



Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate: Follow-up of the review of the performance of the former Area of CPS Nottinghamshire

CPS in Nottinghamshire keeps focus on improvement

HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPISI) has today published its follow up report on the performance of CPS Nottinghamshire, which is now part of CPS East Midlands.

In 2010 although CPS Nottinghamshire was rated as fair overall, there were a number of issues that needed to be tackled and major changes to address declining performance in some key areas.

Good progress has been made since the 2010 inspection on some aspects although some challenges remain. Of the six priority recommendations made in 2010 there has been good progress, with three being fully achieved and the others having made progress. The management team has worked hard to address some of the long standing issues outlined in the 2010 report. CPS East Midlands recognise that there is still some way to go in addressing some aspects of performance, particularly those where only limited or no progress been achieved so far. As the report highlights, there are credible plans in place to tackle the identified weaknesses.

This follow up inspection, conducted in May 2012, found that:

- the Chief Crown Prosecutor and senior management team have developed and communicated the Area vision to staff, particularly in relation to the importance of focusing on the quality of their performance;
- the levels of staff engagement across the Area have substantially improved, and the management team have been able to address long standing cultural issues with a workforce that in 2010 were found to be resistant to change;
- inspectors examined 10 cases involving domestic violence where the pre-charge decision was made by Area Daytime Direct lawyers and in all of these cases the decision was correct;
- there is a strong performance management regime in place, which has resulted in improved results and better staff engagement.

However, the inspectors also found that:

- There could be better use of some of the area staff resources, although the area has managed its staff reductions in an attempt to maximise utilisation and ensure that it has the right balance of staff across grades

HM Chief Inspector, Michael Fuller QPM, said:

"In 2010 although the former CPS Nottinghamshire Area was rated as fair overall, there were a significant number of issues that needed to be tackled and major changes were needed to address declining performance in some key areas.

Even though the Area has been in a state of flux, it has managed to retain a focus on the issues identified in the inspection report and has been working hard to drive improvement across not only the former CPS Nottinghamshire Area but across the new CPS East Midlands Area."

Against 23 recommendations from 2010, seven have been achieved, substantial progress made towards four, limited progress towards nine and two not progressed. One recommendation was no longer applicable by the time of the new inspection.

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Notes to editors

- 1 Media enquiries: please call 020 7271 2484/2465/2440
- 2 The full report is available at www.hmcpai.gov.uk
- 3 HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate is an independent statutory body established by the Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate Act 2000, which came into force on 1 October 2000. The Chief Inspector is appointed by, and reports to, the Attorney General.

In April 2011 the former CPS Area of Nottinghamshire became one of the five districts within the new CPS East Midlands Area as part of the national re-structure.

Inspectors examined 25 pre-charge decisions on the case management system in advance of our visit. In addition a further 39 recently finalised cases, 20 Magistrates' Court files and 19 Crown Court files were used to inform this follow-up as well as five live files from the Magistrates' Court unit and five from the Crown Court unit, which were examined whilst on site.

CPS Nottinghamshire Area Effectiveness Inspection 2010 rated the Area against a scored inspection framework which placed CPS Areas in one of four categories; excellent, good, fair or poor.