

**Volunteer and make a valuable difference**  
as an  
**INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITOR**  
A Statutory Role  
reporting to the  
**Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner**



A “detainee” in a cell with “two ICVs” during interview. They are actors.

People are taken into custody for a number of reasons not only that they may or may not have committed a crime. Vulnerable people may be detained for their own safety whilst the Police attempt to arrange the most appropriate place and care for them. Whatever the reason people are in Police Custody the Police have a duty of care towards them whilst they are detained.

Independent Custody Visitors [ICVs] report on what they observe when conducting unannounced visits to one of the three Custody Suites in North Yorkshire: Scarborough, York and Harrogate. They visit in pairs and interview out of the hearing of Custody Staff those detainees who wish to see them and also, again with the detainee’s permission, inspect the Custody Record of the detainee to ensure that all rules and procedures laid down in PACE Code C are being carried out.

The ICV Scheme gives the Police, detainees and the public the confidence that the legal rights, welfare and conditions in custody is best practice for all involved. ICVs often raise questions with the Police Custody Staff after interviewing detainees and inspecting their Custody Records and invariably receive positive comments and actions from the Staff.



Two ICVs obtaining detainee details from the Police Custody Staff.

### **What does an Independent Custody Visitor [ICV] do and how do they make a difference?**

Each ICV is a member of one of the Panels of the three North Yorkshire Custody Suites: at Scarborough, York or Harrogate. They visit unannounced to their Panel Custody Suite in pairs at a convenient time and day to them and have immediate access to the Custody Suite. The Custody Staff provide the ICVs with a complete list of all those being detained. A member of the Custody Staff then escorts the ICVs to each detainee's cell and informs the detainee of the ICVs' role and their reason for wishing to see them. If the detainee agrees to be interviewed the ICVs enter the cell and ask a series of questions regarding the rights, health and welfare of the detainee and the conditions under which they are being detained. The escorting Custody Staff member remains within sight but out of hearing throughout the cell interview. The ICVs may also inspect the Custody Record with the detainee's consent.

### **Who can volunteer to be an Independent Custody Visitor?**

Anyone over the age of 18 years [there is no upper age limit], resident or working in North Yorkshire and not currently working within the Criminal Justice System. Good communication skills, observing, listening and the ability to interact positively with the Police and those being detained are needed in order to generate a supportive environment to the benefit of all those within the Custody Suite.

### **What training and support can you expect?**

Successful applicants will receive comprehensive training and will "shadow" experienced ICVs until they are confident to take on the role. Any necessary travelling expenses incurred will be reimbursed. You will receive the full support of the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

**Still interested? Then please contact us.**



**Safeguarding everyone's welfare**



01423 569562



[ICV@northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk/icv](mailto:ICV@northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk/icv)



[northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk/icv](http://northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk/icv)



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