



VERA BAIRD^{QC}
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Report of Office of Police & Crime Commissioner

Independent Custody Visitors findings – June 2017

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 **June 2017** from the stations visited.

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 **June 2017** no issues of concern were highlighted by visitors in addition to the areas highlighted below.

Alnwick

No detainees in custody.

Warm welcome received by staff and all areas clean and tidy.

Food checked and all in date.

Berwick

No detainees in custody.

Warm welcome received by staff and food stores checked.

Area for Improvement:

Affray alarm is still broken however this has been reported –

Force Response - ongoing repair

Bedlington

Cleaning of suite has been undertaken.

All detainee meals checked and in date

Warmly welcomed by staff

Millbank

Clean and tidy station

Staff helpful and friendly

Areas for improvement:

Storage cupboard open throughout the suite

Interview Room 3 out of order

Issues with CCTV system

Force Response: Staff reminder to close cupboard after use

Interview room 3 reported awaiting repair

CCTV fault reported awaiting repair

Southwick

Suite clean and tidy and staff helpful

Areas for improvement:

All taps in suite running warm water

Force Response: Staff reminder to run tap for a few minutes prior to providing detainee with water, Business support to check the temperature and flow of water and report back

North Tyneside – Middle Engine Lane

Custody suite clean and tidy.

Staff polite and helpful.

Areas for Improvement:

One of the detainee microwaves is still unusable –

Force Response – microwave replaced

Clothes and shoe lockers left open – Force Response - email sent to all staff will ask ICV which shift is on duty to identify where issues lie.

Shower close to cell 15 – sharp edges of the shower base could potentially be a health and safety risk – Force Response - reported and awaiting repair

Showers or washing facilities not offered to some detainees – Force Response - email to all staff

Detainee wash basin in Cell 22 is blocked – Force Response - reported and awaiting fixing

Forth Banks

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

Clean and tidy suite

Areas for Improvement

No pillows available for detainees as some are damaged and in need of replacing

Force Response – This has already been addressed and we are in the process of ordering new mattresses and pillows for custody.