



**NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

Independent Custody Visitors

November 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 **November 2022**.

Sunderland - Southwick

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

ICVs noted that cup holders for hot drinks were in use within the suite following this being raised as an issue by ICVs.

Areas for improvement:

On all occasions it was noted that detainee lockers were left open – [Staff reminded of need to close lockers](#).

Suite wheelchair missing as had been used for a detainee transported to Durham prison. [We have requested this back; I have briefed staff to chase this up](#).

Staff unable to transfer CCTV to disks due to a fault which has been reported and aware this is being looked into. [This issue is fixed and now working](#).

Several sleeves of out of date drinks removed – [Noted, we have checked stock today and all in date](#).

Cell M4 Paint peeling on wall – [Repaired and in use](#)

No water in sink beside Cell 6 - [Repaired and in use](#)

Cell 20 out of use - [Repaired and in use](#)

Cell 19 CCTV not working correctly - [Repaired and in use](#)

[Force Response :](#)

[Updates are as above](#)

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 positively commented on the support provided by Officers 9007 and 9570.

ICVs positively highlighted that female detainees had been provided hygiene packs.

Areas for Improvement:

Empty soap sachets left in detainee showers

Empty cups left in exercise yard.

Several sleeves of out of date drinks removed

Force Response: All above noted, Majority of comments are positive. Showers and yard are tidy and all food/drinks are in date.

Middle Engine Lane – North Tyneside

Four visits were undertaken, the overall cleanliness of the suite and exercise areas was good, and all staff were polite and helpful.

Exercise yards checked and all in order.

Areas for Improvement:

Several large boxes of out of date drinks identified with store cupboard – Staff advised, checked again this week and all stock in date.

No cup holders for detainee drinks in suite – Staff at Middle engine lane state that they make hot drinks with partial cool water to ensure drinks are not too hot to hold. I have advised them to order cup holders for the occasion when drinks are made too hot.

Cell 21 out of use due to damaged intercom – awaiting parts for repair - Repaired and in use

Broken light outside of cell 22 - Repaired and in use

Detainee clothes and shoe lockers open – Staff reminded to close lockers.

Short staffed – 13.11.22 – 1:40pm (A Rota) – Due to short notice sickness, staff moved from other suites to cover this issue.

Force Response: Responses as above