

Independent Custody Visitors

January 2023

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 **January 2023**.

South Shields - Millbank

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

ICVs positively noted that detainees had been provided with toilet roll without asking.

Areas for improvement:

ICVs noted that cells were cold

ICV file containing previous ICV reports had not been transferred over from Southwick.

Only one vegetarian meal left in stock which will need replenishing.

Force Response :

Maintenance informed regarding cold cells.

ICV file to be merged with Southwick file

Meals now re-stocked

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 reported that detainees had been provided with distraction items.

ICVs positively noted that religious items including prayer mat had been provided to a detainee.

ICVs positively highlighted DO 4532 for their assistance during visits.

ICVs positively highlighted that female detainees needs had been met including female officer assigned and hygiene products offered.

Areas for Improvement:

Cell 37 + 39 out of order due to broken intercoms

ICVs noted that some detainees had been provided with toilet rolls, however some had not.

Detainee lockers left open.

ICVs reported that the suite in general looked tired with paint peeling off some walls.

Force Response:

Cell 37 and 39 now repaired and open for use

Toilet roll situation has improved significantly. All shifts have been informed of the requirement to supply toilet roll unless a specific reason to withhold.

Staff reminded again regarding lockers left open

Maintenance informed regarding the tired looking suite. No planned painting is due, but this has been noted.

Middle Engine Lane – North Tyneside

Three 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:

5 boxes of out of date drinks disposed of from store cupboard – this has been reported repeatedly on previous visits.

Pillows and mattresses stored on floor in corridors.

Force Response:

Staff reminded again to check dates of food and drink items on regular basis

No pillows and mattresses are on corridor floors. This is not a regular practice, and email to staff to remind not to do so

