

Independent Custody Visitors

July 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 **July 2023**.

Sunderland - Southwick

Two visits were 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 detainees having been provided with time in the exercise yard.

Detainee food checked and all in good order.

ICVs noted the provision of Halal food to detainees for religious needs.

Areas for improvement:

Distraction Items – Foam balls in need of replacing.

Exercise yard in need of a full clean due to buildup of bird excrement.

Force Response :

Foam balls ordered

Yard scheduled for cleaning.

Forth Banks - Newcastle

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

Food stocks all checked and in order.

ICV's positively noted the provision of distraction items.

ICVs positively noted that detainees had been provided exercise.

Areas for Improvement:

On some occasions detainees not always provided with toilet roll in cells without asking for it to be provided.

Exercise yard in need of cleaning.

Detainee lockers open and unlocked.

Short staffing on 14th and 24th July

Force Response:

Toilet rolls are now routinely provided unless there is a reason for it to be withheld. We will audit the custody records for detainees visited where no toilet roll provided.

Yard scheduled for cleaning.

Staff reminded of need to close and lock the lockers

Staffing issues were resolved using our custody escalation process

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 yard 3 checked and all in order.

Food stocks all checked and in order.

Force Response:

Positive feedback is noted.