VERA BAIRD QC
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Report of Office of Police & Crime Commissioner

Independent Custody Visitors findings – April 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 April 2015 from the stations visited.

Alnwick

All areas clean and tidy

Area for Improvement:

Food for detainees not available at present

Bedlington

All areas clean and tidy.

Well received by staff.

Berwick

All well and staff pleasant and obliging.

No issues identified.

Hexham

All areas clean and tidy

Area for Improvement:

No blankets in store cupboard

Millbank

Suite clean and tidy and staff helpful

Areas for Improvement:

Four cells out of order due to broken night light.

Door to exercise yard jamming

Southwick

Suite clean and tidy.

Helpful staff

Areas for improvement:

Six cells out of use – 12, 13, 18, 21, 22 and 23

North Tyneside

Staff friendly and helpful

Areas for improvement:

Number of detainee pillows are damaged.

Interview Room 9 + 10 out of order.

Forth Banks

Staff friendly, professional and co-operative

Clean and tidy suite

Areas for Improvement:

Number of cells out of order – Cell 4, 49 due to broken intercom

Cell 38 – Light switch in corridor missing cover

Assistant Chief Constable Jo Farrell responses to issues raised:

Alnwick

Area for improvement:

Suite has been re stocked.

Hexham

Area for improvement:

Suite has been re stocked.

CCTV camera repaired

Millbank

Area for improvement:

2 cells have been repaired still awaiting for parts and the engineer to re-attend to repair the remaining cells

Door to exercise yard has been repaired

Southwick

Areas for improvement

All cells now repaired.

North Tyneside

Areas for improvement

New pillows have been ordered.

Issues in Interview rooms have been resolved and are working.

Forth Banks

Areas for improvement

Cell 4, 49 due to broken intercom Cell 4 is fixed. Cell 49 the microphone on the panel in the cell is broken, The contractor is looking at whether this can have jut the microphone replaced or if the entire panel will need to be replaced. Estates are liaising with the contractor.

Cell 38 – Light switch in corridor missing cover. This is cosmetic and does not in any way impacts on the functionality or usability of the cell. The plastic cover from the switch has come off and will need to be replaced. The contractor is aware and is looking to source just the cover rather than replacing the entire switch. Estates are liaising with the contractor.

Issues Raised following introduction of PCC ICV Questionnaire

NTAC

- Detainee sated had not been offered a pillow or blanket overnight.

Forth Banks

- Intercom not working in two cells – see above
- Detainee not offered exercise or washing facilities, however no information recorded by ICV's on how long this detainee had been in custody.