

Victims' Focus

Kent Community Safety Partnership
October 2014



National Changes



- Code of Practice for victims of crime
- EU Directive on victims
- Devolution of funding from 1 October 2014
- Responsibility for commissioning local victims' services
- MOJ will commission some services nationally



Victim Services Design Event



In July 2013 a joint Kent Criminal Justice Board and Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner Victim Service Design Event was held. This event identified that there is,

- Is not enough focus on the victims
- No data sharing agreements
- No agreed standards and accountability
- No central point of contact for victims (or support agencies)
- No technology to support timeliness of updates
- Resource requirements
- Offender driven triggers
- Multiple specialisms

This event resulted in the concept of the Victims' Centre



What Victims Want



- Recognise me as an individual
- Recognise my personal needs
- Let me have my say
- Give me some ownership of the process



Strategic Needs Assessment for Victims

- Needs and expectations of victims varies depending on the impact of the crime rather than the crime itself
- Victims want someone to listen to them, to take appropriate action and keep them informed
- Gaps in services for repeat victims of domestic abuse and also victims of sexual violence, with services not consistent across the county
- Lack of specialist support for disability hate crime
- Lack of services for children and young people
- Greater integration needed between services with an improvement in information sharing
- Greater need for counselling services for those who need emotional and psychological support
- Specialist support needed for male victims and LGBT communities
- Kent Domestic Abuse Consortium (KDAC) a model of very good practice.

Phase One



- The commissioning of victim support service providers for 14/15 and 15/16
- The co-location of the Police Witness Care Unit and Victim Support
- The setup of the building



Phase Two

Kent Police & Crime
Commissioner

'Devoted to Kent'

- Focus on developing a victims' centred approach across partner agencies
- Aim is to develop effective and efficient services for victims
- Delivered in tandem with phase one
- Commitment to a co-designed approach



Restorative Justice

- Victim initiated – seek to ask a victim whether they want Restorative Justice rather than a request being triggered by the offender’s progress through the criminal justice system.
- Access to support when needed – enable the victim to access the restorative process at any point of their recovery, when they feel ready and regardless of where they live in the county and providing aftercare
- Conference oriented - seek to bring the victim and offender together for a face-to-face conference and, where a conference is not suitable, then explores other restorative practices available
- Victims feel informed - seek to make the victim feel they are in control, informed and understand the restorative justice process, with as few multiple points of contact as possible
- Suitability not eligibility - suitability of the victims for restorative justice at the forefront, rather than the crime they have suffered
- All victims - all victims (direct and indirect such as parents, siblings, children, partners and close friends) of crime to cope and recover, regardless of whether the crime has been reported to the police

Questions?

Claire.gatward@kent.pnn.police.uk

