

Press Notice

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CPS Inspectorate Overall Performance Assessment of CPS Cleveland

HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HM CPSI) has today published their Overall Performance Assessment (OPA) of **CPS Cleveland**.

The OPA process provides a benchmark for each CPS Area's performance in fourteen key aspects of work. Each of the aspects is assessed as being excellent, good, fair or poor. The Area is then assessed on its overall performance in the light of these markings.

The overall performance assessment of **CPS Cleveland** was **Good**.

The table below provides a breakdown of the level of performance against the fourteen aspects assessed:

Critical Aspects	Assessment
Pre-charge decision-making	Good
Ensuring successful outcomes	Good
Leadership	Good
The service to victims and witnesses	Good
Resource management	Good
Other Defining Aspects	
Managing magistrates' courts cases	Good
Managing Crown Court cases	Good
Handling sensitive cases and hate crimes	Fair
Custody time limits	Good
Disclosure	Excellent
Presenting and progressing cases at court	Good
Delivering change	Excellent
Managing performance to improve	Good
Securing community confidence	Fair

Some aspects have been categorised as critical, and these aspects are weighted differently to the other aspects in determining the overall performance of an Area. This is due to the significant impact that these aspects will have on the overall performance of a CPS Area.

CPS Cleveland achieved a good standard in the handling of its casework in both the magistrates' courts as the Crown Court. A focus on performance analysis has allowed the Area to create a culture of continuous improvement

and to identify the steps necessary to improve what are already sound results. The Area has a clear strategic direction and there are strong arrangements for managing change and implementing national initiatives.

The Area has implemented statutory charging (under which the CPS assumed responsibility for the initial decision whether to charge – previously a matter for the police) and the benefits of this initiative are contributing to the sound results. The creation of witness care units is starting to show benefits through better witness attendance, although this is only in one location at present. The Area needs to focus further attention towards its community engagement strategy. This engagement work should enable the Area to understand more fully the needs of its customers and use this to develop and enhance its processes.

The inspectorate has visited all 42 CPS Areas over a six month period in order to provide a benchmark from which future work can be informed. The inspectorate will use this information to determine where best to focus its resources in order to promote improvement within the CPS and the criminal justice system as a whole. It is also hoped that the CPS Areas, and CPS HQ, will use this information to address issues at local and national level where this is necessary.

Stephen Wooler CB, HM Chief Inspector, said:

“CPS Cleveland can rightly be proud of its performance and results. The staff in the Area have worked hard to improve casework outcomes and the management processes that support its delivery. The Area can now focus its attention on engaging with the community to bring about service improvements from a customer perspective.”

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