



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

## **Report of Office of Police & Crime Commissioner**

### **Independent Custody Visitors findings – January 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 January 2016 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 December 2016 no issues of concern were highlighted by visitors in addition to the areas highlighted below.

#### **Alnwick**

Warmly welcomed by staff

Suite has been cleaned and in good order.

#### **Berwick**

All well

Clean and tidy suite

#### **Bedlington – Resilience Suite**

Warm welcome by staff

All food checked and in date.

Suite clean and tidy

#### **Hexham**

Prompt and friendly welcome

No issues raised

## **Southwick**

Suite clean and tidy and staff helpful

Shoe lockers, cleaning cupboard and bedding stores left open

### **ACTION**

Cells M3, M16, M22 and D4 out of order

Force Response

Raised with Custody Inspector/Estates. Southwick is currently closed due to refurbishment of the flooring.

## **Millbank**

Clean and tidy station

Staff helpful and friendly

No issues raised

## **North Tyneside**

Custody suite clean and tidy.

Staff polite and helpful.

### **Areas for Improvement:**

Exercise yard call buttons setting off affray alarms when pressed.

Shower beside cell 4 has rough edges around drain

Detainee microwave in need of replacing

Cell 4 lock broken and been out of use for over one month

Force Response

Custody Inspector will address this asap.

## **Forth Banks**

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

Food and first aid stocks checked and all ok

Clean and tidy suite

### **Areas for Improvement:**

Door before entering custody suite broken for number of weeks

Force Response

Door now repaired.