

# Press Notice

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## CPS Inspectorate Overall Performance Assessment of CPS North Yorkshire

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

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 North Yorkshire** was **Good**.

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

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

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.

Since the last inspection the Area management board has assessed how they work as a team and this has had a positive impact on the leadership of the Area. The Area has a sound approach to planning and has strengthened its performance management regime. Steps have been taken to ensure that

there are more effective systems to manage resources, although to date the Area has consistently overspent on its budget.

At the time of our visit the Area had implemented the first victim information bureau, and was on course to roll out its full programme of victim and witness support before the end of 2006 which will enhance the good service to victims and witnesses. The Area needs to improve its performance in relation to casework outcomes. Cases dealt with in the magistrates' courts and the Crown Court are in the main dealt with efficiently; however, performance in relation to persistent young offenders and the rate of discontinued cases needs to be improved. Notwithstanding, the Area handles sensitive cases and hate crime well.

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 of the CPS, said:

“It is pleasing to see that CPS North Yorkshire has maintained the good aspects of performance we found at the last inspection and taken steps to address most of those issues identified as needing to be strengthened. Improvement in management issues now needs to be mirrored across casework outcomes. The Area needs to ensure that all casework is dealt with in the same sound approach as sensitive cases and hate crimes. “

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