



Promoting improvements
in policing to make
everyone safer

HMI Wendy Williams' assessment of Gwent Police – Transcript

Gwent Police provides a good level of service to the people of Gwent and I am pleased that it has maintained its performance since my previous assessment. The force engages effectively with the people of Gwent to identify the issues that are of concern to them.

The initial stages of investigations carried out in Gwent Police, including the early phase of gathering evidence, are conducted well. Crimes are allocated to investigators with the appropriate skills and experience, but the force needs to improve the way that investigations are then supervised. Gwent Police also has an effective integrated offender management scheme.

The force protects vulnerable people well, particularly victims of domestic abuse. Its response to missing children is good, with effective processes to identify and tackle child sexual exploitation. The force does, however, need to improve the consistency of the risk assessment process carried out by call handlers.

Gwent Police has a limited understanding of the threat posed by serious and organised crime, however I am reassured that it is working to address this.

Gwent Police has a very good understanding of the current and future demands for its services, including so-called hidden demands such as internet crime. The force also has a good understanding of the skills and knowledge of its workforce.

Gwent Police has strong financial plans that are built on sound assumptions and it understands the possible gaps in its future funding. I am reassured by the force's detailed understanding of its future financial position, which has informed its comprehensive investment plans. These plans include further investment in digital technology.

The force uses a range of innovative approaches to seek feedback from the people of Gwent. It is good at using this feedback to improve its practices, and places a particular emphasis on building public trust and confidence.

I am satisfied that the force consistently maintains ethical and lawful behaviour in its workforce. However, the force needs to address the backlogs in vetting its workforce to the appropriate level. I am pleased that Gwent Police supports the wellbeing of its workforce through a range of practical measures.