



Promoting improvements  
in policing to make  
everyone safer

## **HMI Mike Cunningham's assessment of Cumbria Constabulary – Transcript**

I am pleased with the overall performance of Cumbria Constabulary. However, the force still needs to improve some aspects of its service.

I am particularly pleased with the improved effectiveness with which Cumbria Constabulary keeps the people of Cumbria safe and reduces crime. Further improvements are needed in how some investigations are supervised.

The force has established a good understanding of the likely threats and risk of harm to the people of Cumbria.

The Constabulary has improved its approach to tackling serious and organised crime. However, the force is less consistent in its approach to disrupting groups involved in less serious crime.

I am pleased with the strong commitment of senior leaders to improving services for vulnerable children. Since my assessment last year, the workforce has an improved understanding of its responsibility to protect vulnerable people, and in particular of the risks present when young people go missing. However, the force needs to improve its approach to assessing risk, and to be more consistent in how it safeguards vulnerable people.

Cumbria Constabulary has a proven track record of sound financial management and has a well-managed organisational change programme. It does not yet have a full understanding of all of the current demands for its services or the likely future demands and I welcome the steps the force is taking to address this.

The force has made a significant investment in new technology to enable more flexible working. Improving the way it uses and develops technology is an important feature of its future plans.

Cumbria Constabulary has made effective arrangements for seeking feedback from the people of Cumbria, as well as investigating complaints thoroughly, but it needs to improve its vetting of the workforce. It also needs to be more active in identifying wrongdoing rather than relying on reports of corruption.

In the year ahead, I will be particularly interested to see further improvements in the way Cumbria Constabulary responds to and supports vulnerable people; and how

the force develops a more comprehensive understanding of current and future demand for its services.