



Promoting improvements
in policing to make
everyone safer

HMI Mike Cunningham's assessment of Northumbria Police – Transcript

I am pleased with the overall performance of Northumbria Police. However, the force still needs to improve some aspects of its service.

Northumbria Police is good at preventing crime and tackling anti-social behaviour. The force is committed to neighbourhood policing, with local teams spending most of their time working in the communities they serve.

I am pleased that the force has continued to improve its service to vulnerable victims; some of its practices to support them are excellent. The force is consistently good at identifying vulnerable people at the first point of contact, and it works well with partner organisations to provide effective safeguarding support

The force's initial investigation of crime is good. Most crimes are allocated to officers with the appropriate investigative skills, and they complete investigations to a high standard. However, I am concerned that there are very long delays before digital evidence is examined.

Northumbria Police actively tackles the activities of organised crime groups using an effective combination of disruption and enforcement approaches.

Since our inspection in 2014, the force has made concerted efforts to improve the accuracy with which it records crimes and has made progress in placing the victim at the forefront of crime-recording decisions. However, there are still areas that it needs to improve.

I am pleased that Northumbria Police has a good understanding of current demand for its services. The force has sound financial plans and allocates resources well to match current demand. However, the force needs to improve its workforce planning so that it has the appropriate skills and knowledge to meet all its likely future demands. The force has a comprehensive technology strategy, but I am concerned that it may not have sufficient expertise to implement this effectively.

I am pleased that the officers and staff of Northumbria Police demonstrate a good understanding of the link between displaying strong values and providing a legitimate service to the public.

I am reassured that the force has a good understanding of the factors that can lead to corruption, and it has a dedicated team that monitors police systems and investigates allegations of corruption and it complies with national vetting policies.