



Promoting improvements
in policing to make
everyone safer

HMI Zoë Billingham's assessment of Kent Police – Transcript

I congratulate Kent Police on its overall performance this year. The force provides a consistently good service.

I am particularly pleased with the improvements the force has made in how it keeps vulnerable people safe. Frontline officers have a good knowledge of how young people might be at risk from child sexual exploitation and its links to missing children. The force is now more consistent in making positive interventions in domestic abuse cases to reduce the risk to victims and to hold more offenders to account.

The force has an effective approach to preventing crime and anti-social behaviour, and has allocated dedicated resources to neighbourhood policing. It is also good at tackling serious and organised crime in collaboration with Essex Police. This allows it to combine specialist capabilities to tackle serious and organised crime.

The force's initial investigation of crime is good, and people with the appropriate skills and experience continue the investigations to a high standard. I am reassured that the force is understanding and undertaking analysis of why a relatively high proportion of investigations are not proceeding because victims do not support police action. Kent Police is good at protecting the public from the most prolific, serious and dangerous offenders. It works effectively with partner agencies to manage these offenders, as well as registered sex offenders.

We found the force is outstanding in terms of understanding and dealing with the wide range of demands it faces. It demonstrates an impressive and detailed understanding of local issues and public expectations.

Its future plans for its workforce and are both realistic and sensible.

It is making good use of technology, like body-worn cameras, and I will watch with interest the results of the force's ambitious plans for mobile devices later in the year.

I am impressed by the exceptionally strong ethical culture in the force, which encourages the workforce to act both with integrity and lawfully. Its anti-corruption unit monitors a range of activities and also actively seeks out intelligence on potential abuse of authority for sexual gain by its staff, enabling the force to identify and address inappropriate behaviour early on.

The force's approach to communicating with the public is also impressive. It works hard to identify and communicate with those identified as having less trust and confidence in the police. There is a vibrant culture of innovation and improvement within Kent Police, and the whole workforce is encouraged to put forward ideas.