



NORTHUMBRIA **POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER**

Report of Office of Police & Crime Commissioner

Independent Custody Visitors findings – October 2019

Kim McGuinness, Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria 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 2019** 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 2019** no issues of concern were highlighted by visitors in addition to the areas highlighted below.

Bedlington

Warmly welcomed by staff

Food stocks all checked

Suite clean and tidy

Southwick

Suite clean and tidy and staff polite and helpful.

Areas for improvement:

Force Response:

ICV's on several occasions commented that lockers were not being used for the storage of detainees clothing or were left open.

This is an issue that has been raised before. Custody Management find this frustrating.

A more robust compliance system will be introduced.

Pillows and mattresses stored on floors:

(06.10.19) Detainees 23793 and 23861 had been in overnight however had still not been provided with washing facilities.

Offers of showers and exercise will form part of the new audit process.

(21.10.19) Detainee 19/25114 had been in overnight however had not been offered washing facilities.

As above

North Tyneside – Middle Engine Lane

Custody suite clean and tidy
Exercise Yard checked and all in order
Staff polite and helpful
Supplies well stocked

Areas for Improvement:

Cell 29 – broken camera

Reported to estates.

20.10.19 1:30pm - Detainee lockers left open

This is an issue that has been raised before. Custody Management find this frustrating.

A more robust compliance system will be introduced

20.10.19 1:30pm – No showers offered to detainees held overnight

Offers of showers and exercise will form part of the new audit process.

Forth Banks

Suite clean and tidy and all in order.

ICV's commented on staff who were informative, helpful and engaging

ICV's commented on the efforts made by staff to accommodate and recognise make adjustments for vulnerable detainees

Areas for Improvement:

Force Response:

Detainee lockers left open – our DOs have been reminded again to ensure closed, spot checks will be conducted.

Cell 1 – broken toilet – checked and working fine

Cell 2 – camera not working – showing on cell management as an issue, cell was already closed off on NPICCS

Cell 15/46 – broken intercom – Intercom in 15 is working fine now, cell 46 showing on NPICCS as not available due to Intercom and possible ligature point**Reported**