

OPTIONS REPORT TO PCC

Subject : Provision of Independent Custody Visiting Scheme

Background

There is a legal requirement for an Independent Custody Visiting Scheme (ICVS) to operate to inspect the custody arrangements provided by the Chief Constable and it is the statutory responsibility of the PCC to ensure that such a scheme operates to do this. Reports from this must be directed to the PCC but there is no prescription as to the administrative arrangements of the Scheme other than the Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) themselves must be independent of the Chief Constable.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the PCC should manage the ICVS using the current administrative staff employed within the Office of the PCC.

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OPTION 1 : PCC manages ICVS directly from within Office of PCC

Explanation :

Currently the ICVS is administered by Police Staff providing the administrative support to Police Authority members. 3 personnel are involved although it only forms part of their overall roles. It is recommended that the PCC retains the same personnel who continue to administer the scheme in the same manner as currently.

Pros / For	Cons / Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing arrangements have been approved by Volunteer England and Investing in Volunteers status awarded recently. • Existing arrangements are known and accepted by current team of Custody Visitors • Existing Police Staff are experienced and knowledgeable in processes and procedures of custody visiting and are known to Custody Visitors. • Existing scheme operates with the consent of the Chief Constable which is a legal requirement of any scheme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires direct employment of Admin Staff within OPCC • Whilst workload would amount to the equivalent of 1 part-time person, at least 2 persons will need to be employed to provide the necessary resilience. • Some existing ICVs may not wish to be directly associated with a directly elected individual and choose to resign. However, there is no indication of this at the current time and recruitment would address this.

Example :

None

Resource Required :

The 3 personnel who are currently involved in the administration of the ICVS are all employed as Police Staff within the Police Authority. If all 3 are retained in the employ of the Office of the PCC there is no additional resource required.

Costs / Value for Money :

Whilst it is not possible to assess the administrative cost of the ICVS because it only forms part of the roles of the 3 persons concerned, there would be no additional incremental costs but there are no options to make any savings if these personnel are retained having the same involvement as previously.

Outsourcing Opportunity : ~~YES~~ / NO

Collaborative Opportunity : ~~YES~~ / NO

Schemes are local to the Force area, however collaborative working for the delivery of training and other identifying aspects is already in place.

Equality Diversity Issues :

None

Risks :

Since this is the existing scheme being administered by the same staff there is little risk involved.

OPTION 2 : Investigate other alternative ways to fulfil requirement

Explanation : PCC could investigate alternative ways in which an ICVS could be administered whilst still fulfilling the PCC's statutory duty to ensure that a scheme was in place.

Pros / For	Cons / Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A solution may be found to administer an ICVS by outsourcing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It may not be possible to find a solution that is more efficient than the current arrangements.• Persons who have volunteered their services for an organisation may not wish to continue to volunteer if arrangements change significantly.

Example :

None

Resource Required :

Some research expertise would be required over and above the resource currently administering the scheme (as this would still be being utilised administering the scheme whilst this work takes place).

Contact with other agencies would be required as it is likely that outsourcing the administration to them will form some of the options that might be available to PCCs.

Costs / Value for Money :

Costs and Value for Money would vary across whatever options were identified. There is, however, the opportunity cost of the research resource.

Outsourcing Opportunity : YES / ~~NO~~
Collaborative Opportunity : YES / ~~NO~~

Equality Diversity Issues :

None

Risks :

None

DECISION	
Option selected :	<i>Option ① Agreed</i>
Narrative (if applicable) :	
Authorised by :	<i>[Signature]</i>
Date :	