



CHESHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

<p>POLICY</p>	<p>CHESHIRE CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME: GUIDANCE ON THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CUSTODY VISITORS</p>
<p>Description</p>	<p>Aims of the policy The former Cheshire Lay Visiting Scheme was one of the first custody visiting schemes to be established in the country, following the recommendations of Lord Scarman in 1983. In accordance with Section 51 of the Police Reform Act 2002, all police authorities are required to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) make arrangements for persons to be visited by persons appointed under the arrangements ('independent custody visitors'); and (b) keep those arrangements under review and from time to time revise them as they think fit. <p>Which individuals and organisations are likely to have an interest in or likely to be affected by the policy? The Scheme comprises of volunteers from the local community recruited by the Authority as Custody Visitors to visit custody suites. The Custody Visitors concern is the welfare of persons in custody and the operation in practice of the statutory and other rules governing their welfare. Custody Visitors make unannounced visits at varying times of the day and night, having access to custody suites and are concerned with the conditions of detention and the treatment of individual detainees. Part of the visiting process entails discussions with custody staff and subject to their consent being obtained, detainees are visited. Custody Visitors have the opportunity to discuss experiences from visits at Panel meetings and raise issues with the Authority.</p> <p>General comments about the policy:- In June 2007 the Independent Advisory Group reviewed this policy and described it as "excellent".</p> <p>Persons detained in custody may be accused of unlawful harassment or offence related to discrimination, however, this should not affect the custody visiting process unless the independent custody visitors feels that due to their own life circumstances, they may be placed at unnecessary risk by the visit.</p> <p>Diversity questions are included in the selection process and taken into consideration when appointment Custody Visitors.</p> <p>Cheshire Police Authority's Policy complies with National Guidelines and is reviewed by the Chief Executive annually.</p>

DOES THE ACTIVITY INCLUDE MECHANISMS TO:-		
Promote equality of opportunity		Yes
Eliminate discrimination that is unlawful.		Yes
Eliminate harassment		Yes
Promote positive attitudes		Yes
Encourage participation		Yes
Take steps to meet people's needs, even if this requires more favourable treatment.		Yes
Provide an opportunity for people to highlight the barriers presented by this policy?		Yes
DIVERSITY/GROUP	IMPACT H/M/L	REASONS/ COMMENTS
Race	L	
Gender	L	
Disability	L	
Age	L	
Sexual orientation	L	
Religious belief	L	
Transgender or transsexual individuals	L	
Could any high impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity?		Yes
Is a full assessment necessary?		No
Could any high impact amount to an adverse impact in this policy?		No

I am satisfied that this policy has been successfully impact assessed.

I understand the impact assessment of this policy is a statutory obligation and that, as owners of this policy, we take responsibility for the completion and quality of this process.

Signed (completing officer) *A. M. Collins* 22 August 2007
Signed (Chief Executive) *M. Stewart* 22 August 2007

Note: If High Impact has been identified, further scrutiny by the Authority must be put in place