers (DEOs) recruits in September 2024 with a further in November 2024 and In January 2025.</p> <p>Training CI authorisation training for Strip Searches, there should be consideration as to whether questions will need to be standardised to enable appropriate authorisation.</p> <p>Data Overview As prison capacity has increased due to early release of some prisoners, this has had a positive impact on Custody with more cells becoming available. Care of prisoners in custody has been brought into line with PACE Persons in Custody (PiCs).</p> <p>Arrests 40% increase of arrests 13% of those have had positive outcomes and crime is down by 11%</p> <p>Custody Waiting Times Adult waiting times are 16 minutes. Juveniles are slightly up, due to number being arrested e.g., in groups, which slows processing times down.</p> <p>Appropriate Adults (AAs) To reduce time that Persons in Custody (PICs) are waiting for an AA, technology has been introduced that has been trialled at Oldbury to reduce the need for face-to-face contact. Compliance is monitored at the Charge Desk; however, level of compliance is not in place yet as some challenges to be addressed around log ins.</p>	<p>Emma to check over</p>
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<p>3.</p>	<p>UoF</p> <p>Four records selected by Chair at pre-meeting with NC, in addition to two that were Actions from previous minutes</p> <p>Records 1 and 6 UOF from previous minutes (03/07/24) BWV reviewed with Panel feedback. We run out of time to scrutinise the four records.</p>	<p>Previous Records 1 and 6 from panel held 03/07 were requested to be brought back to panel to observe the related BWV.</p> <p>Both BWV were revisited in terms of written record, overview of panel feedback and why requested to be brought back, Then BWV watched of each record.</p> <p>Panel discussed in detail the both BWV, with questions raised on both in terms of how officers handle the situation. In relation to record 1 panel felt the situation had areas for improvement, panel felt with considering the age of the child this needed to be deescalated better, panel felt written record wasn't always fully reflective of what was seen on BWV, too many voices to talking to her at one time and felt a trauma informed approach was needed in relation to this incident.</p>																					
<p>4.</p>	<p>Strip Searches</p> <p>Eight records of Strip Search (SS) randomly selected by Chair at pre-meeting with NC</p> <p>Panel viewed BWV's of 2 records of decision-making process around SS for two records.</p> <p>Feedback for 6 records was based on SS records only.</p> <p>Across all 8 records the panel felt:</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>32</td> <td>80%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>8</td> <td>20%</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>30</td> <td>75%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>6</td> <td>15%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unsure</td> <td>4</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Answers	Count	Percentage	Yes	32	80%	No	8	20%	Answers	Count	Percentage	Yes	30	75%	No	6	15%	Unsure	4	10%	<p>Record 1- BWV and record – Negative BWV of booking process observed- this raised many concerns from the panel, with panel feeling the record didn't match the footage in terms of lack of cooperation claimed. Panel raised questions around Retrospective permission and the lack of detail of urgency to strip search without AA present. Panel stressed concerns of unclear process. Asked questions again of Process of CI sign off.</p> <p>Record 2- BWV and record – Positive BWV of booking process observed Panel felt justification was clear and understood the use of markers to direct decision but concerns around custody sergeant prompts to need strip search over arresting officer.</p> <p>Record 3- Positive Panel felt the record was succinct and clear rationale, Justifiable due to previous markers. Good rationale for carrying out strip search for safety of PIC.</p>
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	<p>Overall scrutiny panel feedback:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Answers</th> <th>Count</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Positive</td> <td>26</td> <td>65%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Neutral</td> <td>8</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Negative</td> <td>6</td> <td>15%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Items found in 2/8 searches selected.</p>	Answers	Count	Percentage	Positive	26	65%	Neutral	8	20%	Negative	6	15%	<p>Record 4- Positive Panel feel grounds are reasonable and clearly demonstrates rationale for strip search to ensure safety of PIC. Justifiable due to previous markers</p> <p>Record 5- Positive Panel raised concerns with the reason for arrest showing as 'arrest unknown'. Asked for this to be fed back. Whilst the outcome was positive, panel it's unclear from the rationale why the SS was needed and what the grounds where. No information or clarity of if cannabis was found in pockets pre strip search and seems little to no evidence in the rationale for the SS as a follow-up. This needs to be more clearly stated in the rationale for this record.</p> <p>Record 6- Positive Panel felt it was explained well in rationale, states she has a blade, some members feel no other choice than to take her seriously. However, Although markers, nothing was found some panel members feel Pic could be placed in a camera cell for her own safety</p> <p>Record 7- Positive Panel felt search was necessary, but many questions around search result as it stated negative found but text states otherwise</p> <p>Record 8 Positive Panel felt, ground was clearly understood the need to undertake search</p>
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5.	Action noted from discussions for update at next panel	<p>Action 3 from minutes dated 03/07/24 outstanding to be carried over to next Panel meeting.</p> <p>Panel members to read the Baird Inquiry Report, which focuses on female PiCs and SS by Manchester Police Force (emailed 04/09/24). This</p>												



		is in preparation for discussion at next Panel meeting.
6.	Date and location of next panel	<p>Next panel to be held; Wednesday 6th November 2024 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>