



**VERA BAIRD**<sup>QC</sup>  
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

## Report of Office of Police & Crime Commissioner

### **Independent Custody Visitors findings – February 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 **February 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 **February 2018** no issues of concern were highlighted by visitors in addition to the areas highlighted below.

#### **Alnwick**

No detainees in custody

Warm welcome received by staff

#### **ACTION:**

**Out of date Sanitary towels to be replaced**

**Force Response: New sanitary towels provided**

#### **Berwick**

No detainees in custody

Warm welcome received by staff

Suite clean and tidy

#### **ACTION:**

**Even though sanitary towels are available in the suite, sanitary packs were not available as in other suites.**



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### **Force Response: Sanitary packs now in suite**

#### **Bedlington**

No detainees in custody

All areas clean and tidy

#### **ACTION:**

Out of date Sanitary towels to be replaced

**Force Response: New sanitary towels provided.**

#### **Millbank**

Detainee kitchen and food stores checked and all in order.

Female hygiene packs in stock

Staff welcoming and friendly

#### **Southwick**

Suite clean and tidy and staff helpful

Female hygiene pack in stock

Issue relating to the drinking water tap producing warm water, has been addressed by the Chief Inspector of Custody.

#### **North Tyneside – Middle Engine Lane**

Custody suite clean and tidy

Female hygiene packs in stock

Food stocks checked and all in date

Staff polite and helpful

#### ***Areas for Improvement:***

***Damaged mattress identified***

***Several detainee lockers left open***

***Pillows and mattresses left on floor in cell corridor***

### ***Detainee showers in need of cleaning***

***Force Response: New mattresses ordered. Reminder sent to staff regarding other points.***

### **Forth Banks**

Staff friendly and helpful

Comments on tidiness of the suite

Detainees commented on helpfulness and assistance provided by officers and staff  
13<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

Female hygiene pack being offered routinely by staff

### ***Areas for Improvement***

General untidiness within suite on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018 5:20PM which included detainee lockers left open and used towels/shampoo sachets left in shower areas (corridor 31-40)

***Force Response: Staff reminded and Inspector informed.***

Cell 24 – out of order due to broken fire alarm

***Force Response: Repaired***

Detainee locker 41 – lock broken

***Force Response: Repaired***

Cell 8 out of use due to trip hazard at base of door.

Shortage of blankets and pillows.

***Force Response: Restocked.***

Laundry room containing cleaning products left unlocked

***Force Response: Staff reminded and Inspector informed***

Cells 41-50 are cold. It was noted that heating engineers are awaiting part to correct the issue.

***Force Response: Estates made aware.***