

HMI Mike Cunningham's assessment of Merseyside Police – Transcript

Hello. I'm Mike Cunningham and I'm Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary for Merseyside Police. I am one of five inspectors, and our role is to inspect police forces on behalf of the public. Each year we produce an annual assessment of how each force is performing.

I am very pleased with the performance of Merseyside Police in keeping people safe and reducing crime.

The force has strong arrangements in place with its partner agencies and it uses these to outstanding effect to tackle all aspects of organised crime. It responds well to vulnerable victims, regarding those most vulnerable as a priority and giving them good support, particularly missing children. The force investigates crime well, and it recognises the impact of anti-social behaviour and the consequences should it go unchecked.

I am reassured that Merseyside Police is well prepared to face its future financial challenges, having successfully reduced its spending over the last spending review period. There is a clearly articulated and well understood view of the short term priorities for the force and the resources and skills required to achieve them. The force's change programme is ensuring workforce plans are closely aligned with demand and future organisational and financial requirements. I would, however, like to see a more detailed analysis of how the savings achieved during the latest programme of change will influence the budgetary planning beyond 2017.

I am impressed by the strong, visible and knowledgeable leadership demonstrated within the organisation, which could be further improved by more work to understand better and respond to the views of the workforce. The force engages well with the communities of Merseyside, using a variety of methods.

I will be particularly interested to see how the savings achieved during the latest programme of change will influence the budgetary planning beyond 2017. I'll also be interested to see how the force progresses with further work to understand and respond to the views of the workforce.