



London ICV Newsletter

April 2009

Choice FM radio advert

An advert about Independent Custody Visiting hit the airwaves as part of an MPA profile raising and awareness drive. Choice FM (96.9 and 107.1FM) aired a 30 second advert week commencing Monday 23 March. The advert aimed to highlight the existence of the

Independent Custody Visiting Scheme in London and the valuable work undertaken by members of the community who volunteer to carry out this important safeguarding role. The advert was commissioned by the MPA as it was felt important that more

Londoners know about the scheme and the vital work it carries out in maintaining public confidence in this crucial area of policing and detention. It is hoped the advert can be aired on other stations, and the ICV team would welcome any recommendations

for local community stations. If you missed the advert on Choice, or want to hear it again, you can listen online at www.mpa.gov.uk/partnerships/icv/radioadvert

Update from Custody Directorate

Following on from previous newsletter updates, here's the latest feedback on issues raised in meetings between the MPA and the MPS Custody Directorate (CD).

MPA asked about the roll out of drugs safes. **CD** said these are all in place and should now hold 13 drugs commonly prescribed by FMEs. This means items will be easily to hand for issue by doctors and save time on trips to pharmacies for police staff.

MPA asked what duty of care the police had to those released, for

example at night? **CD** said juveniles would only be released into the care of an adult. Adults are released on their own. However, a pre-release risk assessment is carried out for all detainees. As part of this the police should try and make sure detainees have a way of getting home or someone is contacted regarding their release, if the detainee wishes. Detainees shouldn't be released in a paper suit, unless they request to be. Provisions should be made for the detainee to have clothes brought in, if they're not allowed their own

clothes back, or be provided with a police issue tracksuit. **MPA** asked about the re-fit of the Paddington Green custody area used for detainees held under the Terrorism Act. **CD** said this is underway and it is scheduled to be completed by May. If you and your panel have any other relevant issues and queries regarding custody procedure, process and policy, these can be brought to the attention of ICV Scheme Manager Kerry McClelland through your coordinator.

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The self introduction of ICVs to detainees - pilot results

A review of the self-introduction pilot was recently conducted, in order to test the viability of a further roll out of the pilot scheme.

Data from the visits undertaken during the pilot period indicate an increase in the acceptance of visits in three out of the four pilot boroughs; Bromley (9.12%), Kingston (16.99%) and Tower Hamlets (13.69%). Camden observed a nominal decrease in the acceptance rate (-2.53%).

Although the results were on the whole encouraging the figures from the visit report forms alone are not conclusive and do not significantly indicate improved visit acceptance levels

comparable with the original Portsmouth pilot, which showed an increase of 35%.

When evaluated in conjunction with the questionnaire responses, the predominant view is that ICVs are in favour of continuing to introduce themselves to detainees. This was confirmed at a meeting convened by the MPA with Chairs and Vice Chairs of boroughs involved in the pilot in early March.

When coupled with the visit data, the underlying argument is that the pilot be continued in order to further monitor self introduction.

Therefore it has been decided that a second pilot phase, lasting

six months and involving a further eight borough panels, in addition to continuance of the first four, should be initiated.

The four pilot boroughs will continue to be monitored to observe whether these generally positive trends continue.

A further eight boroughs will be selected from the remaining 15 panels who nominated themselves for the original pilot scheme, but were not selected.

Those boroughs selected for the second phase will be informed by their coordinator in the next few weeks.

Summer ICV social to celebrate national Volunteer Week

This year we will be holding a summer ICV social event to thank volunteers for giving up their time to be Independent Custody Visitors in London.

The event will be held during National Volunteers Week, on the evening of 4 June 2009, in London's Living Room at City Hall. It's a great venue with stunning views of the city.

We will send out more detailed information and invitations nearer the time, but what we're planning is a celebration of the volunteer work

that is at the heart of the ICV scheme.

There will be a few awards presented, some drinks and canapés,

hopefully some music and most importantly an enjoyable evening!

All we ask of you is that you come along and enjoy yourselves.



Obituary - Pamela Littman

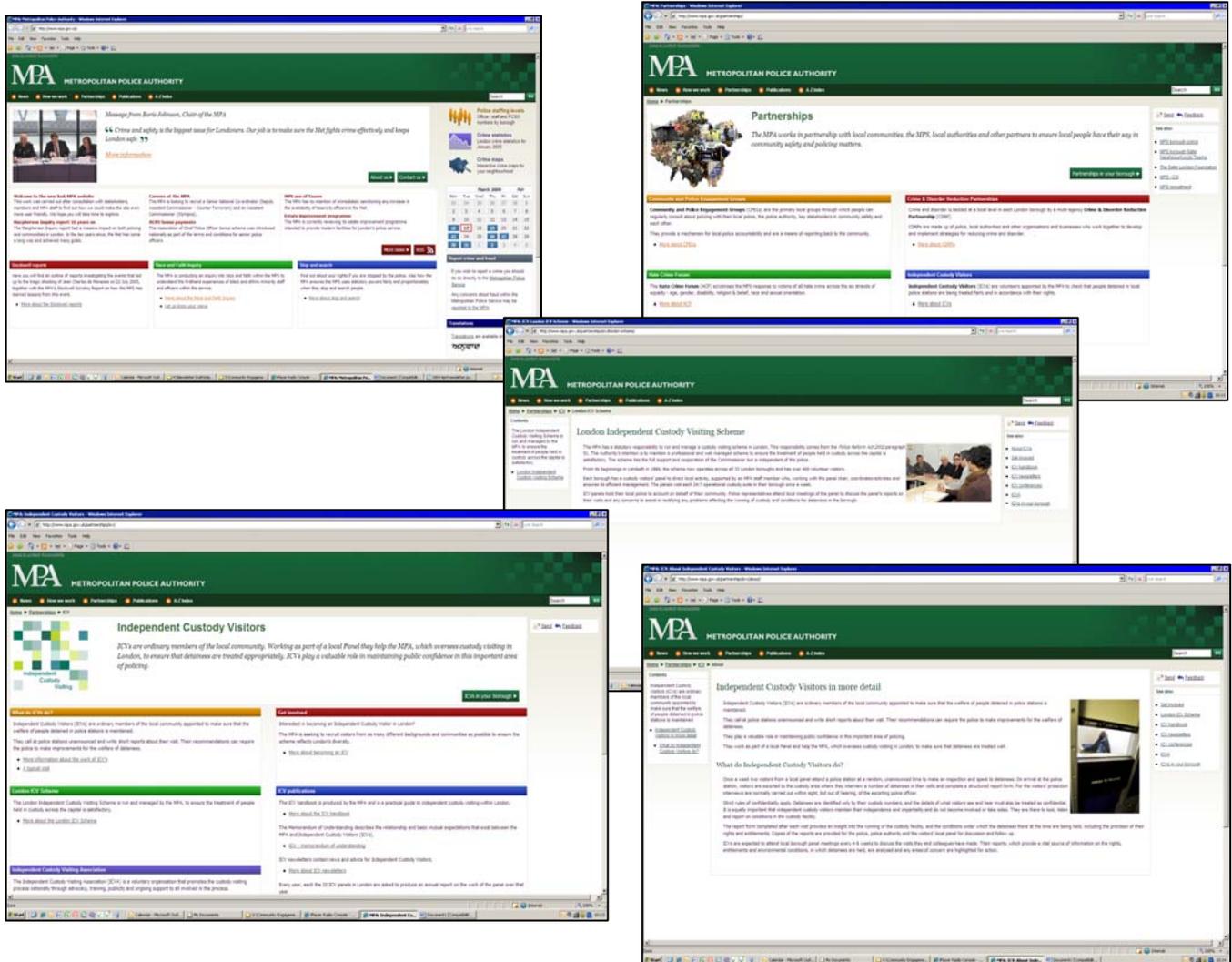
It was with great sadness that the Barnet panel received the news of the death of one of its newer members, Pamela Littman, in early February.

Pamela joined the panel in April 2008 and had settled in to the role of ICV well. However, she had been receiving treatment for cancer for quite some time. Pamela had not divulged this information to her colleagues on the panel and so to many it came as quite a shock to learn of her death.

In her professional life, Pamela was a solicitor for more than 40 years, as well as a Justice of the Peace for 17 years before she retired.

As well as her work with the ICV panel in Barnet, Pamela was involved in education and teaching at Finchley Progressive Synagogue, and also as a volunteer for the Royal Free Hospital.

Gerry Kirby (Chair of Barnet ICVP) and Janet Renton represented the panel at the funeral on 13 February. The MPA has expressed its condolences to Pamela's family.



New MPA website and ICV pages

The new look MPA website (pictured above) was launched after consultation with stakeholders, MPA members and staff to find out how we could make the site more user friendly. The site now includes crime statistics, crime mapping and data on police officer and staffing levels broken down by borough, and all this can be accessed from the MPA homepage. The ICV pages can be found by clicking on the 'Partnerships' link at the top of the home page and then the 'More about ICVs' link on the partnerships page. We have updated the information on our ICV pages where necessary and added new images. These images were taken recently for at an unused custody suite in London, and also during one of the Chairs training sessions, and we would like to extend our thanks once again to

those ICVs who agreed to participate in the photo shoots. Documents such as the Memorandum of Understanding, the London ICV scheme handbook and the application form are on the site for reference. As with the previous website the ICV pages will also hold the most recent annual reports for panels, along with the scheme's newsletters. The search function for the whole site has been improved to include filters to sort by date last modified or relevance, plus searching for exact words or phrases. From wherever you are in the site, clicking on the MPA logo at the top left of the banner will take you back to the Home page. We hope you will take time to explore and enjoy the new look site.

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Sarah (sarah.walker@mpa.gov.uk or 07768 868 055) - Lambeth, Merton, Southwark, Sutton.

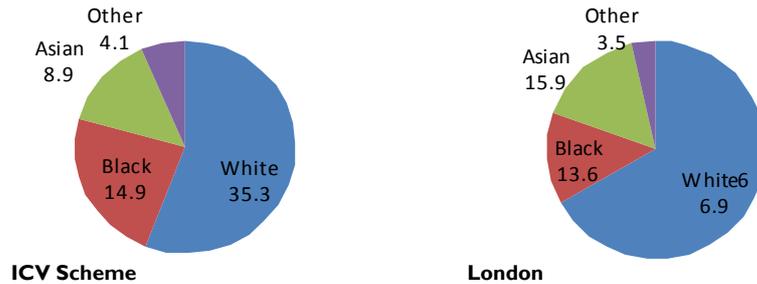
Tony (tony.hawker@mpa.gov.uk or 07768 904270) - Camden, Islington, Hackney, Haringey.

Diversity monitoring

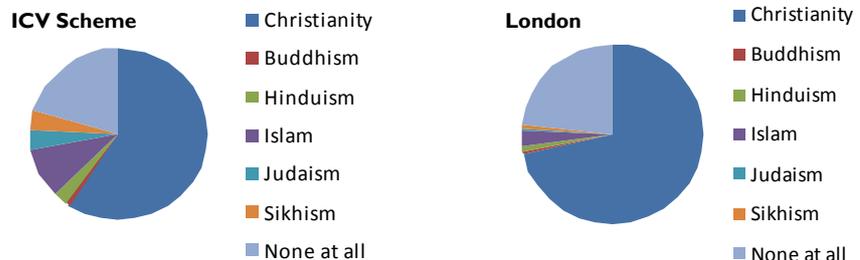
ICVs may remember filling in a diversity monitoring form last year as part of a diversity monitoring exercise we conducted; this was to help determine how the diversity of the ICV scheme compares to that of London as a whole. More than 60% of ICVs gave us some or all of their diversity information; we have now been able to analyse the results.

In order to compare the ICV scheme's diversity with the most recent data for London as a whole we have used official projections* based on the last full census which was conducted in 2001. The next time a complete census will be undertaken will be in 2011.

In the tables below you can see how the London ICV scheme compares to the population projections for London's different communities**:



The total proportion of ICVs from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities in the scheme is greater than that projected for London as a whole. When it comes to age, the ICV scheme has a greater number of people between 45 and 65 (40% compared to 20%) than London and more people over 65 (16% compared to 11%); however the scheme has about the same proportion of younger people as does London. The number of men and women in the scheme almost exactly matches that of the city. The proportion of ICVs who said they belonged to a religion or had none at all compares reasonably well with the data from the 2001 census:



There are no satisfactory figures for the number of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people in the population but Stonewall (a lesbian, gay and bisexual human rights organisation) have accepted that this may be between 5 and 7%. The data from the ICV scheme suggests that nearly 9% of ICVs are from the LGBT community. According to Disability Rights Commission estimates, 18% of the population have a disability. Data collected suggests that this is the case for 12.5% of ICVs. Thanks again to all of you who returned their diversity monitoring forms; all new applicants are being asked for this data, so we hope to eventually have a more complete picture of the scheme's diversity. All the information collected is held in the strictest confidence.

*Projections derived from the 2001 census calculated by DMAG - the Data Management and Analysis Group - based at the Greater London Authority (GLA).

**Data from the ICV scheme are across 16 categories of ethnic origin including mixed race; some categories in the scheme data have been merged into "other" to enable a comparison, as data available from population projections are more limited.

