



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

### **Independent Custody Visitors findings – June 2019**

Dame Vera Baird, 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 **June 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 **June 2019** no issues of concern were highlighted by visitors in addition to the areas highlighted below.

### **Bedlington – Resilience Suite**

As the suite is a resilience suite there were no detainees to visit however ICV's commented that recent cleaning of the suite has been undertaken. It was however noted that detainee meal stocks had been checked and all were in order.

### **Areas for Improvement**

Detainee shower area in need of cleaning

**Force Response: Cleaners to be tasked.**

## **Berwick**

All areas clean and tidy and no issues raised as no detainees in custody.

## **Southwick**

Suite clean and tidy and staff polite and helpful.

ICV's observed the positive support being offered to detainee with mental health issues by detention staff.

### **Areas for improvement:**

Cells 5,7,10 & 17 out of use.

Exercise yard flooded.

Cell 22 used for storage

**Force Response: Southwick is closed the week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> August. These repairs will be completed then.**

## **North Tyneside – Middle Engine Lane**

Custody suite clean and tidy

Staff polite and helpful

Exercise yards checked and all in order

All stores for clothing and food checked and all in order

### **Areas for Improvement:**

Number of detainee lockers left open

Pillows and mattresses stored in corridors

**Force Response: Reminder sent to staff.**

## **Forth Banks**

Suite clean and tidy and all in order.

No issues raised.

### **Areas for Improvement:**

Issue raised during a visit due to ICV's being left unattended for a prolonged period, which has been raised directly with the Chief Inspector of Custody.

Cell 46 intercom broken

Cell 42 camera not working

**Force Response: Direct response given to OPCC re the issue of ICVs waiting. Issues with cell 46 and 42 brought to the attention of estates.**