

## HMI Mike Cunningham's assessment of Cumbria Constabulary – Transcript

Hello. I'm Mike Cunningham and I'm Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary for Cumbria. I am one of five inspectors, and our role is to inspect police forces on behalf of the public. Each year we produce an annual assessment of how each force is performing.

I am satisfied with most aspects of the performance of Cumbria Constabulary in keeping people safe and reducing crime. However, I have concerns about some parts of the service provided by the force.

The force is good at preventing crime and anti-social behaviour with neighbourhood teams working well with partner organisations to resolve local problems. However, I am concerned that training to respond professionally to vulnerable victims is not having the desired impact and the force's understanding of serious and organised crime has limitations.

The force needs to improve its investigation of crime.

The force has been able to demonstrate good financial management by achieving the savings required from the previous spending review period, whilst maintaining a high-quality response to calls for service from the public. The new workforce model, improved local partnership working and increased use of technology aims to ensure that the constabulary can work more efficiently, and continue to provide effective policing to the people of Cumbria with fewer resources.

I am pleased to see that there is a positive culture within Cumbria Constabulary that encourages the workforce to behave professionally and ethically. I am also reassured by the way in which the force has acknowledged and responded to the issues we have raised.

In the year ahead I will be particularly interested to see how the force improves the quality of its investigations of less complex crime and enhances the quality of its case prosecution files. I will also be interested to see how the force improves its understanding and application of stop and search. It is also important that the force improves its assessment and response to vulnerable people.