



Lancashire
Constabulary
police and communities together

ITEM 6

REPORT TO: Strategic Scrutiny Meeting

DATE: 30 March 2017

AUTHOR: Chief Inspector Steve Sansbury

**SUBJECT: Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons Unannounced
Custody Inspection 2016 – Update**

1. Issue for Consideration

1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide a further update to the Commissioner in respect of the HMIP / HMIC Custody Inspection 2016.

2. Recommendation

2.1. The Commissioner is asked to note the report and comment on the items discussed

3. Background

3.1. These inspections form part of the joint work programme of the criminal justice inspectorates and contribute to the UK's response to its international obligations under the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT). OPCAT requires that all places of detention are visited regularly by independent bodies – known as the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) – which monitor the treatment of and conditions for detainees. HM Inspectorates of Prisons and Constabulary are two of several bodies making up the NPM in the UK.

3.2. These are unannounced inspections with the previous one having been conducted in 2011.

3.3. The Inspection highlighted three main areas of concern and thirty one areas for improvement. These have all been incorporated into the attached development plan which is monitored by the ACC Specialist Ops and the Custody Departmental Chief Inspector, with oversight by the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (Appendix 1)

3.4. Update on the Three Areas of Concern

1. Insufficient gathering and monitoring of performance data in key areas.

The first part of this concern has been addressed by the introduction of the Connect ICT system, in that comprehensive data collection around the key areas outlined by the HMIC has been incorporated in to the system, and the data is routinely input. Progress however has been slower in actually extracting and utilising that data from within the system in the form of Management Information (MI) reports.

Work on the production of these MI reports is a high priority for the force, but has been inhibited by a combination of factors, including resource availability due to significant competing priorities, technical issues and the need for robust testing to ensure the MI reports are producing credible and reliable data.

That being said, we expect to have a number of the Custody specific MI reports related to issues such as custody throughput and demographics, juveniles in custody, foreign national offenders, immigration service detainees and strip searches available within the next two to four weeks, as they are currently being tested.

On a more positive note the RADAR function within Connect is now providing alerts to the custody management team, on a case by case basis for review. This means that any adverse incidents, self-harm incidents, Uses of Force within Custody or strip searches of juveniles are all being monitored and reviewed by the Custody Inspectors or Chief Inspector on a daily basis and feedback provided to staff. Further RADAR alerts are also under development to ensure further robust monitoring, review and compliance.

2. The respect & dignity of detainees was not always maintained, with specific reference being made to those using the toilet in their cells that could be seen on CCTV due to the toilet area not being obscured, despite a previous HMIC recommendation from the 2011 Inspection.

As at the time of the last report the new CCTV system, which does obscure the toilet areas of CCTV covered cells, had been installed at Skelmersdale, Lancaster, and Burnley. A further installation has now been completed at Preston. The remaining custody suite at Greenbank will have the systems installed during 2017. Blackpool will not be upgraded due to the construction of the new Blackpool Police Station which is now underway.

At those sites where the new CCTV system has not yet been installed we have implemented a very basic method to obscure the relevant areas on the CCTV monitor to meet the HMIC recommendation pending installation of the new system.

- 3. All aspects of the Use of Force (UoF) lacked governance and effective oversight. Data recording was not effective and managerial scrutiny of UoF incidents in custody was inadequate.*

The RADAR notification mentioned in the previous report is now operating successfully. This means all individual reported UoF incidents within Custody are subject to managerial review. This includes a review document being completed and attached to the relevant Custody Record.

The Management Information (MI) UoF report from Connect, which would identify trends within custody, is still awaited, as per point 1 above.

The new Custody CCTV project is nearing completion and will allow the Custody Management Team to review CCTV remotely and cross reference with Custody Record Audits. It will also allow for a more effective review of UoF incidents brought to the attention of the Custody Management Team via the RADAR alerts, rather than just relying on a narrative entry on a custody record.

Guidance has been issued to Custody staff to provide clarity around the recording of UoF Incidents within Custody.

UoF remains a standing agenda item at the Public Order & Public Safety Management Group chaired by the ACC Specialist Ops, which will provide strategic scrutiny.

A new UoF database and reporting system was already being procured and was introduced in Oct 2016.

3.5 Summary

Of the three areas for concern, one has now been completed (CCTV) and the other two remain “in progress” although significant improvements have been made with the work already undertaken to address them. The two outstanding areas are connected to MI reports that are still awaited from Connect.

Of the thirty one recommendations for improvement, 13 have been fully completed and a further two have not been adopted. This means just under 50% of the thirty one areas for improvement have now been addressed.

Sixteen remain in progress, three of which relate to training which is now scheduled for 2017, with a further one area related to a shift change for G4S staff which will be implemented in April 2017.

List of attachments / appendices

- Appendix 1 – Custody Development Plan

4. Background Papers

- HMIP / HMIC 2016 Lancashire Custody Inspection Report