



VERA BAIRD^{QC}
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Report of Office of Police & Crime Commissioner

Independent Custody Visitors findings – July 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 **July 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 **July 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

Suite clean and tidy

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

Millbank

Quarterly check carried out as custody suite is closed

Suite clean and tidy and stock levels checked

Foreign language cards/questions left in suite to add to custody visits paperwork

Areas for improvement:

Toilet rims/bowls looked stained

Medical Room door open and the Medical Room supply cupboard open

Force Response:

Insp is addressing these, the staining is due to age rather than cleanliness.

North Tyneside – Middle Engine Lane

Custody suite clean and tidy

Staff polite and helpful

Areas for Improvement:

14/07/18 – only 4 Detention Officers on duty

No showers offered due to staffing levels

No outside time offered due to the staffing levels

20/07/18 - DO 4813 praised by detainee for being polite and helpful

No soap available in the suite

Pillow on the floor at end of 31-40 corridor

Cells 31, 35, 37 and 39 required cleaning (cells out of use until cleaned)

27/07/18 – Cell 8 out of use – required cleaning due to infestation

Cell 35 out of use – required cleaning due to blood

Cells 33 and 39 required cleaning – out of use

Mattress in cell 10 had pen marks/graffiti on it – detainee in cell stated that he was not responsible for this

Force Response: All cells have been cleaned / treated and are back in use. Staff reminded of housekeeping. The supply of soap has stopped and been replaced with shower gel. Examination of mattress's suggest that this is not graffiti but some sort of print staining which may have occurred as they were stored.

It must be noted that minimum staffing at MEL is 4 DO's.

Forth Banks

Staff friendly and helpful and proactive in dealing with queries

Comments on tidiness of the suite

No issues