



VERA BAIRD^{QC}
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Report of Office of Police & Crime Commissioner

Independent Custody Visitors findings – August 2016

The Police & Crime Commissioner, Vera Baird QC, would like to take this opportunity to thank Independent Custody Visitors for the work they have undertaken when visiting custody suites within the Northumbria Force area. The ICVs are valued members of the volunteer team. Below are the points raised during August 2016 from the stations visited.

Alnwick

Suite clean and tidy.

No issues identified.

Bedlington – Resilience Suite

Blood on custody desk.

No food for detainees in stock.

Berwick

Suite clean and tidy

No issues identified

Southwick

Suite clean and tidy and staff helpful

Areas for Improvement

Slip hazard outside of detainee showers – occurs when several showers are in use.

One cell out of order due to excessive heat.

CCTV system doesn't support the obscuring of the toilet area of cells

M7 light not working

M12 toilet leaking

M19 CCTV not working

M21 intercom not working

**** Update ****

The area outside the showers is mopped after detainees have used it.

The issue around the heat in certain cells is ongoing and the ambient testing is carried out on a daily basis.

CCTV will be carried forward by Inspector H Bola which has been reported.

M7 reported to maintenance

M12 resolved

M19 resolved

Millbank

Clean and tidy station

Supply cupboard door within suite left open.

Staff helpful and friendly.

Areas for Improvement

Cleaning cupboard left open containing cleaning items and chemicals

****Update **** Staff Informed Cleaning cupboard to be closed.

North Tyneside

Custody suite clean and tidy.

Staff polite and helpful.

Areas for Improvement:

Out of date meals removed from store cupboard

Shoe lockers left open

Some detainees stated they had not been offered hygiene kits/showers/exercise – relates to visit made on 28.08.16

**** Update **** Above points noted on out of date meals, staff updated. Custody Sgt's told to close shoe lockers and again where demand allows detainees to shower this will be monitored

Forth Banks

Staff friendly, professional and co-operative with both detainees and ICV's.

In relation to visit made on 26.08.16 – a number of detainees had complex needs which staff dealt with accordingly and with respect.

Clean and tidy suite

Issues Raised following introduction of PCC ICV Custody Suite Questionnaire

Following the 2014 HMIC Inspection into Northumbria Police Custody, a number of recommendations were made by HMIC to improve the custody process and service offered to detainees.

Northumbria Police have produced an action plan to address the issues raised with added checks by officers that these recommendations are being delivered. The Commissioner requested that ICV's be part of this process to make sure that an independent check that the force are delivering on these recommendations is made.

The OPCC produced a checklist of questions with each question relating to a specific recommendation in the report. During the month of August 2016 no issues of concern were highlighted by visitors in addition to the areas highlighted above.