



VERA BAIRD^{QC}
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Report of Office of Police & Crime Commissioner

Independent Custody Visitors findings – July 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 July 2016 from the stations visited.

Alnwick

Suite clean and tidy.

Arrows showing the direction of Mecca have been painted on cell ceilings.

No issues identified.

Bedlington

Suite clean and tidy.

No issues identified.

Southwick

Suite clean and tidy

No further issues

Millbank

Clean and tidy station

Staff helpful and friendly.

Areas for Improvement

Cleaning cupboard left open containing cleaning items and chemicals

Microwave in need of cleaning within detainee kitchen

Cell M20, 6 and 24 out of order.

Utility door between cell M11 and M10 open.

Areas of Improvement

Staff made aware of cleaning items and chemicals

Microwave cleaned

All Cell faults reported

Advice to staff regarding Utility door

North Tyneside

Custody suite clean and tidy.

Staff polite and helpful.

Areas for Improvement:

Shoe lockers left open

Some detainees stated they had not been offered hygiene kits

Areas for Improvement:

Shoe lockers left open – **STAFF AWARE OF ISSUE AND MATTER BEEN ADDRESSED**

Some detainees stated they had not been offered hygiene kits **STAFF AWARE OF ISSUE AND MATTER BEEN ADDRESSED**

Forth Banks

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

Clean and tidy suite

Areas for Improvement

Some detainees state they had not been offered exercise or hygiene kits

The above area has been highlighted with custody staff and custody Inspector will ensure this happens when possible.

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 July 2016 no issues of concern were highlighted by visitors in addition to the areas highlighted above.