

Scrutiny Panels and Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) Progress Report

June to August 2026

Prepared by Vincent Leyenda & Megan Jelley
Assurance and Scrutiny Team

Contents

Introduction - Page 3

Chairperson spotlight - Page 4

Summary of key findings - Page 5 & 6

Volunteer survey 2026 - Page 7

Domestic abuse & violence against women and girls - Page 8 & 9

Hate crime - Page 10 & 11

Police powers - Page 12 & 13

Independent custody scrutiny - Page 14-16

Independent custody visiting scheme - Page 17 & 18

Independent conduct and standards - Page 19 & 20

Ethics and scrutiny board - Page 21 & 22



INTRODUCTION BY VINCENT LEYENDA

Welcome to the first combined Quarterly Scrutiny Panel and Independent Custody Visiting Progress Report, covering activity between June and August 2026.

As Assurance and Volunteer Supervisor, and in my role as Independent Custody Visiting Scheme Manager, I oversee almost 70 volunteers who support a range of scrutiny panels and volunteer schemes across the region.

OPCC volunteers play a vital role in holding Humberside Police to account by reviewing police policies, procedures and operational practices, identifying areas for improvement, and ensuring community voices are reflected within policing. They also help us engage with communities whose experiences and perspectives may not always be heard through traditional consultation methods.

This report marks a new approach. In the past, findings from our scrutiny panels and volunteer schemes have been published separately and through limited channels. By bringing our reports together into a single quarterly document, we hope to make it easier for members of the public to understand how independent scrutiny operates, what issues are being raised, what improvements are being sought, and how volunteers contribute to accountability, openness and transparency across policing.

Our scrutiny panels and volunteer schemes are made up of local residents who give up their own time.

They bring a wide range of personal and professional experience, providing independent challenge and community insight that helps improve policing services in our region.

I am incredibly proud of the amazing work our volunteers have done, are doing, and will continue to do for many years to come.

More information can be found via this link: <https://www.humberside-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/volunteering/scrutiny-panel-and-icv-scheme-updates>

CHAIRPERSON SPOTLIGHT

Each quarterly report we will invite one of our panel chairs to introduce themselves and give their thoughts on the work they are undertaking for our Office. For our first report, the Hate Crime Scrutiny Panel chair shared her thoughts. Jo has been a volunteer with the OPCC for several years now. She started as an ICV and has since also taken on the role of Hate Crime Panel Chair and is a member of the Police Powers panel.

“Hello, I'm Jo, and I am proud to serve as Chair of the Hate Crime Scrutiny Panel.

I am deeply passionate about challenging hate crime and discrimination, and I firmly believe that nobody should be targeted simply for being who they are. I genuinely believe that the observations, findings, and recommendations made by our panel have contributed to positive changes in policy, training, and practices, helping to improve outcomes for members of our communities. Progress can feel slow at times, and meaningful change rarely happens overnight.

However, I do see change happening. While there is still much work to be done, I will continue to use my voice to advocate for fairness, inclusion, and accountability.

I am committed to continual learning, with the goal of better understanding the experiences, challenges, and perspectives of others.

One of my key priorities is ensuring that the panel reflects the diversity of the communities we serve. I actively strive to encourage participation from a wide range of communities and groups so that we can hear and represent the voices that matter most.

If I am being completely honest, I do not currently feel that our panel is as representative as it could be. While I cannot compel people to join, I am always open to ideas and suggestions on how we can engage more people and encourage broader participation. Greater diversity of representation strengthens our panel, enriches our discussions, and ultimately helps us better serve our communities”



SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS ACROSS ALL PANELS

The June to August 2026 period demonstrates the significant contribution made by community volunteers in providing independent scrutiny and constructive challenge across Humberside Police.

Positive themes

- Volunteers report high satisfaction and confidence in the support provided by the OPCC.
- Panel members consistently identify and recognise good practice alongside areas for improvement.
- Senior police engagement with scrutiny is improving in some areas.
- Custody visitors continue to identify and resolve immediate detainee welfare concerns.
- Community engagement and independent challenge remain central strengths of the programme.

Recurring improvement themes

- Victim support and safeguarding are not always consistently evidenced.
- The quality and completion of assessments and records require continued attention.
- Some investigations would benefit from clearer evidence of comprehensive enquiries.
- Volunteers want a stronger feedback loop showing what changed after scrutiny.

Victim Initial Needs Assessment (VINA) findings

The OPCC created a separate internal report on Victim Initial Needs Assessments which was presented to Humberside Police. The report examined 37 cases reviewed between July 2025 and June 2026 in which an assessment was mandatory. It recorded that several assessments were not completed, while panel members also raised concerns about assessments containing repeated “no” responses without enough detail and occasions when the assessment was not completed by the Officer in Charge.

The report recommended an internal audit and a comprehensive review of the completion process. Humberside Police are undertaking an internal audit of the issues highlighted through scrutiny activity. It is positive to see these concerns being examined, and we hope to provide an update on progress and outcomes soon.

Priorities for the next quarter

KEY FINDINGS

Independent scrutiny is identifying consistent themes across panel areas. Volunteer relationships and commitment provide a strong foundation. Victim care, recording quality and demonstrable follow-through are the main shared priorities.

ACTIONS TO PROGRESS

Introduce clearer combined reporting and action tracking.
Seek updates on the VINA internal audit and outstanding panel actions.
Improve on publishing clear quarterly information for the public.



VOLUNTEER SURVEY 2026

The OPCC conducts an annual volunteer survey each August to understand volunteer experiences, to identify strengths, and to highlight opportunities for improvement. The 2026 survey results present a strong positive picture of volunteer experience.

9.28/10	100%	96%
Average happiness	Feel valued*	Feel informed
	88%	9.04/10
	Suitable training	OPCC integrity

*Three respondents were new volunteers and found it difficult to assess whether they felt valued. Therefore this figure is based on embedded members of the panels and schemes.

What volunteers value

- Good communication and responsiveness from OPCC staff.
- Supportive, organised and welcoming coordination.
- Meaningful opportunities to provide independent challenge and public perspectives.
- A positive team culture in which volunteers feel listened to and respected.

Opportunities for improvement

- A clearer feedback loop showing what happened after concerns were raised.
- More structured and accessible training and onboarding.
- Improved accessibility, inclusion and hybrid participation.
- Reduced digital friction and clear fallback arrangements when systems fail.

KEY FINDINGS

Volunteer satisfaction is exceptionally high. Communication and support are recognised strengths. Volunteers value independent challenge and community impact. The main development area is demonstrating outcomes from volunteer feedback.

ACTIONS TO PROGRESS

Publish a combined action and outcomes tracker.
Enhance induction, refresher training and IT support.
Provide regular 'you said, we did' updates.

DOMESTIC ABUSE & VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS SCRUTINY PANEL

Overview

The Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Scrutiny Panel is made up of independent community volunteers who review police investigations and victim experiences. The panel provides constructive challenge and recommendations to support transparency, accountability and continuous improvement.

Activity during the quarter

The June panel reviewed six case samples. Members also discussed the data they would like to receive in future meetings, including victim and suspect age, suspect gender, offence type, outcomes, repeat victimization and the relationship between the victim and suspect.

The previous action tracker was reviewed. A sample involving an incident on a beach could not be investigated further in relation to the recorded crime type. For a second domestic abuse sample from the previous meeting, it was confirmed that no complaint had been made and that Body Worn Video had been reviewed, with no misconduct identified. It was also confirmed that the current Chair would remain in place and that further meetings with the Force would be held regarding sample provision.

A Humberside Police representative provided an input on Operation Soteria. The panel also received wider prevention updates, including the launch of the Violence Prevention Partnership “Just Don’t” campaign and reference to the Drive campaign. Members were advised that Force data and national domestic abuse research may be available for sharing at the October panel, and that resources should be circulated to new members.

Scrutiny findings

A recurring concern related to missing Victim Initial Needs Assessments. Two assessments had been completed to a good standard, showing that positive practice was present, but members remained concerned about cases where assessments were missing.

The panel also identified concerns about inconsistent language and terminology that risked labelling children inappropriately. These points were identified for feedback.

For future scrutiny, members requested cases involving a male victim, coercive control, an adult-on-child offence and any reports of child marriage.

KEY FINDINGS

Missing or inconsistent needs assessments remain a concern.

Good-quality examples show the expected standard can be achieved.

Recording language requires care and consistency.

Members want broader case themes and more useful performance data.

ACTIONS TO PROGRESS

Continue monitoring completion and quality of needs assessments.

Feed back concerns about language and recording.

Provide requested data and varied case themes.

Arrange further Force Control Room engagement.

HATE CRIME SCRUTINY PANEL

Overview

The Hate Crime Scrutiny Panel is made up of community volunteers who scrutinise how Humberside Police respond to hate crime, recognise good practice and provide robust challenge where improvement is required.

Activity during the quarter

The July panel reviewed six case samples, including two sets of linked 999 and 101 calls. Members also discussed topical national and local cases, the Pegasus Card Scheme, future hate crime campaign activity and community cohesion work. The panel welcomed the community engagement work presented by a Community Cohesion Officer and encouraged wider internal and external awareness of the Pegasus Card Scheme.

Case sample detail

Sample 1: Members listened to two 101 calls. The call handler was considered professional on both calls. The panel questioned why the victim was not offered an alternative location for a police interview when the victim could not be seen at home or at a police station. Members were disappointed with the outcome and did not feel the case had been investigated as thoroughly as expected.

Sample 2: The panel did not consider the investigation adequate and raised questions about the enquiries undertaken to gather evidence.

Sample 3: Members questioned wording stating that the victim had not been targeted persistently, because the material supplied included several 101 calls and two crime report numbers.

Sample 4: The panel welcomed a positive case outcome but were concerned that victim support did not appear to have been offered.

Sample 5: Members did not consider the investigation adequate and questioned whether all available local enquiries had been completed.

Sample 6: As with Sample 4, the panel welcomed the positive outcome but remained concerned about the apparent lack of victim support.

Victim support was therefore a repeated theme. The later Ethics and Scrutiny Board discussion recorded that all six samples considered at the previous meeting had not been offered victim support, even after checking by the Community Cohesion Officer present. The Board update also recorded concerns about safeguarding advice and automatic enhanced service, and that positive outcomes appeared more common where police were present or an officer was the victim.

Positive developments included the extension of the hate crime flag period and mandatory recording of self-defined ethnicity. Members also sought assurance about interpreter use and auditing, and whether Force Control Room guidance had changed in relation to hate crimes and hate incidents.

KEY FINDINGS

Investigative thoroughness was questioned in several samples.

Victim support and safeguarding were not consistently evident.

Members want assurance on interpreter use and Force Control Room guidance.

Data-recording improvements were welcomed but still work to do.

ACTIONS TO PROGRESS

Continue monitoring victim support referrals and safeguarding.

Seek assurance on interpreter governance and auditing.

Clarify guidance for hate crimes and hate incidents in relation to 999/101 calls for service.

Review future samples for proportionate and comprehensive enquiries.



Did you know.... We are the only OPCC in the country to run an open Hate Crime Victim Survey, to try and gauge how victims of Hate Crime in our region are truly feeling.

You can complete the survey by scanning the below QR code:



POLICE POWERS SCRUTINY PANEL

Overview

The Police Powers Scrutiny Panel objectively scrutinise, recognise and promote good practice, and robustly challenge how Humberside Police exercise use of some of their legal powers. The last meeting was attended by nine panel members, one OPCC representative and four Humberside Police representatives. All previous actions were recorded as complete, with officer feedback provided where requested.

Stop and Search: Data, awareness and scrutiny

The panel noted a decrease in stop and searches completed in 2026 compared with the previous year. No specific explanation had been identified. Members welcomed the reducing proportion of records where ethnicity and gender were unknown or not recorded. Additional training was underway, including proposed supervisor training to improve data quality, and panel members were invited to attend and monitor whether learning becomes embedded. The panel also raised the need for wider Force awareness of the Pegasus Card Scheme. Five stop and search cases were reviewed, including Body Worn Video.

Sample 1: Grounds were not clear on the form, but Body Worn Video clarified the stop and the panel was satisfied with the action taken.

Sample 2: The panel requested positive feedback, describing the case as a good example of policing.

Sample 3: Minor clerical errors, including timings, were identified. The officer was calm and the justification was well explained, and positive feedback was requested.

Sample 4: The written record was poor quality and very brief, with limited justification. Body Worn Video clarified some matters, but feedback was required to improve future recording.

Sample 5: Members raised questions about officer questioning techniques and whether an interpreter might have been required. The search was concluded fairly and respectfully, but questions remained about justification and feedback was passed to the Force.

Use of Force: Data, awareness and scrutiny

The panel noted a decrease in use of force over the previous 12 months. Members considered this unexpected following a policy change in October 2025 and agreed that the matter should be raised through the Ethics and Scrutiny Board for further investigation. A further decrease in Body Worn Video recording in custody relating to use of force was viewed positively and as being in line with Force policy.

Members and Force representatives discussed a nationally reported case, including training, first aid and the law relating to ceremonial or religious dress. Five use of force cases were then reviewed, with Body Worn Video viewed for each case.

Sample 1: Initial safeguarding concerns were resolved through Body Worn Video and discussion of the individual's mental-health conditions. Members were satisfied with the officers' actions.

Sample 2: The panel requested positive feedback for the officers.

Sample 3: Views differed on justification and proportionality. A taser was drawn but not fired, prompting discussion of policy and whether the action was appropriate. Most members considered the action justified, but no consensus was reached on proportionality or alignment with policy and guidance.

Sample 4: Officer actions were considered justified and fair, but potentially disproportionate. Feedback focused on the number of officers involved and a lack of communication and control.

Sample 5: Positive feedback was provided, including recognition of a good review in the paperwork.

KEY FINDINGS

Most cases were considered fair and justified.

Written justification and data quality remain important improvement areas.

- Interpreter need, questioning technique and proportionality require continued scrutiny.

The reduction in recorded use of force requires further explanation.

ACTIONS TO PROGRESS

Monitor supervisor training and future data quality.

Promote wider Pegasus Card awareness.

Provide officer feedback on Samples 4 and 5.

Escalate the use of force reduction and revisit taser proportionality with trainers.

INDEPENDENT CUSTODY SCRUTINY PANEL

Overview

The Independent Custody Scrutiny Panel is composed of local community members who review detention and custody procedures to support transparency, accountability and detainee welfare. The July meeting focused on strip searches, use of force and wider custody assurance.

Strip search scrutiny

A strip search may be conducted where police have specific grounds to believe a person may be concealing items that could cause harm, assist escape, damage evidence, or be unlawful to possess in custody. It should only be used where necessary, proportionate, and justified, with the person's dignity and welfare safeguarded throughout.

As a standing item, members of the panel will scrutinise strip search records, as well as view CCTV leading up to and after a search has been conducted. This is to ensure that policy is being adhered to and that those who are subject to such a search, are done so with dignity. Under no circumstances will members be granted access to video recordings of the searches themselves. The panel also look to focus on those who are most vulnerable in custody, with samples mainly consisting of children, women and those with mental health issues or physical disabilities. Below are the panel findings from the last set of samples relating to strip searches.

Sample 1: Members considered that grounds for the search were present. The record supplied to the panel did not make clear whether an appropriate adult was present during the search, although Force representatives confirmed that this appeared in the custody record. A recording discrepancy was identified between the timing of the search and the arrival of the appropriate adult. Members asked that the presence of the appropriate adult, the cell or location used and the justification for the search all be recorded clearly.

Sample 2: Members agreed that the grounds were present and recorded positive feedback, describing the case as an example of the practice expected.

Sample 3: Members agreed that grounds were present but raised a query about the cell used. The process was identified as a point to highlight at future panels.

Sample 4: The search was considered compliant. The record included an explanation for the search taking 14 minutes, and positive feedback was requested.

Use of force scrutiny

Introductory use of force slides were presented for members who were new to the panel or less familiar with the subject. Seven use of force samples were considered and below are some highlights from the sample findings.

Sample 1: CCTV was viewed at the booking-in desk and again when the detained person was in the cell. The detainee was observed to be banging their head against things in the custody suite, and so use of force was required to prevent self-harm. One member questioned whether the level of force was excessive, while other members considered the response appropriate given the risk presented by a person affected by alcohol who was banging their head. Most members considered the incident well handled and welcomed being able to view the cell exit.

Sample 4: CCTV was viewed at the booking-in desk and as the detained person was taken to a cell. The detainee was becoming aggressive and so use of force was deemed necessary to prevent harm to themselves or others working in the suite. Members identified that two staff members climbed over the desk which is against force policy, and so feedback will be given to those members. The use of force was considered reasonable, justified and proportionate, and the reports were considered to reflect the actions of the individual officers.

Force and assurance updates

The panel received updates on custody throughput, immigration detainees, national guidance on strip searches and possible changes to camera arrangements. Members expressed greater comfort with retaining CCTV in search rooms due to safeguarding considerations. The panel also welcomed the action planning and officer communication described in the PEEL update and requested a future progress report. The PEEL report was an inspection carried out by HMICFRS recently, looking at all aspects of policing.

The full report can be found here -

<https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/publications/peel-assessment-2025-27-humberside/>

A discussion was had around known recording issues, and mirrors some of the areas for improvement the panel has highlighted in the past. Members were pleased to see work ongoing in those areas. When reviewing force provided data, the panel noted a decrease in use of force over the previous 12 months. Members considered this unexpected following a policy change in October 2025 (which you would have expected led to an increase in submissions) and agreed that the matter should be raised through the Ethics and Scrutiny Board for further investigation.



KEY FINDINGS

Most reviewed strip searches had appropriate grounds.

Recording around appropriate adults, locations and rationale needs improvement.

Use of force was generally considered proportionate.

Members value detailed follow-up on national guidance and PEEL actions.

ACTIONS TO PROGRESS

Improve strip search recording standards in relation to Appropriate Adults being present for child searches. Continue monitoring proportionality in use of force samples.

The force to provide a future update on PEEL progress.

Return with further information on immigration detainee figures and camera guidance.

INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME

Overview

Independent Custody Visitors make unannounced visits to custody suites to speak with detainees, review welfare arrangements and identify concerns. Personal details and individual volunteer attendance figures have been excluded from this public report.

Quarterly activity

Between 1 June and 31 August 2026, 22 completed visits were recorded across the two custody suites in the scheme: 12 at Birchin Way South Bank and 10 at Clough Road North Bank.

22	237	2
Completed visits	Interviewed or observed	Visits delayed over 10 minutes
336	70.5%	23
Detainees in custody	Overall vist rate	Detainee issues resolved by ICVs

Detainee welfare themes

The most frequently recorded issue was detainees not being told about pixelated toilet arrangements (meaning that the CCTV does not show the toilet in cells). All 23 issue occurrences raised were resolved by Independent Custody Visitors at the time, with none shown as awaiting later resolution.

Custody environment and access

Two visits recorded a wait or delay of more than ten minutes, one at each suite. Reasons recorded included the custody area being busy and waiting for an available staff member to support the visit.

At Birchin Way, observations included a released person remaining in reception while awaiting transport; a cleaning issue above a microwave; a missing laptop lead; short staffing; and concern that a cardboard meal utensil had caused discomfort. Staff also noted a potential self-harm risk if meals were left in their original plastic containers, but this has been addressed with positive action. Other entries recorded tidy areas, helpful staff and calm support for a person experiencing mental-health difficulties.



At Clough Road, observations included lockers being too small, an exercise yard affected by weeds, dirt and running paint, microwave cleaning, public access arrangements after 8pm, and inconsistent or cold shower water that had reportedly already been raised. Visitors also requested clarification about the process for a detained person to see healthcare staff.

All these issues have been escalated to the custody leads within Humberside Police, with appropriate action taken where necessary. Our team were also updated on these actions during our quarterly team meeting recently.

INDEPENDENT CONDUCT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Meeting overview

The Conduct and Scrutiny Panel met on 18 August 2026. The panel received a “Standards Matter” training input covering the work of the Professional Standards Department, including initial complaint resolution, misconduct, Regulation 13, vetting and vetting withdrawal, the Anti-Corruption Unit and the Internal Domestic Abuse Team.

Body Worn Video clips from concluded gross misconduct cases were viewed to support discussion about case assessment, mitigating and aggravating factors, and the options available to the Appropriate Authority. Definitions of misconduct and gross misconduct were also provided.

Case samples and panel findings

Two misconduct meeting cases were supplied for scrutiny shortly before the meeting.

Members were concerned that the cases had been provided at very short notice and did not contain sufficient information to explain the officers’ actions, the rationale for the Appropriate Authority assessment or the outcomes. The panel therefore agreed that both cases should be carried forward to the next meeting. For the next scrutiny meeting, the two carried-forward cases will be considered alongside one new gross misconduct case and one Reflective Practice Review Process case. The latter was requested to help members scrutinise a case that did not meet the misconduct threshold but was considered suitable for organisational or individual learning.

Information and timescale requirements

Future case bundles are to be supplied one month before the meeting and include the Investigating Officer report, the Appropriate Authority rationale and the Chair’s report. The next meeting is scheduled for 17 November 2026, with bundles due to the OPCC by close of play on 16 October 2026 to allow secure upload and sufficient assessment time for panel members.

KEY FINDINGS

Training improved members' understanding of Professional Standards processes and decision-making.

The two case bundles did not contain enough information for effective scrutiny. Late provision of material restricted members' preparation time.

A Reflective Practice Review Process sample will broaden future scrutiny beyond misconduct outcomes.

ACTIONS TO PROGRESS

Circulate the Standards Matter slides to panel members.

Provide four agreed case bundles by 16 October 2026.

Include the Investigating Officer report, Appropriate Authority rationale and Chair's report in each bundle.

Provide future samples one month in advance of the relevant meeting.

ETHICS AND SCRUTINY BOARD

Role of the Board

The Ethics and Scrutiny Board is the overall home for OPCC scrutiny activity. It considers findings from scrutiny groups and reports, supports the scrutiny work programme and provides recommendations to the Police and Crime Commissioner and Humberside Police.

Quarterly themes and updates

The August meeting considered updates on victim services, enhanced services, Pegasus cards, third-party referrals and overall police performance.

Progress included confirmation that the enhanced service should begin at first contact, when the report is generated, with tracking intended to test whether this happens as required. Work on third-party referrals remained ongoing, with a suggestion to establish a steering group involving the panel, specialist organisations and relevant local authority leads. The Board also discussed whether the Pegasus scheme could include a more visible wristband option and asked for internal communication to be strengthened.

The Board was advised that Humberside Police remained in Tier 1 of the performance framework and was broadly stable, although further context was requested on use of force form submission, audit work and interventions. Senior leadership attendance was reported to be improving, particularly at the custody panel, although members were disappointed that some Force attendees had left part-way through a meeting without advance explanation.

Areas requiring further assurance included victim-service processes, annual performance statistics, use of force reporting, the release of people from custody and the quality and availability of samples for scrutiny. The Board discussed a non-contact case in which initial deployment had occurred, a specialist support centre had been offered, contact later ceased and the alleged offender was arrested. Members nevertheless felt that the wider context had not been fully considered and asked for further review.

The Out of Court Disposal update recorded that the panel had taken on scrutiny of youth knife crime. Victim views were improving, but not where the victim was a police officer, and simple cautions were still appearing as an outcome despite the view that this should not occur.

The Police Powers update recorded strong support from the Force. Members also sought assurance about the reduction of Body Worn Video retention to 31 days and asked for a taser sample to be discussed with trainers and returned to a future panel.

The Board also recognised the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme's Platinum accreditation and confirmed the continuation of quarterly regional meetings despite a significant reduction in national funding support.

KEY FINDINGS

Cross-panel themes are being escalated through a central governance forum.
There is evidence of positive change and stronger senior engagement.
Victim support, recording and follow-through remain common concerns.
Panels need visible updates showing the outcome of recommendations.

ACTIONS TO PROGRESS

Maintain a consolidated action tracker across panels.
Provide clear ownership, timescales and status updates.
Strengthen cross-panel learning on recurring victim-care themes.
Report progress on outstanding Force commitments at the next Board.