

**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER FOR
LEICESTERSHIRE**

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

PAPER MARKED

Report of	POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER (PCC)
Subject	VICTIMS AND WITNESSES – POLICE AND CRIME PLAN THEMATIC UPDATE
Date	MONDAY 17 MARCH 2014 – 2.00PM
Author :	CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Purpose of Report

1. This report provides the Police and Crime Panel (the Panel) with an overview of work undertaken and planned in respect of the Victims and Witnesses theme within the Police and Crime Plan.
2. The Panel are recommended to note the contents of this report.

Summary

3. In his Police and Crime Plan, the Commissioner prioritised supporting Victims and Witnesses within his four key strategic themes.
4. The Commissioning Framework has taken this priority for Victims and Witnesses and developed it further into a Commissioning Theme.
5. This report provides an update on work and Commissioning being progressed in relation to this theme during 2013/14.
6. Furthermore, this report updates on the national developments following the Ministry of Justice decision to allocate funding to PCCs in November 2013 with the purpose of enabling PCCs to build capacity and capability ahead of the transfer of responsibility for Victims and Witnesses Commissioning to PCCs from October 2014.

Existing arrangements 2013/14

7. Following a Government consultation in 2012, ('Getting it right for victims and witnesses') it was identified that Police and Crime Commissioners would in future be responsible for commissioning locally most of the emotional and practical support services for victims of crime that are provided by the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector.

8. Whilst it was intended that this commissioning would commence in 2013/14, this has now been scheduled by the Ministry of Justice to commence in October 2014, although PCCs have been allocated funding in 2013/14 (which can be carried forward into 2014/15) to enable them to build capacity and plan for the transition.
9. For 2013/14, the PCC has not had responsibility for Commissioning for Victim and Witness services/activities, although the Commissioning Framework in place has made provision for activities not funded through the existing Ministry of Justice Contract which contribute to the Victim and Witness outcomes to be considered for funding.
10. For all arrangements, the OPCC have worked with providers to implement contracts, which include performance outcomes. Quarterly updates have been received for the providers where transitional arrangements were in place and the office is currently undertaking reviews with each provider for commissioned services from October to March.
11. In 2013/14, the PCC has supported the Victims and Witnesses theme by supporting initiatives in relation to Victims and Witnesses to the sum of £135k; the breakdown of this is attached at Appendix A.

Informed future Commissioning

12. To enable the PCC effectively to take forward the PCC intention in relation to Victims and Witnesses future Commissioning, Sir Clive identified the need to begin the “understand and review” stage of the victim and witness experience and journey with a view to tabling a clear list of what is needed. To do this, he commissioned a piece of work to complete a number of tasks to help build the route map as follows:
 - Completion of process map of current Victim and Witness journey
 - Identification of improvements/changes to the victim and witness journey
 - Assessment of implications of these improvements and changes including costs/barriers
 - Develop a proposal for a Leicestershire pathway, linked with national changes
 - Summarise “what is needed” to facilitate a transition to PCC Victim and Witness Commissioning
 - Develop a Strategic Commissioning approach for Victim and Witness Commissioning
13. As part of this work, a stakeholder process mapping event took place which included attendees from local voluntary and community sector agencies including Victim Support, local partners from the County, City and District Councils, HM Courts, the OPCC, the NHS and the Police.
14. A transitional plan was prepared which takes into account the national and local timescales needed to take forward this important area as follows:

Action	Timescale
Agree V&W Pathway with Partners and agree & Commence Plan for V&W Commissioning	April 2014
Work with Regional colleagues to agree and develop arrangements as appropriate	Oct 2014
Build delivery model for pathway, procure and award grants and contracts as required for Specialist Services	Dec 2014
Tender and Award Contracts where appropriate for referral arrangements	March 2015
Transition to final model & launch of full pathway	March 2015

15. The work also prepared a Strategic Commissioning Approach and a number of high level recommendations (supported by detailed recommendations) for next steps as follows:
- Develop a Victims Code Partnership Group
 - Partnership Group to agree or amend the Leicestershire Victims and Witness Pathway proposal
 - Victim and Witness project Plan to be prepared with OPCC governance in place.
 - OPCC to ensure regional approaches align to local planning needs
 - Provisional budget allocations to be set
16. Whilst this work commenced before the MOJ intentions (which are detailed further below) were announced, it has been possible to align the local work undertaken and planned to the work needed to take forward the national changes.

Future Victims and Witness Commissioning – Including Ministry of Justice Intentions

17. In May 2013, the Victims Minister advised PCCs that responsibility for commissioning services for victims of crime would commence in October 2014 and sought views regarding local MOJ led commissioning arrangements for the referral of victims to support services, in addition to commissioning specialist services.
18. Following these, PCCs were advised in November 2013 of indicative funding for specialist services from October 2014 and also transitional arrangements for referral services to take place, with some PCC areas taking this forward as an early adopter in October 2014 and all remaining PCCs taking this forward in April 2015.
19. The indicative allocations for specialist services for Victims, Witnesses and Restorative Justice were increased in December 2013, together with the allocations for referral and associated services, to reflect that the majority of PCCs wished the MOJ to continue funding referral and associated services between October 2014 and March 2015.
20. The OPCC has worked closely with regional colleagues to look at opportunities to work together, potentially in regard to referral services. However, this regional work is very much at an early stage and the position is different across the PCC areas.
21. Whilst Leicestershire originally considered taking forward the early adopter scheme, after further work (including considering the recommendations of the internally commissioned work) the PCC determined not to progress as an early adopter, but to

use this time to gather information to progress the work to build knowledge, capacity and capability and inform work for the April 2015 timescale.

22. The funding nationally for Victims, Witnesses and Restorative Justice is £20.8m in 2013/14, up to £30.250m in 2014/15 and £60.8m for 2015/16 and for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland as follows:

	Preparatory Funding	Restorative Justice	Victims & Witness	Total
2013/14	307,227	69,783	-	377,010
2014/15*	-	113,000	217,000	330,000
2015/16+	-	232,000	870,000	1,102,000

*If an early adopter, an additional £218k would be available for referral services October to March
+Includes referral and specialist services

23. Following these, the MOJ have recently announced further additional allocations as follows:
- a new fund of an additional £12million will be available to PCCs for victims services in the financial year 2014/2015. It will be targeted at supporting victims in the priority categories in the Victims' Code: victims of the most serious crime; persistently targeted victims; and vulnerable or intimidated victims. The money will be distributed via a competed fund and the bidding process is awaited.
 - £4.4m will be provided by the MoJ to 78 female rape support services until 2016 to provide rape support services across England and Wales. This is additional to the £12m fund above.
 - Additional funding of £2m in 2014/15 from additional revenue being raised from offenders will be allocated as follows:
 - £500k for a fund, run by the Ministry of Justice, to provide funding to providers of support to male victims of rape;
 - £200k for the national commissioning of a training provision to build capacity in the voluntary sector for advocacy services for victims of sexual violence;
 - £1.3m to PCCs as part of your 2014/15 victims' services grant, which is not ring-fenced, but with an expectation to be spent on the local provision of services for victims of domestic and/or sexual violence.
24. Further details on these allocations are awaited.
25. The OPCC is currently considering the workforce implications of Victims and Witnesses Commissioning and is looking at options in respect of the resource required to oversee and implement the transition and to establish and take forward the Victims Code Partnership Group.

Conclusion

26. This report updates the Panel on progress in respect of the Victims and Witness Theme within the Police and Crime Plan for 2013/14.
27. The report also updates on the further work scheduled to take place to develop the local, regional and national perspectives.

Implications

Financial	This report is an update for the Police and Crime Panel to note. There are no financial implications identified.
Legal	As detailed within the report
Equality Impact Assessment	An Equality Impact Assessment will be completed for the new Victims and Witnesses arrangements
Risks and Impact	No risks have been identified.
Link to Police And Crime Plan	None.

List of Appendices

None

Background Papers

Police and Crime Plan 2013-2017
Commissioning Framework 2014-2017
Summing up: A Strategic Audit of the Criminal Justice System (2011) Victim Support

Person to Contact

Mrs Helen King, Chief Finance Officer – Tel 0116 229 8980
Email: helen.king@leics.pcc.pnn.gov.uk

Appendix A

Activity	£	Description of Initiative
Ring Fenced Funding 2013/14		
Living Without Abuse (LWA)	3,000	6 months continuation of previous years funding
Via Leicestershire Police - St Bernard's	14,298	Initiatives which support victims of rape and sexual assault, as well as the investigative process
Via Leicestershire Police - Juniper Lodge	53,608	Initiatives which support victims of rape and sexual assault, as well as the investigative process
PCC Grant (Oct to March 2013/14):		
Living Without Abuse (2 initiatives)	12,076	One to one and group work for young people experiencing and/or witnessing domestic abuse
New Futures	20,000	Mentoring project to support young people
Restorative Justice (RJ)	10,000	To provide RJ services to victims, offenders and their families
Women's Aid Leicestershire Ltd (WALL)	9,477	Emergency out of hours safe temporary accommodation for women and children
Partnership Locality Fund (Oct to March 2013/14):		
Rutland	3100	Child Sexual Exploitation and ESafety Prevention Project
NW Leicestershire	11,037	Extension to domestic outreach
Harborough	1,500	Sanctuary Scheme – target hardening for victims
Charnwood	5,000	Additional Domestic Abuse Outreach
	£134,566	

NB: In 2013/14 £126,575 was also allocated for safeguarding and domestic homicide reviews which are contained within other themes moving forwards.