



VERA BAIRD^{QC}
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Report of Office of Police & Crime Commissioner

Independent Custody Visitors findings – June 2014.

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 in June from the stations visited.

Alnwick

No issues raised. All areas clean and tidy

Bedlington

All areas clean and tidy.

Well received by staff.

Observed booking in and search of detainee with all correct procedures followed

Areas for improvement:

Cell M6 out of use due to broken CCTV

Berwick

No issues raised. Suite in order.

Hexham

All areas clean and tidy.

Well received by staff.

Etal Lane

Good stock of blankets and clothing.

Shower areas clean and tidy.

All officers were helpful and polite throughout visits.

Escorting officer noted requests and got them responded to as soon as was possible.

Area for improvement:

M8 - graffiti in cells including word "Jack".

M12 - graffiti in cell.

F3 - graffiti in cell present on a number of visits.

No access to exercise yard due to faulty door.

Gateshead

Staff very friendly and welcoming.

Areas for improvement

Detainees not being offered shower/washing facilities after being detained for a number of hours

Millbank

No issues raised. Very clean and staff helpful.

Areas for Improvement

Rape suspect examination kit in medical room is out of date (May 2014)

Gillbridge

No issues

Staff helpful and suite clean and tidy

North Tyneside

Staff friendly

Suite clean and tidy.

Areas for improvement

Medical room 2 door unlocked

Pillows in shower area near cell 16.

Ligature point in Yard 1 - out of use.

Interview room 4 - machine fault

Cell 11 - wash basin not working.

Exercise yard 3 - lots of graffiti on walls.

Exercise yard 1 - out of use due to ligature point.

DP visitor room 1 - Door lock o/s

Interview room 7 unlocked.

Wall beside cell 39 chipped and very rough.

Fingerprint room 2 out of use.

Shoe lockers unlocked and open.

Previous CV3 forms not signed by Custody Inspector

Assistant Chief Constable Winton Keenan responses to issues raised:

Bedlington

Areas for improvement:

Cell M6 out of use due to broken CCTV – Repaired now in full working order

Etal Lane

Area for improvement:

M8 - graffiti in cells including word "Jack".

M12 - graffiti in cell.

F3 - graffiti in cell present on a number of visits.

The paint originally used in the cells is no longer available. Finding a suitable paint to paint over the graffiti is proving difficult as the old paint reacts to new paint causing blistering which can be pulled off and could be used to cause self harm . Investigation is still on going to find a suitable paint and a trial will take place . The graffiti is not offensive.

No access to exercise yard due to faulty door. - Door repaired and yard now in full working order

Gateshead

Areas for improvement

Detainees not being offered shower/washing facilities after being detained for a number of hours - All staff have been reminded of the need to offer/record that this is being done and facilitate washing/showers.

Millbank

Areas for Improvement

Rape suspect examination kit in medical room is out of date (May 2014) - The examination kit had been removed from the secure cabinet as staff had found it out of date when doing a stock check. It was next to the disposal bin to be disposed off. All the stock in the cabinet was in date

North Tyneside

Areas for improvement

Medical room 2 door unlocked - Continues to be part of daily checks. Consideration being given to replacing locks with night latches

Pillows in shower area near cell 16. Removed

Ligature point in Yard 1 - out of use. Ligature point repaired; however, another ligature point was identified by custody staff and has been referred to Estates for repair

Interview room 4 - machine fault - Already identified through daily checks and has been repaired

Cell 11 - wash basin not working. Already identified through daily checks and has been repaired

Exercise yard 3 - lots of graffiti on walls. This is dried mud/silt from yard floor being smeared on walls, Estates to organize jet wash of all yards. No permanent graffiti present.

Exercise yard 1 - out of use due to ligature point. Duplicate with point 3

DP visitor room 1 - Door lock o/s - Repaired

Interview room 7 unlocked. Continues to be part of daily checks. Consideration being given to replacing locks with night latches

Wall beside cell 39 chipped and very rough. Two 1" areas where damage has been caused behind the cell door. Estates notified to have repaired

Fingerprint room 2 out of use. - Now in use

Shoe lockers unlocked and open. Continues to be highlighted to staff and subject of regular checks by supervision.

Previous CV3 forms not signed by Custody Inspector - Forms checked and have been signed elsewhere on form by inspector
