



VERA BAIRD^{QC}
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Report of Office of Police & Crime Commissioner

Independent Custody Visitors findings – April 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 **April 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 **April 2017** no issues of concern were highlighted by visitors in addition to the areas highlighted below.

Alnwick

Area for Improvement:

Suite and detainee toilets in need of gleaning

Force Response – Cleaning regime audited and cells checked – no issues.

Bedlington

All areas clean and tidy

All detainee meals checked and in date

Warmly welcomed by staff

Areas for Improvement:

Emergency alarm within suite not working

Force Response – Affray alarm checked by 1326 at Bedlington – working / in order

Millbank

Clean and tidy station

Staff helpful and friendly

Areas for improvement:

Lock broken on Cell M11

Force Response: Lock has been repaired

Southwick

Suite clean and tidy and staff helpful

No issues raised

North Tyneside

Custody suite clean and tidy.

Staff polite and helpful.

Areas for Improvement:

06.04.17 / 23.04.17 / 29.04.17 - A Rota not offered showers, washing, hygiene packs or exercise to detainees.

Limited number of detainee meals and drinks available.

Detainee shoe lockers outside of cells left open

Emergency wheelchair delivered to suite however staff are still to be trained on its use as per health and safety guidelines.

Force Response: Staff emailed regarding matters raised. Ordering protocol examined in relation to meal variety. On day of check by A/Insp – plenty of variety found. Training in relation to wheelchair will be progressed.

Forth Banks

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

Clean and tidy suite

Areas for Improvement:

Cell 21 detainee locker broken

Force Response – This has now been repaired