



VERA BAIRD^{QC}
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Report of Office of Police & Crime Commissioner

Independent Custody Visitors findings – September 2015

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 September 2015 from the stations visited.

Alnwick

All areas clean and tidy.

No issues identified.

Bedlington

All areas clean and tidy.

No issues identified.

Berwick

All well and clean and tidy.

No issues identified.

Southwick

Suite clean and tidy.

No issues raised

Millbank

All areas clean and tidy and staff helpful

Reading materials available for detainees

No issues raised

North Tyneside

Staff friendly and helpful

Areas for improvement:

Kitchen area including microwaves in need of immediate cleaning.

This issue has been raised with the cleaning supervisor and spot checks have taken place. The kitchen and microwaves are cleaned each morning. They are then used throughout the day and not cleaned until the following day resulting in the appearance that they have not been cleaned.

Older copies of CV3 forms still awaiting Custody Inspectors signature

These have been signed by the custody Inspector.

Cell 20 out of use

repaired and in use

Cell 3 out of use due to broken camera

camera repaired and in use

Microwaves in need of cleaning

See above

Forth Banks

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

Clean and tidy suite

Areas for Improvement

Cell 24 not in use due to issue with fire alarm

Cells 24 is in use, no issue with fire alarm.

Exercise Yard 1 in poor state and in need of maintenance

Decoration to exercise yard scheduled for 11th and 12th November.

Shower outside cells 41-50 out of use

shower is working.

Some detainees stated they were not offered washing facilities

Detainees who are detained overnight or over 24 hours are offered washing facilities.

Issues Raised following introduction of PCC ICV 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 September no issues of concern were highlighted by visitors in addition to the areas highlighted above.