



GRAMPIAN JOINT POLICE BOARD

COMMITTEE: GRAMPIAN JOINT POLICE BOARD
DATE: 12 NOVEMBER 2010
TITLE OF REPORT: INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME -
UPDATE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to further update Members of the Board in relation to the development of an Independent Custody Visiting Scheme ("ICVS") in Grampian.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

The Board are invited to note the contents of this report.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

The introduction of the ICVS will provide assurance to the Community and the Board that the Force is implementing appropriate policy and practices when detaining individuals in the Grampian area. Through the identification by volunteers of any areas for action it is planned that the ICVS will assist with future service improvement in this area.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None

6. REPORT

6.1 Volunteer Recruitment and Training

A volunteer information, training and recruitment event was held on Saturday 6th November 2010. 6 volunteers attended this event and 5 proceeded with an application to join the scheme.

These 5 volunteers were interviewed by the GJPB ICVS Sub Committee on 6th November 2010 and, subject to necessary identify and Disclosure Scotland clearance checks being conducted, the Sub Committee resolved that each should be appointed to the Scheme.

In addition, the ICVS Sub Committee also approved the appointment of 3 volunteers who have previously received training and familiarisation, subject to Disclosure Scotland clearance checks being conducted.

Appropriate paperwork for the necessary checks has been submitted by all volunteers and has now been processed. Subject to the expected timescales it is envisaged that formal appointments can be made in late November 2010.

In the meantime, familiarisation visits to a custody suite will be arranged for the 5 newly recruited volunteers in order to prepare for the commencement of the scheme.

Thereafter, a programme of volunteer training and development opportunities will be formulated, in conjunction with the views and wishes of the appointed volunteers. This will include 4 meetings per year with the volunteers, the Grampian Police Scheme Liaison Officer and the Board Liaison Member. These meetings will provide an opportunity for any matters arising from visits to be examined.

6.2 Station Visits

Subject the volunteer appointments being made it is planned that unannounced visits to custody facilities by Scheme Volunteers will commence in December 2010.

At this time, given the number of volunteers recruited and the location of these volunteers, the scheme will commence with visits to custody facilities at Aberdeen Queen Street, Fraserburgh and Elgin only. Once volunteers have an opportunity to develop experience and confidence in their role and pending the further recruitment of more volunteers, the Scheme will be rolled out to cover all Grampian Police custody facilities.

6.3 Member Involvement

The ICVS Sub Committee will meet quarterly in order to receive updates on the operation of the scheme and recruitment and training of volunteers.

The Sub Committee Membership is: Cllr Greig, Cllr Al-Kowarri, Cllr Collie and Cllr McKail. Nominations from two Members representing Moray Council are still required.

Once the scheme is in operation, a report will be submitted to the Board every six months to provide details of visits undertaken.

7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

**Karen M Donnelly
Depute Clerk
8th November 2010**