This book focuses on the very topical subject of police reform in the UK. Currently, the police service is undergoing a time of significant change and reform as a result of the ‘modernisation’ agenda. Planned force re-structuring, the performance culture, recruitment and training issues are just a few elements of this extensive reform process. There is therefore a need for a text which looks at this current agenda for reform against its historical backdrop and debates the long term future of this process. The book spans three decades and is structured thematically around the main driving forces for reform, looking at the policy process and its related contexts. Key topics covered include system failure (when things go wrong), public order policing, international influences, economic issues and value for money, internal influences and political issues. The book adresses a complex and ever-shifting subject in an accessible manner.
In Detroit, the Justice Department forced reforms on police after officers fatally shot 47 people in five years, including six who were unarmed. The overhaul took 11 years and eight police chiefs. In Los Angeles, Justice intervened after police officers in an anti-gang unit were accused of beating and framing people. The reforms cost taxpayers an estimated $300 million. The changes have fueled departures from the ranks and deterred some officers from proactive policing. About this story: Over the past two decades, the Justice Department has undertaken its deepest interventions at 16 police departments that had patterns of excessive or deadly force, implementing reforms under the watch of independent monitors.