

Notes Custody Scrutiny Panel 30.1.26

1. Introductions and background.

- Panel Members introduced themselves.
- Discussed national aims for panels and the focus on informing the public to increase trust and confidence in policing.
- A national aim for panels to focus on disproportionality as part of their work. Noted from custody lead that those working in custody have no influence over who comes into custody.
- Discussed the ability of the Panel to theme their meetings, with a suggestion that Mental Health would be an early theme.
- Agreed and noted that this pilot meeting would be themed and focus on children in custody.
- Noted that some technical issues meant that CCTV footage could not be viewed for all samples.
- For the purpose of this pilot meeting an independent Chair was nominated. A chair would be elected once future meetings commenced

2. Draft terms of reference

- Discussion of the terms of reference. An updated copy to be shared with the panel for agreement.

3. Custody Journey Overview

- The Custody Sergeant provided an overview of a detainee's journey through custody.
- Panel members raised questions in relation to:
 - The arrangements in place for ensuring children understood their rights.
 - The quality and availability of distraction items for children such as books/magazines
 - The ability of SYP to provide a separate booking in desk across all of the SYP custody estate. The Panel suggested this be a focus at future meetings.
- Panel members noted the provision of a single point of contact in custody for all children, the focus by custody officers in ensuring children are not held longer than necessary, the provision of health services for children in custody including mental health services and liaison and diversion and the safeguarding requirements for children prior to release.

4. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) and Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)

- Discussion on the need to complete an EIA and DPIA which will be shared with the Panel before the next meeting

5. Performance overview

- There was a presentation followed by a discussion of high-level performance and management information focussing on child detainees. The Panel suggested that:
 - future data includes a timeline for child detainee numbers and the average time for a child to be in custody broken down by those remanded and those not remanded.
 - additional ethnicity data is included.
 - Additional information to add context in relation to expected standards. (See action log)

6. Custody Log Review and CCTV review

- The Panel were able to review, in part, one custody log and one example of CCTV (for a different detention). The review highlighted some good practice. There was also some learning identified in respect of:
 - The quality of the vulnerability assessment
 - The recording of supervisor authority in relation to strip search
 - Strengthening the custody sergeant oversight at booking in.
 - The provision of separate booking in desk for children.

(See action log)