

# Press Notice

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## CPS Inspectorate Overall Performance Assessment of CPS Kent

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

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 Kent** was **fair**.

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

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

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 Kent is an effective partner in the delivery of criminal justice throughout the county and has demonstrated sound performance in a number of key aspects of performance. It was one of the first CPS Areas to take over from the police the responsibility for the initial decision whether to charge, and

there has been a generally positive impact on case outcomes, although the Area has yet to realise the full benefits of their initiative.

The review and processing of casework in both the magistrates' courts and Crown Court is sound and the Area's handling of sensitive and hate crime cases is undertaken to a very high standard. The Area is committed to engaging with the community and good relationships have been forged with community groups. The Area is taking steps to target issues that most affect the public.

CPS Kent is leading on a number of key criminal justice initiatives and has significantly influenced the direction of criminal justice activity in the county. However, the Area needs to ensure that the interdependencies between the Area's numerous initiatives are managed and that progress is reported on. The new approach to managing performance adopted by the Area should ensure that all Area managers are able to account for performance within their unit and focus on improvement.

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 CPA Areas, and CPS HQ, will use this information to address issues at local and national level where this is necessary.

Stephen Wooler, Chief Inspector of the CPS, said:

**"I am pleased to be able to report positively on the performance of CPS Kent. The Area has long been a key player in the effective delivery of criminal justice in the county and has maintained that position during a period of significant change. Area processes for dealing with sensitive and hate crime cases are particularly strong, along with the Area's commitment to securing community confidence in the way offenders are brought to justice."**

For further information, please contact Michael Fogg, HMCPSI Communications Manager, on 020 7210 1143 or 07901 856 346.