

Independent Custody Visitors

September 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 **September 2023**.

Sunderland - Southwick

Three 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 positively noted that AA's where needed had been contacted or provided.

ICVs noted the detainees having been provided with time in the exercise yard.

Detainee food checked and all in good order.

Areas for improvement:

Clothes and shoe lockers left open

Exercise yard in need of a full clean

Short staffed on visit 29.09.23

Force Response : Staffing is a daily challenge and on this particular day that team had an unexpected sickness absence. However, contingencies are in place to negate any future issues. Exercise yard has now been cleaned. A further reminder has been sent to all staff regarding foot lockers.

Positive aspects noted and this will be fed back to the duty team.

Forth Banks - Newcastle

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

ICVs positively noted that where needed, detainees had received contact with the Mental Health Nurse based within custody.

Food stocks all checked and in order.

Exercise yards checked and all in order.

ICVs positively noted that detainees had been provided exercise.

Areas for Improvement:

Detainees had not received time in exercise yard or washing facilities due to short staffing during visit on 06.09.23

Force Response: As per the above, contingencies now in place to ensure short notice absences have as little impact as possible on suite functions. Again, positive aspects noted and pleased that ICV's were welcomed into the suite by staff.