

Introduction



Hello again, 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 blog, a lot of exciting work has been undertaken. We have a new vice chair of the Hate Crime Panel, and a new chair of the Police Powers Panel. We welcome them both and look forward to working together and all playing our part in making our communities stronger.

Police Powers Scrutiny Panel

As mentioned, we welcome Jon Webster as our new chair, and say a massive thank you to Mark Lewindon for his tenure as chair. Under Mark, the panel has seen huge changes and developed into a thriving group. It is easy to meet every quarter and simply criticise and praise, but under Mark's leadership the panel has influenced direct change in the force's training policies. He leaves his position knowing he has made a difference and giving future chairs a path to follow. We believe that although Jon has big shoes to fill, he has the feet to do so, and his years as the Vice Chair on the panel will stand him in good stead.

Hate Crime Scrutiny Panel

The hate crime panel continues to thrive under the leadership of Tor Xander Crabb. Over the past few meetings, the panel have identified some emerging trends and are actively challenging the force to make changes. As a panel and organisation, we supported and promoted Hate Crime Awareness Week between the 14th and 22nd of October. Here are some images below of our panel in action and sharing why they do what they do:



Independent Custody Visitor Scheme (ICVs)

Between September and November our ICVs have conducted over 20 visits to our custody suites and interacted with over 100 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.

We have some brilliant news as our ICV scheme has been recognised nationally and been awarded Platinum accreditation.



The Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA) - the national membership organisation that supports, leads and represents these schemes - has developed a quality assurance framework to assess how well schemes comply with the code of practice that governs custody visiting.

The Humberside scheme was presented with a Platinum quality assurance award by ICVA on Wednesday 29 November, at a ceremony in Birmingham.

Dame Anne Owers, Chair of ICVA, said: "Independent custody visiting schemes ensure that the public have oversight of a high pressure and often hidden area of policing. These awards demonstrate how local schemes use volunteer feedback to make change and ensure that police custody is safe and dignified for all."

Sherry Ralph, Chief Executive at ICVA said: "The quality assurance framework represents a significant amount of additional work to ensure that independent custody visiting is regularly reviewed, improvements are made where they are needed and excellent practice is shared. I congratulate schemes on their accomplishments and thank them for their commitment."

As the new ICV scheme manager it would be easy to take credit for this accomplishment, but the hard work involved with this award falls on the shoulders of our previous manager Mia Jones, our scheme administration assistant Meg Jelley, and of course all our wonderful volunteers. We cannot achieve Platinum standard without our volunteers being exactly that, Platinum. We thank you all once again for your dedication.

Independent Custody Scrutiny Panel (ICSP)

In October we held our first ICSP meeting. We at Humberside are one of the first PCC offices to run such a panel, and we anticipate as more of these meetings occur, we shall start to help influence some positive change within Humberside Police. We are working closely alongside the force to ensure the needs of our communities are met



regarding all aspects of custody. A new chair will be elected soon and I will look to announce this via our next blog in the new year.

Meet the Team



Amy – Amy joined the Hate Crime panel team just 3 months ago. She has two amazing young children who keep her very busy, but when she finds spare time she enjoys live music, sports and being outdoors. Amy is lucky to have a job where she interacts with people from a variety of cultures and countries, which in turns means she is passionate about EDI and firmly believes there is no room for hate in society. Amy told us that “Sitting on this panel allows me to mix with a variety of people, opening my eyes to differing opinions and views. It’s also important for me to ensure people from marginalised groups are treated appropriately and fairly and that’s something I hope I can help with by being a volunteer on the Scrutiny Panel. Being part of the LGBTQIA+ community and subjected to a hate crime in the past (plus general negative comments toward my sexuality) means I can empathise with victims and I’d like to feel as though I am positively contributing with how hate crimes are being looked at, representing people from different communities in the best way possible at the same time”.



Brian – Brian joined the Police Powers scrutiny panel in September 2023 and has over 40 years of experience in HM Customs and Excise to bring to the table. During those 40 years he also spent 25 years as a chairman of magistrates in the adult criminal courts in Hull.

Since taking early retirement Brian told us he has “worked part-time as a Customs Consultant for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in numerous countries across Africa.

I hope to use the transferable skills I have developed over the years, to have a positive impact on the role of the Scrutiny Panel and am very much looking forward to this new challenge. I am a season ticket holder at Hull City!”



Richard - Richard has been an ICV in the Hull Team since January 2022 and is part of our the new ICSP. For the past 23 years of his working career he has worked for various national and international retailers in senior Loss Prevention roles with responsibilities for stock loss, inventory management, internal & external theft, loss awareness training and policy compliance. Away from work Richard informed us he is a “fanatical Hull City fan and enjoys rock music, walking and reading. My favourite part of the ICV role is meeting new people whilst also making a positive difference to both detainees and some aspects of the daily operation for the custody staff”.

Finally...

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at the OPCC please [click here](#) for further information.

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