



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

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

### **Independent Custody Visitors findings – June 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 **June 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 **June 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

**06/06/18 – Detention Officer 4546, Helen Clarkson dealt with aggressive detainees in a calm and professional manner**

**Areas for Improvement**

09/06/18 – clothes/shoes on floor outside cells

Locker/utility doors unlocked and left open

Tablet reception not very good (when numerous tablets being used at the same time)

**Force Response:**

**As per May update / Insp to take up tablet issue is persistent as this has not been raised since new routers were installed**

**North Tyneside – Middle Engine Lane**

Custody suite clean and tidy

Staff polite and helpful

**Areas for Improvement:**

02/06/18 – Exercise yard 3 needs to be cleaned

08/06/18 – Exercise yard 2 – out of use due broken glass in the door

Foul smell in 31-40 and 1-10

23/06/18 – Exercise yard 2 still out of use

**Force Response: Both exercise yards now in use and cleaned, glass has been replaced in door.**

**Foul smell reported to estates again and has been monitored, changes to maintenance implemented and so far no re-occurrence. However there is a plan for more extensive survey of the drainage should the problem re-occur.**

**Forth Banks**

Staff friendly and helpful and proactive in dealing with queries

Comments on tidiness of the suite

**Detainee 18/13827 praised the Detention Officer for the care he had received from him**

**Positive comments noted and will be passed onto DO**