



## **Independent Custody Visitors**

### **June 2024**

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 **June 2024**.

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#### **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.

Detainee food checked and all in good order.

ICVs noted that a wheelchair was available in the suite.

ICVs positively noted that detainees had access to nurses where required.

ICVs noted that juveniles visited had an Appropriate Adult requested who had arrived during visit. Also had been provided with distraction pack.

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

- **Exercise yard still out of use due to bird feces. In need of deep clean.**
- **Several detainees had not been provided with toilet roll without asking. This was only provided during the visit with ICVs.**

#### **Force Response:**

- **This is hand with the force estates department owing to the regular cleaning that is required, to seek a more long term solution.**
- **Staff to be reminded of need to ensure toilet roll is always available.**

#### **Forth Banks - Newcastle**

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

All detainee food checked and in good order.

Hygiene packs provided to female detainees and female officers assigned where needed.

### **Areas for Improvement or points raised:**

- During one visit 08.06.24 detainee 24/015217 stated that their clothing had been removed and ICVs found that this had not been recorded on the custody record.
- On most occasions toilet roll had to be requested by detainees (B Rota on duty)
- Detainees who had been in custody for extended period overnight had not been offered washing facilities. Detainee 24/015188 (B Rota on duty)
- Exercise Yard 1 in need of cleaning

### **Force Response:**

- C/Sgt aware of the need to record clothing removal, reminder issued to C/Sgts to ensure accurate recording.
- Staff reminded of the need for toilet roll to always be accessible.
- C/Sgt to be reminded of the need to ensure accurate recording of offer and acceptance/declining used of shower and exercise yard when in custody for an extended period.
- Suite has recently undergone an inspection, at time of replying, yard must have been cleaned. Noted in case longer term solution needed same as Southwick suite.

### **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 well stocked detainee meals.

Exercise Yard checked and all in order.

ICVs positively noted that a wheelchair was now available in the suite.

ICVs positively noted that female detainees had been offered hygiene packs.

ICVs positively noted that staff had provided additional assistance to a disabled detainee in the cell as best they could with additional folded mattresses.

ICVs positively noted that distraction items had been offered.

### **Areas for Improvement or points raised:**

- Some detainee lockers open.
- Detainee clothes on floor outside of cells 25.06.24 (B Rota)
- Multiple call lights flashing on empty cells.

### **Force Response:**

- Staff to be reminded of the need to ensure lockers and personal items are secure, either in footlocker near cell or detainee property locker within the suite.
- Cell call system to be monitored and cell calls cleared, staff reminder issued.