



**NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

Independent Custody Visitors

February 2020.

Throughout February, ICVs undertook visits to custody suites across the force area, with their findings reported back to the Police and Crime Commissioner, Kim McGuinness.

Below are some of the highlights, issues and other newsworthy information raised during visits or by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

ICVs continue to have access to and utilise the on-line services provided by ICVA.

Etal Lane (Resilience Suite)

Resilience suite – no visits in February 2020.

Bedlington (Resilience Suite)

Resilience suite – no visits in February 2020.

Southwick

Three visits were made to Southwick, staff were friendly and polite.

Areas for improvement:

Smells from drains near female corridor.

Problem with heating.

Clothes lockers open.

Force Response:

Northumbria Police will address the areas raised.

North Tyneside – Middle Engine Lane

Four visits were undertaken to Middle Engine Lane, staff were polite and friendly to detainees and the overall cleanliness of the public area was good.

Areas for Improvement:

Supplies were checked and sleeves of coffee were found to be out of date, these were disposed of.

Some of the cells were not as clean as they should have been, this was raised with the staff on duty who took the necessary action.

No shower or hygiene kits offered by the previous shift that were on duty. This was raised with the relevant staff.

Force Response:

Northumbria Police appreciate the input from Custody visitors and will review and take necessary action.

Forth Banks

Three visits were undertaken to Forth Banks. Custody Suite was clean and tidy

Areas for Improvement:

ICVs still felt it took long for them to gain access at first meeting in February, but this was resolved at subsequent visits.

Force Response: