

## **Independent Custody Visitors**

### **April 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 **April 2023**.

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### **Sunderland - Southwick**

One visit was made to Southwick 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 on most occasions.

ICVs noted the provision of hygiene packs to detainees.

ICVs noted the provision of distraction packs to detainees.

ICVs visited a detained youth and noted access to AA.

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

Detainees complained at how cold the suite was with staff providing up to three blankets for detainees.

Toilet roll had not been offered to detainees on all occasions.

Out of date drinks removed and disposed of.

Cell 3 camera out of order.

ICVs noted the provision of hygiene packs to detainees however were informed that these do not now contain razors.

#### **Force Response :**

Testing has been completed on the temperature and fixed

Toilet rolls are placed in cells as a matter of routine now.

Camera 3 is now fixed and working

Staff reminded regarding dates on food/drink items

Hygiene packs have never contained razors, this is to prevent any self harm issues.

### **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.

On most occasions detainees had been provided with toilet roll in their cells. ICVs positively noted the storage of religious items by custody staff.

ICVs positively noted that detainees had been provided with reading materials.

ICVs visited detained juveniles and noted access to AA.

#### **Areas for Improvement:**

**Detainees had not been offered time in the exercise yard (07.04.23)**

**On most occasions detainees had been offered toilet roll in their cells.**

#### **Force Response:**

**There is only 1 exercise yard at Forth Banks and 50 working cells. Dp's are offered to use this based on risk assessments and their individual needs.**

**Toilet rolls are placed in cells as a matter of routine now.**

### **Middle Engine Lane – North Tyneside**

One visit was 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.

Food stocks all checked and in order.

ICVs positively noted that detainees with additional needs such as mental health or medical issues had been provided access to mental health nurses and medical care.

ICVs visited detained juveniles and adults and noted access to AA's who were either already present or had been contacted.

ICVs positively noted the awareness and assistance provided of staff in relation to a detainee who was in the process of transitioning.

#### **Areas for Improvement:**

No issues raised by ICVs.

**Force Response:**

It is encouraging to hear such positive feedback.