

Independent Custody Visitors

October 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 **October 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 positively noted that detainees had seen the nurse where needed.

Detainee food checked and all in good order. Small amount of out of date drinks disposed of.

Areas for improvement:

Clothes and shoe lockers left open

Short staffed on visit 22.10.23

Inconsistent temperatures in different parts of the suite

Blanket shortage reported 31.10.23

Exercise yard door broken and not locking

Force Response :

Reminder has been sent regarding clothes and shoe lockers left open.

Dayshift had 2 Sergeants and 5 Detention Officers on duty on 22/10 which is in line with our minimum staffing levels. Nightshift had 3 Sergeants but had numerous detention officers call in sick. Backfill requests were made and levels brought in line with minimum.

Inconsistent temperatures were reported and fixed.

Blanket have been re stocked.

Exercise yard door lock fixed.

Forth Banks - Newcastle

Three visits were 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.

Exercise yards checked and all in order.

ICVs positively noted that detainees had been provided exercise.

ICVs positively highlighted that hygiene packs offered.

Areas for Improvement:

Exercise yards in need of cleaning

Out of date food in stores needs to be disposed of.

Several detainees had not been provided toilet roll without asking for it.

Force Response:

Exercise yard has been cleaned.

Out of date food disposed of and reminders to staff to keep on top of checks regarding stock dates.

Toilet rolls, as you will be aware lots of work done regarding this. Reminder sent.

Middle Engine Lane – North Tyneside

Two visits were 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 Nurses and specific mental health nurses based within custody.

ICVs positively noted that detainees had on most occasions been provided with toilet rolls without asking for them.

Areas for Improvement:

Shortage of blankets

Temperature of suite was cold

Out of date drinks removed and disposed of from store cupboards

RESPONSE

Blankets re stocked

Temperature levels now in order.

Out of date drinks disposed of and reminders to staff to keep on top of checks regarding stock dates.