

HMI Mike Cunningham's assessment of Durham Police – Transcript

Hello. I'm Mike Cunningham and I'm Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary for Durham. 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 would like to congratulate Durham Constabulary for building further on its excellent performance in keeping people safe and reducing crime.

The chief officer team has a clear and compelling sense of direction for the future of the organisation, which is being implemented through comprehensive and realistic plans.

I have been very impressed by the force's ability to continue developing problem-solving approaches to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. The force has good arrangements with partner agencies to manage serious and organised crime and to keep vulnerable people safe. The management of offenders under the innovative integrated offender management programme is very impressive and is exemplified by the 'Checkpoint scheme' which takes a groundbreaking approach to dealing with new offenders.

The force has a strong track record of robust financial management and I am pleased to see that the force has detailed financial plans in place to achieve the savings required through to 2018/19. It has a comprehensive understanding of the demand for its services, especially from the public, and this enables its resources to be deployed effectively. The force continues to benefit from its information technology innovations and excellent use of information.

Senior leaders in the force show visible and approachable leadership, consistently engaging with the workforce to provide regular and consistent messages to reinforce their standards and expectations.

I am very impressed by the commitment shown by the force's officers and staff in looking to improve services to the communities of Durham still further.

In the year ahead I will be particularly interested to see how the force continues to improve further the outstanding policing service it provides to the communities of Durham. I'll also be interested to see how the development of the working arrangements with the County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue.