



VERA BAIRD^{QC}
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Report of Office of Police & Crime Commissioner

Independent Custody Visitors findings –August 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 August from the stations visited.

Alnwick

No issues raised. All areas clean and tidy

Bedlington

All areas clean and tidy.

Well received by staff.

Cell 1 + 6 out of use

Areas for improvement:

Re-stock of sugar sachets needed

Berwick

No issues raised. Suite in order.

Hexham

All areas relatively clean and tidy

Area for Improvement:

Kitchen area in need of cleaning

Etal Lane

Suite clean and tidy

All officers were helpful, professional and polite throughout visits.

All issues raised by detainees were immediately addressed by staff.

Area for improvement:

Male shower and exercise yard out of use

Graffiti in cells M8, M12 and M13

Cell M5 door broken

Gateshead

Staff very friendly and welcoming.

Suite clean and tidy

Areas for improvement

Extra blankets may be needed as none available when suite busy.

Millbank

No issues.

Very clean and staff helpful.

Gillbridge

No issues

Staff helpful and suite clean and tidy

Washington

No issues raised.

North Tyneside

Staff friendly

Suite clean and tidy.

Areas for improvement

Cell 30– Door coming away from frame.

Cell 37 – Window broken

Interview room 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 –

Assistant Chief Constable Winton Keenen responses to issues raised:

Bedlington

Areas for improvement:

Re-stock of sugar sachets needed

The sugar was on order but had not arrived so custody staff purchased some locally. The ordered stock has subsequently arrived.

Hexham

Area for Improvement:

Kitchen area in need of cleaning

Kitchen cleaned

Etal Lane

Area for improvement:

Male shower and exercise yard out of use Male shower still out of use but det and female showers can be used. This will be repaired following the movement of prisoners to Forth Banks

Exercise yard can be used with supervision as there was a potential ligature point however, Estates have been out to assess this and it is the design of the vent above the door. This matter will be considered further following the move

Graffiti in cells M8, M12 and M13 This is scratched paint which will be painted following the move.

Cell M5 door broken

Cell 5 door has been repaired and is back in use.

Gateshead

Areas for improvement

Extra blankets may be needed as none available when suite busy.

Gateshead Custody suite is closed as of 06/10/14. All prisoners to Forth Banks – Additional blankets have been purchased.

North Tyneside

Areas for improvement

Cell 30– Door coming away from frame.

Cell 37 – Window broken

Above cells 30 & 37 are to be repaired under warranty when the suite closes in January for wifi updates .This does not cause any operational difficulties.

Interview room 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 - Unlocked

Further instructions have been given to all teams to advise officers that use the rooms to lock them when they finish and for teams to conduct regular checks during their tour of duty.