



VERA BAIRD^{QC}
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Report of Office of Police & Crime Commissioner

Independent Custody Visitors findings – August 2018

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 **August 2018** 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 **August 2018** no issues of concern were highlighted by visitors in addition to the areas highlighted below.

Bedlington

No detainees in custody

Warm welcome received by staff

All areas clean and tidy

Southwick

Suite clean and tidy and staff polite and helpful

Stocks of food all in date

No issues raised.

North Tyneside – Middle Engine Lane

Custody suite clean and tidy

Staff polite and helpful

Areas for Improvement:

14/08/18

Cells 2, 5 and 37 out of use – required cleaning

Yellow stain on floor of cell 9

Shower beside cell 35 badly stained

Large bottle of hand wash gel left in shower beside cell 36 (removed straight away)

18/08/18

31-40 corridor – shower needs cleaning

Outer corridor needs to be cleaned, cob webs on the wall.

25/08/18

Shower floor beside cell 35 requires cleaning

Cell 35 requires cleaning

Force Response:

Cell 35 and issues with corridors to be reviewed and estates tasked.

Forth Banks

Staff friendly and helpful and proactive in dealing with queries

1/08/18

DO 5960 – competent and friendly

Muslim detainee commented that he had been treated with dignity and respect

Areas for improvement:

Blue copy of CV3 not being dealt with in custody suite

23/08/18

Cell 26 – door not operating

Detainee 18/19989 – not offered shower or tooth brush (had been detained for two days)

Detainee 18/20100 – not informed that he could have food.

Force Response:

Reminder to be sent by C Insp Readdie re showers being offered to persons who have been in custody over night.

Cell 26 door fixed.

