

Introduction



Hello everyone, I'm Vincent Leyenda, the Assurance Officer here at the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). Part of my role is helping to co-ordinate our scrutiny panels and independent schemes. These play a vital role in us holding Humberside Police and the Chief Constable to account on behalf of the public.

Since my last update in November, our new chair of the Police Powers Panel has chaired their first meeting and we welcome Andy Evans as the new chair of the Independent Custody Scrutiny Panel (ICSP).

I am also pleased to announce we have a recruitment window open across all our panels and volunteer schemes. The closing date for applications will be 29/02/2024. More details on how to apply can be found here: [Volunteering \(humberside-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.humberside-pcc.gov.uk/volunteering)

Police Powers Scrutiny Panel

Our new chair, Jon Webster, headed the first panel of 2024 with great success. Jon has some ambitious ideas for the future and we at the OPCC can't wait to get started. At our last panel meeting we scrutinised 20 police reports regarding 'uses of force' and 'stop and searches'. We also watched a several examples of officer body worn video, and scrutinised these as a group, ensuring feedback is given to officers, whether good or bad. With high-profile stories in the national media surrounding abuse of police powers, this panel is so important.

Hate Crime Scrutiny Panel

The Hate Crime Panel continues to make huge strides. The panel are picking up key trends and issues that affect our communities. The panel has also elected a new Vice Chair. Michael Loveday will be assisting our Chair, Tor Xander-Crabb, in the running of the panel. We have a team who are not scared to ask the difficult questions of the police and both challenge and praise, where necessary, the police decisions and outcomes regarding Hate Crime.

Independent Custody Visitor Scheme (ICVs)



Between November 2023 and Mid-February 2024 our ICVs have conducted almost 30 visits to our custody suites and interacted with almost 200 detainees to ensure their needs and rights are met. It is important to remember that those in custody are innocent until proven guilty, and so it is vital they are treated with dignity and respect. Our office has introduced new pieces of technology to assist with our volunteers' visits, and we hope this will see big improvements in our reporting.

Independent Custody Scrutiny Panel (ICSP)

Our second meeting of the ICSP was held in January and led by the new chair Andy Evans. We are really starting to see this panel take shape, and I know under his guidance, we will soon start to influence positive change and bring awareness to wider custody related issues. Our aim is to improve public confidence with the custody team in Humberside.

Meet the Team



Tom is a member of our ICV scheme and the ICSP and has been one of our members for around 6 months now. He is a retired psychologist, educator and was also an elected town Councillor in the past. He also chaired the "Kids and Cops" committee as well as overseeing the first free cyber cafe in the UK. Tom will have been married to his lovely wife Jan for 60 years in March and they have four children, 17 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren. With an impressive CV and a life well lived, it would be easy for Tom to take a rest, but as he told us "I just love to serve my fellow man, lifting them wherever possible. I love talking to others as I can learn so much from them".

We thank Tom for all his hard work so far, and hope it continues for many years to come.



David has been an ICV for almost 25 years and will have completed well over 350 visits to our custody suites in that time. David is a farmer by trade but loves doing voluntary work whenever he can to help his community. This is evident as along with his ICV visits, David has been a chairman for his local Crime Prevention Panel for over 35 years and has been a mentor for the Prince's Trust. We are very fortunate that after all this time, David's passion and commitment as an ICV has never floundered, and we are lucky to have him onboard.



Luana has been a member of both our Police Power panel and Hate Crime panel for so many years we've lost count. Luana came to the UK in her adolescence with hardly any English skills but continued with education until obtaining her first and second degrees and becoming a teacher and lecturer. Luana told us "As I became more proficient in English, I was asked by the Chinese community to voluntarily assist them with interpreting, translation and to run the Hull Chinese Cultural Centre (HCCC). I then got involved with Hull City Council Ethnic Forum which led to being asked to join The Criminal Justice Board Diversity Panel. Whilst chairing the HCCC I worked closely with the Afro-Caribbean Association and we both got our own centres. I then did a housing project with House-Martin Housing Association, and we had 10 houses and 10 bungalows built for the Chinese community". Due to her influential work within her community in 2015 Luana received an MBE, something I am sure her Husband, 2 children and 6 grandchildren are very proud of.

We asked Luana that even after all these years, how does she still have the same level of passion to help others. She told us volunteering has "provided me, not only with a great deal of skills and experience but also, with a great deal of insight and understanding. I believe voluntary work has made me a better and happier person and I am glad that I have been given the opportunity to do so". We are lucky to have Luana onboard and value all the hard work she does for us.

Finally...

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at the OPCC please click here for further information and ways to apply.

You can also contact me on email as the volunteer coordinator for more information on available roles – PCC@humberside.pnn.police.uk