



GRAMPIAN JOINT POLICE BOARD

COMMITTEE: GRAMPIAN JOINT POLICE BOARD

DATE: 20TH MAY 2011

TITLE OF REPORT: GRAMPIAN INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME – UPDATE REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Board Members with respect to the introduction of an Independent Custody Visiting Scheme in Grampian. Additionally, the report invites Members to consider appropriate travel expenses rates for Scheme Volunteers.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Board:

- i) Approve the Volunteer Expenses Scheme detailed within the report
- ii) Note the update provided.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed new expenses will have some impact on the overall Custody Visiting Scheme budget. The Scheme Administrator will monitor the spend and manage the visit rota to ensure that planned activity can be progressed within budget.

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

None

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None

6. REPORT

- 6.1 Seven volunteers were formally appointed as Independent Custody Visitors for Grampian Joint Police Board with effect from 1st April 2011. All volunteers have indicated their acceptance of this appointment and

the majority have now completed all necessary steps to be issued with a Visitor ID Badge.

- 6.2 A visit rota, providing for two visits per month to the three Custody Facilities presently being covered is now in place. A verbal update on progress of visits will be provided to the Board.
- 6.3 A schedule of dates for Volunteer Development Sessions has been provisionally set. The first meeting for all volunteers will take place in Mid June 2011 and arrangements for this, including facilities to enable attendance via video conference are being finalised.
- 6.4 The Scheme is presently making use of printed report forms which were prepared some time ago. An update of these forms is currently being arranged in order to reflect best practice guidance and ensure that all relevant information in respect of visits conducted is recorded.
- 6.5 A recruitment drive for new volunteers will be run in August – September 2011. Any Board Members who can assist with the identification of potential volunteers are asked to advise the Policy & Advice Officer.
- 6.6 In progressing the appointment of volunteers, it has been noted that current expenses levels do not adequately reimburse the actual cost of mileage, nor do the current levels compare with the rates offered by the majority of other Custody Visiting Schemes in Scotland or with other similar voluntary roles such as the Children’s Panel.
- 6.7 To this end, it is proposed that the Board agree to adopt the Inland Revenue Mileage Rate as the rate available to volunteers. This rate is currently 45pence per mile. All other expenses, such a public transport use, are reimbursed at cost based on the production of receipts.

7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Karen M Donnelly
Depute Clerk
12th May 2011