

## **Independent Custody Visitors**

### **September 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 **September 2022**.

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#### **Sunderland - Southwick**

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

All systems were in working order.

All food stocks checked and in order.

ICVs positively noted that on most occasions detainees had been offered washing facilities and time in exercise yards.

#### **Areas for improvement:**

**29.09.22**

**Exercise yard in need of cleaning**

**Cell 31 out of use as being used for storage**

**Force Response :**

**Exercise yard is cleaned**

**We do not have a cell 31 at Southwick, Cell 18 is used as permanent storage at Southwick.**

#### **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.

ICVs positively highlighted that where detainees clothing/shoes had been removed this was correctly recorded on the custody record.

ICVs positively noted stores, food stocks and exercise yards were all in order.

ICVs positively noted that toilet roll and reading materials had been provided to detainees.

**Areas for Improvement:**

**14.09.22 (8pm)**

- Low staffing levels which was raised with the Chief Insp of Custody at the time and response received. This

**Force Response:**

**Staffing levels are being addressed with a new batch of Sergeants and Detention Officers due imminently.**

**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 wished to thank officer 4203 for their assistance during a visit.

ICVs positively highlighted that food stocks were all in order.

ICVs highlighted where detainees needed an Appropriate Adult these had been requested in a timely manner.

ICVs positively noted that females had been offered female hygiene products and detainees provided with reading materials.

**Areas for Improvement:**

**01.09.22 (7:05pm)**

- Vast majority of detainees had not been provided toilet roll within their cells.
- Detainees who had clothing removed, the reasons for this were not included on the custody record.

**Force Response:**

**Toilet roll not being provided routinely has been raised to all shift Inspectors. This appears to have addressed issues at Southwick and MEL. I will reinforce the message at Forth Banks.**

**Staff to be reminded to record on ECR when clothing removed, also when toilet roll withheld.**