

For Information	
Public/Non Public*	Public
Report to:	Police and Crime Panel
Date of Meeting:	28 April 2014
Report of:	Update on victims' commissioning
Report Author:	Nicola Wade
E-mail:	nicola.wade12247@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk
Other Contacts:	
Agenda Item:	8

COMMISSIONING OF VICTIMS' SUPPORT SERVICES

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update the Panel on the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC's) approach to victims' services commissioning from 1 October 2014.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Police & Crime Panel note the report.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The agenda item is for information only.

4. Summary of Key Points

- 4.1 Victims' support services are currently commissioned nationally by Ministry of Justice. All PCCs will be commissioning local victims' support services from 1 April 2015. Some PCCs, called "early adopters", will be commissioning local victims' services from 1 October 2014. There are 7 early adopter areas, including Nottinghamshire. Early adopters are working closely with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to ensure a smooth transition from national to local commissioning. The PCC's office is setting up a victims' programme board to manage the transition from national to local victims' commissioning.
- 4.2 A detailed presentation about the PCC's approach to commissioning local victims' services will be made at the meeting on 28 April.

5. Financial Implications and Budget Provision

- 5.1 The MoJ will enter into a grant agreement with PCCs to provide funding for local commissioning of victims' services. The final amount is still to be confirmed at the time of writing but is likely to be in the region of £460k for 1 October 2014 to 31 March 2015 and £930k for 2015-6. This will cover the cost of existing services. However, victims' services are fragmented in some areas and there are gaps in others. During the commissioning process the PCC may wish to expand some services as well as find efficiencies.

6. Human Resources Implications

- 6.1 We are seeking legal advice on TUPE as it relates to victims' services.

7. Equality Implications

- 7.1 The PCC has commissioned independent social research consultants ORS to conduct research with victims, and the people who work with them, on the shape of future victims' services. The research includes specific questions about whether existing services meet the needs of people from different equality groups. It will report in mid April 2014 and will inform the specification for victims' service delivery. An equality impact assessment on future services will be conducted as part of the procurement process.

8. Risk Management

- 8.1 A risk register has been established as part of the transition to local victims' commissioning. Risks will be managed through the victims' programme board.

9. Policy Implications and links to the Police and Crime Plan Priorities

- 9.1 This work will deliver objectives relating to the Police and Crime Plan's first priority to protect, support and respond to victims, witnesses and vulnerable people.

10. Changes in Legislation or other Legal Considerations

- 10.1 The Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament establishes minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and comes into force in all member states on 16 November 2015.
- 10.2 The MoJ's new Code of Practice for Victims came into force in England and Wales in December 2013. The Code of Practice sets out the services to be provided to victims of crime by criminal justice organisations in England and Wales. The duties relate almost entirely to the police, Probation, courts and the CPS. Fulfilling the duties of the Code will ensure that the EU directive obligations are met.

- 10.2 All victims' services commissioned will have a contractual requirement to demonstrate that they meet the Code of Practice for Victims. Compliance to the Code will be monitored by the Victims' Code task and finish group which reports to the Local Criminal Justice Board's victims and witness group.

11. Details of outcome of consultation

- 11.1 This is not available at the time of writing. Independent social research consultants, ORS, who have been commissioned to talk to victims and the people who work with them about the shape of future services for victims, will report on their findings in mid April. A summary of findings will be included in the presentation to be made at the 28 April meeting.

12. Appendices

- 12.1 None – a presentation handout will be tabled at the meeting.

13. Background Papers (relevant for Police and Crime Panel Only)

13. None.