

## HMI Zoë Billingham's assessment of Suffolk Constabulary – Transcript

Hello. I'm Zoe Billingham and I'm Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary for Suffolk Constabulary. I am one of five inspectors of constabulary, 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 Suffolk Constabulary in keeping people safe and reducing crime.

The force has a strong focus on preventing crime. It is good at investigating crime and managing offenders, including those involved in serious and organised crime.

I particularly welcome the force's commitment to a strong local policing presence, and I have seen officers and staff working well with local authorities and other organisations to keep people safe.

Although the force needs to improve its approach to keeping some vulnerable people safe, in particular children, I am reassured that the force is taking steps to address this issue. In particular, I welcome the additional resources that it has devoted to supporting missing and absent people, child sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

The force has performed well in reducing its costs while maintaining the service to the public. It is working hard to understand fully the future demands for its services and it recognises that its current workforce model needs to be changed so that the force can continue to provide an effective service to the communities of Suffolk. Together with Norfolk Constabulary, the force has joined with academic institutions to carefully review how it provides services to ensure it represents value for money.

I am pleased that there is a strong culture within Suffolk Constabulary of listening to the public and acting on their concerns.

Local officers and staff demonstrate an impressive commitment to engaging with their neighbourhoods and generally have a sound understanding of the issues affecting local people.

The chief officer team has undergone significant change in the last 12 months, but it continues to promote an ethical culture and to treat its workforce well. It is also working hard to develop the force's future plans and priorities.

I look forward to witnessing the contribution the new chief constable and his team will make over the next year to further improving policing services to the people of Suffolk.