



VERA BAIRD^{QC}
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Report of Office of Police & Crime Commissioner

Independent Custody Visitors findings – September 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 **September 2017** 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 **September 2017** 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 and all areas clean and tidy.

Food checked and all in date.

Berwick

No detainees in custody.

Warm welcome received by staff and food stores checked.

Food stocks all in date however some food expiring at end of this month.

Bedlington

No detainees in custody

Cleaning of suite has been undertaken

All detainee food stocks in date

Millbank

Clean and tidy station

Staff helpful and friendly

Areas for improvement:

7 sleeves of tea out of date and disposed by custody staff

Force Response: Out of date items disposed off

Southwick

Suite clean and tidy and staff helpful

Areas for improvement:

Electronic Custody Record phablets have poor reception within the suite

Force Response: ICT aware, there had been issues with the provider on the day due to on-going external work

North Tyneside – Middle Engine Lane

Custody suite clean and tidy.

Staff polite and helpful.

Electronic tablets losing reception within the custody suite

Areas for Improvement:

Electronic tablets losing reception within suite

Detainee lockers left open (D Rota)

Strong smell within corridor 31-40

Force Response: Noted – Tablets issue is known by IS&T – I will follow up with them. Lockers issue fed back to staff. The smell in the corridor is a matter that maintenance are aware of and trying to solve

Forth Banks

Staff friendly, professional and co-operative with both staff and detainees.

Issues previously raised in relation to cell locker doors has been rectified.

Clean and tidy suite.