



To: Business Coordination Board

From: Chief Executive

Date: 22 January 2014

PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

1. Purpose

1.1 To share the final version of the 'Strategic Vision of Support for Victims in Cambridgeshire' with members of the Board, the initial programme plan for implementation and the 'Victim Referral and Support Services in Cambridgeshire - Draft Commissioning Intentions' for providing support for victims in Cambridgeshire.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members of the Board are asked to agree the Strategic Vision of Support for Victims in Cambridgeshire and its initial programme plan.

2.2 Members are also asked to consider the Draft Commissioning Intentions for providing support for victims in Cambridgeshire.

3. The Strategic Vision of Support for Victims in Cambridgeshire

3.1 Members of the CCJB Victim and Witnesses sub-group, made up of representatives from the statutory and voluntary sector, jointly developed this document.

3.2 The document has been informed by:

- Cambridgeshire's Victim and Offender Needs Assessment 2012
- Cambridgeshire's Listening and Learning Report (commissioned by the

former Victim's Commissioner)

- A local mapping event to look at the services already in place for victims, the gaps in service provision, the opportunities to improve support for victims, and prioritise future work.
- National documents such as Draft Code of Practice for Victims of Crime and the Ministry of Justice's 2012 'Getting it right for victims and witnesses'.

3.3 A draft of this document was shared with members of the Board in December. Since that meeting the document has been revised in response to feedback from both statutory and voluntary agencies. The document will be submitted to the Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice Board next month and the Countywide Community Safety Board in March.

The programme of actions which arise from this Vision aim to improve the support offered to victims in Cambridgeshire. It is intended this programme of work, which is supported by partners, is managed through the Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice Board Victim and Witnesses Sub-Group.

4. Victim Referral and Support Services in Cambridgeshire - Draft Commissioning Intentions

4.1 From October 2014 Police and Crime Commissioners will be responsible for commissioning the majority of emotional and practical support services for victims of crime locally. Specific support services will be targeted at those most in need.

4.2 The proposed approach in Cambridgeshire will be based on evidence of need and guided by the Strategic vision of support for victims in Cambridgeshire, which is the county's Victim Strategy, referred to in 3.

4.3 The approach takes into account obligations placed on agencies under the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime and the EU Directive on the Minimum Standards, Rights, Support and Protection of Victims of Crime – specifically Articles 8 and 9.

4.4 The Ministry of Justice has consulted with Police and Crime Commissioners on the mechanism for referring victims to support services. Cambridgeshire's strong partnership foundations, and support from the rest of the Eastern Region, has enabled a bid to be submitted to participate as an Early Adopter to enable local commissioning of victim referral from October 2014. This work will inform the future direction taken by the rest of the region. The development of a Victim Hub to deliver this victim referral pilot is a key intention contained within the document.

4.5 At this early stage the document signals the proposed way forward for the next ten months. The commissioning intentions for 2015 and beyond will be informed by the

outcomes of planned research and future workshops with victims of crime to ensure the support provided is developed with the victims' voice in mind.

5. Development of Commissioning Capacity

5.1 As set out in the strategy, for victims to effectively cope and recover following the most impactful crime an inter-agency response can be required. Responsibility to work with others to commission co-ordinated local support services for victims, which meets their needs, will lay with Police and Crime Commissioners from October 2014.

5.2 An inter-agency Victims' Commissioning Group has been established to overview the creation of an implementation plan and develop appropriate co-commissioning arrangements. It recognised that both the Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council have significant co-commissioning expertise and work is on-going to explore how best to link with this and in this way minimise additional costs.

5.3 Additional revenues for Victims' Commissioning have been raised from offenders through increased and extended Victim Surcharge, increased Penalty Notices for Disorder and increased motoring Fixed Penalty Notices. On November 4, 2013 the Minister of State for Policing, Criminal Justice and Victims informed OPCCs that as receipts from offenders are already beginning to flow, they have been able to make additional funding of £18m available to Commissioners. This grant is for:

- Building RJ capacity
- Building capacity and capability of wider VCSE support providers in advance of local commissioning
- Commissioners to prepare for local commissioning.

Planning for use of this additional resource is at an early stage. It is recognised that Operations Pheasant / Endeavour (multi-agency intelligence gathering initiative involving multi occupancy houses and the potential risks of exploitation) and Operation Erle (current investigations into Child Exploitation) have identified new groups of victims.

6. Recommendations

6.1 Members are also asked to consider proposals to take forward commissioning in this area.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Document (s)	Contact Officer	Location
Draft Strategic Vision of Support for Victims in Cambridgeshire	Nicky Phillipson Interim Strategic Advisor	Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Commissioner, South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, Cambridge, CB23 6EA