



Independent Custody Visitors

June 2022

Below are some of the highlights, issues and other newsworthy information raised during visits or by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner during **June 2022**.

Sunderland - Southwick

One visit was made to Southwick Custody Suite, the suite was found to be clean and tidy on all occasions. Staff were also friendly and helpful.

ICVs positively highlighted that food stocks were in plentiful supply which is positive considering the issues forces have been facing nationally due to detainee meal supplies.

ICVs highlighted that detainees were being provided exercise time.

Areas for improvement:

26.06.22 (5:45PM)

- Lack of male detention officers resulting in showers for some detainees not being offered.
- Toilet roll not being offered to detainees when they are placed in their cells.
- Panel Co-ordinators had raised the issue with Chief Insp Fryer that there should be a notice for the new detainee meal supplier within the kitchen detailing the allergy information for the Bistro Express meals. There is no sign currently.
- Cell M15 – out of use due to cctv.
- Cell M18 – out of use as being used for storage.

Force Response :

1. We always endeavor to ensure that we have sufficient staff within custody, and with a suitable ratio of male / female staff. Unfortunately, on occasions of annual leave and short term sickness this might not always be the case.
2. Toilet roll should be offered to all detainees. There are occasions when this offer is withdrawn. This includes when Dp is causing damage to cell with the toilet roll, attempting to block toilet or use to wet and throw at cctv to block our view. The rationale should be recorded on the ECR when toilet roll not given. All staff have been reminded of this in recent custody circular.

3. Signage being printed.
4. Cell M15 is awaiting a cctv engineer to fix issue. Cell M18 has been converted to a permanent storage room. This extra storage space is required for custody supplies and is included in our establishment as a store room.

North Tyneside – Middle Engine Lane

Two visits were undertaken to Middle Engine Lane, the overall cleanliness of the suite and exercise areas was very good and all staff were polite and helpful.

Exercise yard 3 checked and in good condition.

ICVs observed that AA's had been provided to detainees.

ICVs confirmed that where detainees had items of clothing removed that the reasons for this were recorded by staff.

ICVs positively highlighted that detainees with religious needs had been provided with prayer mats.

Areas for Improvement:

- 07.06.22 – Panel Co-ordinators had raised the issue with Chief Insp Fryer that there should be a notice for the new detainee meal supplier within the kitchen detailing the allergy information for the Bistro Express meals. There is no sign currently.
- 07.06.22 - ICVs noted that detainee food stocks were extremely low.
- 07.06.22 – Out of date teas and coffees disposed of.
- 07.06.22 – noted that detainees did not have toilet roll in cells however comment made by staff that when cleaners clean the cells after use this is removed and may not have been replaced.

Force Response:

1. Signage being printed.
2. Food stocks are now replenished.
3. Staff reminded to routinely check use by dates of food/drink items. Out of date tea / coffee disposed of, new stock in place.
4. Toilet roll should be offered to all detainees. There are occasions when this offer is withdrawn. This includes when Dp is causing damage to cell with the toilet roll, attempting to block toilet or use to wet and throw at cctv to block our view. The rationale should be recorded on the ECR when toilet roll not given. All staff have been reminded of this in recent custody circular

Newcastle – Forth Banks

Two visits were undertaken to Forth Banks, the overall cleanliness of the suite and exercise areas was good, and all staff were polite and helpful.

ICVs highlighted that detainees had been provided with blankets where requested.

ICVs positively highlighted that detainees that required religious items had been provided with them within their cells.

ICVs positively highlighted that detainees had been provided with toilet roll and hygiene kits on this visit

Areas for Improvement:

- 07.06.22 – 4 Veg curries were out of date and disposed of.
- 07.06.22 – Cell 13 out of order due to broken lock
- 30.06.22 – ICVs could not locate the previous report form of their visit which should be stored within the ICV file.

Force Response:

1. Staff reminded to routinely check use by dates of food/drink items.
2. Cell 13 lock repaired and cell in working order.
3. I have checked the IVC file today (23/7). The report for 30.06.2022 is filed correctly in the folder.