

## **Lewisham Independent Custody Visitors Panel**

### **Report to the Lewisham CPCG meeting 25 June 2013**

<b>Number of ICV visits carried out Jan – May</b>	<b>13 of 14 (92%)</b>
<b>Number held in detention at time of visits</b>	<b>156</b>
<b>Number of detainees spoken to</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Number who refused offered visit</b>	<b>04</b>

**Observations**     **Custody staff generally polite & helpful**

**Issues raised**     **No specific issues were raised.**

#### **Summary**

The panel lost two experienced members over a relatively short period of time leaving only four panel members – three of whom were only recently recruited. However, supplemented by generous assistance from ICVs from other neighbouring panels, the panel continues to provide a consistent and reliable overall visit performance with +80% of their scheduled visits regularly being carried out, at times to an agreed fortnightly visit schedule. In order to provide the newer members with the necessary continuity and gain experience of longer serving visiting colleagues it was agreed that temporarily from July the Lewisham panel will 'merge' with the Greenwich panel whilst recruitment continues .

Of 156 being held in detention at the time of the visits 45 (29%) were available to be offered visits by the ICVs. Four refused a visit.

On occasion a few detainees are observed but not visited on the advice of the Custody staff. On most visits there are often a considerable number of detainees who are unavailable to be even offered a visit, as they are perhaps asleep or out of their cell being booked in, bailed, released, or in a police interview or perhaps with their Solicitor or the FME etc.

Custody staff were found to be generally polite and helpful to the ICVs and responsive to detainee requests, on occasion staff were encountered who were unfamiliar with ICV procedures.

Visitors continued to note general organisation, cleanliness and tidiness within the custody suite and cells, with cells quickly returned to use.

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IOM Programmes & Neighbourhoods

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