



VERA BAIRD^{QC}
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Report of Office of Police & Crime Commissioner

Independent Custody Visitors findings – October 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 **October 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 **October 2017** no issues of concern were highlighted by visitors in addition to the areas highlighted below.

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

All areas clean and tidy

All detainee food stocks in date

Southwick

Suite clean and tidy and staff helpful

Areas for improvement:

Issues with mobile phablets losing signal: The provision of tablets and their capability is being looked at by custody (However this isn't an easy fix)

North Tyneside – Middle Engine Lane

Custody suite clean and tidy

Staff polite and helpful

Female hygiene packs of varying sizes available

All detainee lockers closed.

Areas for Improvement:

Issues with mobile phablets losing signal

Force Response: The provision of tablets and their capability is being looked at by custody (However this isn't an easy fix)

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

Areas for Improvement:

Cell 27 fire alarm fault.

Force Response: Repaired