

## New police data unifies records and anecdotes

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WEST Yorkshire Police has announced it is the latest force to adopt a "world-leading" computer system in a bid to improve crime record management.

The records management system (RMS) already in use by nine other English forces and police services in Canada and the USA, is designed to combine core crime information with personal and anecdotal notes into one unified database, making information accessible to officers on the beat where it counts most.

Superintendent Ray Dance, the project leader, said he was delighted with the results and the new ability to link with the national Criminal Justice System.

He said: "The system has already allowed us to identify critical information from the many records held on file and we look forward to delivering additional operational effectiveness and efficiency of policing."

John James, Director of Operations and Business Development for Niche Technology Inc, the IT company behind the software, said: "The West Yorkshire implementation of RMS demonstrates how a mature system can be rolled out rapidly in big forces.

"Completing the delivery 12 months ahead of schedule is testament to the hard work and commitment of the West Yorkshire project team."

After implementing the Niche RMS system, Cleveland Police rose from being ranked as one of the five worst-performing police forces in the UK to the top five.

West Yorkshire Police is Britain's fourth largest service, with 5,700 officers. Its area includes Huddersfield, Leeds, Bradford, Halifax and Wakefield.

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