

Press Notice

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CPS Inspectorate Overall Performance Assessment of CPS Warwickshire

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

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 Warwickshire** was **good**.

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

Critical Aspects	Assessment
Pre-charge decision-making	Fair
Ensuring successful outcomes	Excellent
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	Good
Custody time limits	Fair
Disclosure	Excellent
Presenting and progressing cases at court	Good
Delivering change	Fair
Managing performance to improve	Good
Securing community confidence	Fair

The 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.

The standard of case management in CPS Warwickshire is good and is positively reflected in the Area's excellent casework outcomes where Warwickshire is the CPS's highest performing Area. Casework decisions and the standard of case preparation are good, particularly in the way the Area handles disclosure of unused material and the comprehensive quality of

instructions to counsel in the Crown Court cases. CPS Warwickshire is making greater use of the Compass case management system to record decisions and case actions. Although the Area is providing pre-charge advice to the police, this is not being done in the whole of the Area and progress towards the statutory scheme has been hampered by lack of proper resource planning.

The Area is co-operating effectively with its criminal justice partners to improve case progress in the magistrates' courts and in the Crown Court and in improving the standard of care to victims and witnesses. Cases are reviewed and prosecuted by prosecutors of appropriate experience and expertise.

Area managers have developed a more corporate approach to management and there are clear accountabilities for managing and delivering change, including risk management. Senior managers are involved in engaging with a variety of community groups and in planning a strategy with criminal justice partners for future community engagement. However, more could be done to develop service improvements from community engagement activities.

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:

“CPS Warwickshire has consistently been a high performing Area and I am pleased to see this continuing. Casework is well managed and is positively reflected in the Area’s case outcomes. The more corporate approach which senior managers have developed is producing results not only within the CPS but in joint initiatives with criminal justice partners and in the wider community.”

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