



Promoting improvements  
in policing to make  
everyone safer

## HMI Zoë Billingham's assessment of Essex Police – Transcript

I am very pleased with the overall performance of Essex Police. I am particularly pleased with the progress that the force has made in the effectiveness with which it keeps people safe and reduces crime.

There have been improvements across all areas including in how the force supports people who are vulnerable. There are still some areas that I would like to see the force improve upon, but overall it's very encouraging progress.

The force has taken on board our recommendations on how it should improve its crime prevention work, and it is committed to tackling anti-social behaviour to prevent it from escalating.

I am particularly encouraged by the way in which the chief constable and his chief officers have made an enormous effort to drive improvement in how the force protects vulnerable people, especially children. Although there is still work to do in this area, Essex Police has made significant progress.

I am pleased that Essex Police has improved how it investigates crime. Although, I am concerned about the number of suspects who have yet to be investigated and the number of incidents that remain unresolved, despite reductions in the number of both since the last time we inspected the force. The force works very well with other local partners to prevent offending by some of its most prolific offenders, but it accepts that it needs to do more to improve how it manages the risks posed by registered sex offenders living in its area.

The force, in an effective collaboration with Kent Police, not only pursues and disrupts high-end criminal organisations, but works to prevent them from taking root in its local communities.

The force has a sophisticated understanding of demand, including 'hidden demand' such as human trafficking and child sexual exploitation.

I am pleased to see how Essex Police has improved its management of current demand since last year. The force has a very strong track record of working closely with other forces and with partner organisations to improve the service it can offer to its communities and to reduce inefficiencies.

I am impressed with the force's determination to understand the issues that are important to the people of Essex, and with how hard it works to gather feedback from those who identified as having less trust in the police, in order to learn and improve. I was also encouraged to find a clear focus on the wellbeing of the workforce.