



Promoting improvements
in policing to make
everyone safer

HMI Wendy Williams' assessment of Dorset Police – Transcript

I am pleased that Dorset Police has maintained its performance since my previous assessment. I am particularly pleased with the progress the force has made with regard to its efficiency. The force now has a credible, prudent and comprehensive programme for achieving required efficiencies, which includes sharing a number of services with Devon and Cornwall Police as part of their developing strategic alliance. As a part of this collaboration, the force has put in place a detailed infrastructure, which should work well and to the mutual benefit of both forces.

The workforce has a good understanding of the problems affecting the people of Dorset, and works well with other public service organisations to prevent crime and reduce anti-social behaviour. There is a clear priority within the force to reduce harm and protect the most vulnerable people across the county. The force investigates crime to a high standard, provides victims with a good service, and manages serious and organised crime well.

Dorset Police has a comprehensive understanding of the current demand for its services and has conducted an extensive evaluation of likely future demand. This evaluation has led to the force investing significantly in prioritising its response to vulnerability. However, the workload resulting from this prioritisation, particularly for response teams, has caused some delays in attending some crime scenes. The force may be able to alleviate some of this demand by more effective use of mobile technology.

I am pleased that the importance of treating people with fairness and respect is reflected strongly in Dorset Police's vision and values, and is widely understood by the workforce.

The force is consistent in actively publicising the outcomes of misconduct and corruption cases to the public and workforce. However, it could do more to bring vetting procedures into line with national standards, and to direct resources towards tackling corruption. In the coming year, I will be particularly interested to see how Dorset develops its strategic alliance with Devon and Cornwall Police. I would also like to see the force alleviate the pressures on frontline officers and staff; and how it improves its capacity to look for potential corruption.