

Volunteer Blog – May 2024



Hello everyone, I'm Vince Leyenda, the Assurance Officer here at the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside (OPCC). Part of my role is helping to coordinate and manage our scrutiny panels and independent custody scheme. 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 we have held a successful recruitment drive which will see us gain 13 new scrutiny panel members across our 3 panels, and 5 new independent custody visitors.

We are changing some of the processes across all the panels and are looking to become more transparent with the outcomes. We hope to be able to publish to the public, reports on the panels findings, and in turn show how the force are progressing in key areas. Watch this space for further updates.

Police Powers Scrutiny Panel



April saw our chair Jon Webster head his second panel. Some interesting discussions and debates were had by the members which led to essential feedback for officers and police staff.

Our members also had a fascinating input surrounding 'Right Care, Right Person', which is a Humberside Police initiative to ensure people in need of help from an emergency service or other agency, get the most appropriate help to assist them. This input will play a

part in assisting the panel members with understanding police officers decision making when dealing with the public.

More information on 'Right Care, Right Person' can be found from the following link:

<https://www.college.police.uk/support-forces/practices/smarter-practice/right-care-right-person>

Hate Crime Scrutiny Panel

Our hate crime panel continues to look at how victims of Hate Crime are engaged with by Humberside Police. Victim feelings towards their service from the Police is very difficult to assess based purely on crime reports, especially for those coming from minority backgrounds. For some time, our panel, led by Tor Xander-Crabb, have wanted to ask Victims how they felt the police dealt with their crime. We have now created a survey, utilising victim support services, which will allow us to ask victims of Hate crime this very question. We hope this survey will give us a greater understanding of how victims feel, and we aim to share this data with the force to help improve their service in this area. This is a collaborative effort involving not just the OPCC and Humberside Police, but our volunteers, who are regular members of the public, many of whom have experiences as victims of hate crime. The survey is now live, and I hope to update you on the work surrounding this in future editions of this blog.

If you have experienced or been witness to Hate crime, please be sure to report this to Humberside Police - <https://www.humberside.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/hco/hate-crime/what-is-hate-crime/>

Independent Custody Visiting Scheme (ICVs)



Between the 15th of March and the 15th of May 2024 our ICVs have conducted 16 visits across the custody suites in Humberside. Over 60 detainees were spoken to during these visits, and we are happy to report no major incidents or issues were raised by our volunteers.

Our recruitment drive at the start of the year has seen us take on 5 new members across the region.

We look forward to welcoming them aboard the team, and you may even get to meet one or two of them in future blogs as part of the meet the team section.

Independent Custody Scrutiny Panel



Our last panel saw the members scrutinise 6 records of strip searches against vulnerable detainees and 4 cases where force has been used by Police Officers in a custody setting. Led by our chair Andy Evans, the panel's hard work is really starting to produce results and representatives from Humberside Police stated the following regarding the members' findings for the meeting last month:

“We acknowledge the areas of improvement highlighted by the panel and appreciate the

opportunity to enhance our practices. The Chief Inspector for the Community Policing Command has discussed the report with the Custody Inspector, and this will be further reviewed by Individuals and the team.

We are committed to reflective practice and learning from experiences, we see this as a valuable process to continually improve our service. Your feedback will be instrumental in guiding our ongoing efforts to achieve excellence”.

Meet The Team



Toni has been a member of the police powers scrutiny panel for over three years. Toni told us she “had done volunteering work before when my daughters were young - all mainly around schools (school governor) and education generally (chairing school admission appeal boards), but that had trailed off as my job as a tax specialist got busier”.

We asked Toni why she chose to volunteer with us? She told us that when she retired, she was looking for something in the community, to give something back. She saw an advert for our panels and felt it was a perfect match. Toni also serves as a magistrate and feels “the two dovetail really nicely”.

Something we came to learn speaking to Toni was that she has a large collection of vintage clothing, some of which she sells online. She is always trying to persuade her younger family members to wear vintage items.

Toni is a massively valued member of the panel, often helping others with lifts to the meetings. We want to take this time to say thank you to her and her commitment over the past three years.

Finally...



We would all like you to meet Lulu. Lulu has been working at the OPCC for 3 years as the Chief Executive of cuteness and cuddles. Many of you will have seen her at scrutiny meetings in Cottingham but she's a born and raised East Hull girl and lives with her Mummy, Paula, who also happens to work in our office.

When she isn't being fed treats, she enjoys sleeping, lying in the sun, and crying about not being fed treats.

That is all for the May edition of my blog. Once again, I give thanks to all our wonderful volunteers.