



**To:** Business Coordination Board

**From:** Chief Executive

**Date:** 27 October 2015

## **VICTIMS' SERVICES COMMISSIONING**

### **1. Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Business Co-ordination Board ("the Board") on the 2015/16 Victims' Service Grants/Contracts and to propose a way forward to enable a seamless continuation of service provision into 2016/17.

### **2. Recommendation**

2.1 The Board is recommended to:

- Note the contents of the paper
- Approve the reallocation of the identified in-year underspend (approximately two percent of the overall Victims' Services budget)
- Approve the proposed direction of travel to ensure the continuation of an integrated model of victim support services into 2016/17 within the Ministry of Justice allocated funding envelope.

### **3. Background**

3.1 Police and Crime Commissioners took over the responsibility for commissioning support services for victims of crime in 2014/15. Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner ("the Commissioner") requested to act as an early adopter taking on the responsibility for commissioning the referral mechanism to enable this support to be provided from October 2014. This is now delivered through a Constabulary-led Victims' Hub which is subject to a separate report to this Board. (See Agenda Item 4)

- 3.2 Cambridgeshire was awarded £910k in 2015/16 to deliver services to enable victims of crime to cope and recover from their experience through the provision of emotional and practical support. This amount also included non-ring fenced amounts of £183k for restorative justice services, £14k of Prisoner Earnings Allocations to provide 'practical' support for victims of crime and £18k to be spent on sexual violence/domestic violence support provision.
- 3.3 The Commissioner has used a mixed model of grants, contracts and Memorandum of Understandings to establish an integrated model of victim support services. This model was informed by the Inter-Agency Victim Strategy, the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime 2013 and the EU Directive on the Minimum Standards on the Rights, Support and Protection of Victims of Crime.
- 3.4 The initial proposed allocations made from the 2015/16 Victims' Services Grant were approved by this Board on February 25, 2015. See Appendix 1 for details.
- 3.5 The actual final allocations are documented at the end of this report.

#### **4. Commissioning of Services 2015/16 – reallocation of identified underspends**

- 4.1 The Constabulary has developed a sustainable model of delivering restorative justice as part of a delivery partnership with Community Interest Company Restorative Solutions. This model relies more on building partnership capacity as set out in Memorandum of Understandings and integrating with the Victims' Hub rather than costly direct resources. It is projected that there will result in a small amount of underspend within the overall budget. A further underspend has been identified due to a contract being aligned with a calendar year rather than financial year.
- 4.2 In anticipation of this underspend (which totals approximately two per cent of the original grant - £21k) the OPCC held a workshop with victim service providers to identify gaps in services or the evidence base, what could be done to mitigate the gaps and where there were opportunities to build service capacity. The full report from the workshop is attached to this report. (See Appendix 2 for details)
- 4.3 It is proposed that the following areas are considered for non-recurrent in-year funding awards. Each will be worked up in-line with the revised Inter-Agency Victim Strategy.
- Peer support groups for young victims of sexual violence
  - Counselling support for children affected by domestic violence (through a volunteer model)
  - Education and awareness for young people on healthy relationships – in particular where they have been within domestic violence households
  - Practical support for young victims of crime to build self-esteem and confidence
  - Practical support for migrant victims of crime
  - Extended practical support for victims of domestic violence
  - Refresh of the Victim Needs Assessment as a concrete evidence base

- Creation of a stand-alone website for the Victims' Hub to act as a local online directory for all victim service providers and victims – whether they want to report a crime or not

## **5. Future commissioning of Victims' Services 2016/17 - proposed direction of travel**

- 5.1 In a letter to all PCCs (sent October 6, 2015) Mike Penning MP, Minister of State for Policing, Crime, Criminal Justice and Victims highlighted the budget reductions the Ministry of Justice was facing. However he pledged to inform PCCs of their Victims' Services budget allocations for 2016/17 "as soon after November 25 as is feasible". However it is fair to assume that the overall budget is likely to see a reduction.
- 5.2 The OPCC has modelled a range of budget reductions – looking at where savings could be made and services rationalised or re-modelled. The current integrated model of victim support services was developed from a clear evidence base. There is still support from partners to continue, where possible, with the current service provision; not least to allow some of the newer services to truly bed in. Therefore the Commissioner is not looking to significantly alter the overall model of support in the county in 2016/17. In particular there is a consensus that the Victims' Hub service which has received praise by both the HMIC and the Victims' Commissioner Baroness Newlove, should continue to be supported.
- 5.3 There is also significant partnership support for the Restorative Justice model which relies more on reciprocal arrangements with other agencies rather than direct funding. This has also been highlighted as a 'simple yet effective' model by experts in the field. It is anticipated that the longer-term return on early investment through the reduction in re-offending will show its value and secure it beyond the life of the current MoJ funding stream. In the short-term a proposed extension of the delivery partnership with Restorative Solutions could see further development with Registered Social Landlords and within the Troubled Families agenda.
- 5.4 Work will continue to ensure transparency of the funding of victims' services moving from grant awards to a commissioning approach where feasible. All future tenders/re-tenders will be hosted on the BlueLight e Tendering site. The OPCC is being supported by the Tri-force Procurement Team and all awards are made within the Cambs, Herts and Beds Financial Regulations.
- 5.5 The OPCC and Constabulary participated in a national consultation to look at amending the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime 2013 to include aspects of the EU Directive not fully embraced under the Code. In particular this is likely to see the entitlements for victims of crime set out in the Code extended to victims of careless driving and drink driving. Work is already ongoing to scope the referral pathways into the Victims' Hub to enable this support to be delivered. More long-term specialist support could be provided by the Road Victims Trust – although this may require some capacity building in the form of support to increase their volunteer base. This will be considered within the context of the strategic alliance as the charity operates within the same boundaries as the collaborated Roads Policing Unit.

## 6. National Commissioning of Victims' Services

6.1 The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has retained responsibility for commissioning a range of national services for example support for victims of homicide and the funding of Rape Support Centres. While it is expected that the homicide service will remain, it is not clear whether there will be further devolvement of funds to PCCs to reduce the number of grant recipients the MoJ deals with. This could increase the number of bids the OPCC receives annually from national charities making it even more vital to have access to a regularly refreshed Victims' Needs Assessment.

## 7. Recommendation

7.1 The Board is recommended to:

- Note the contents of the paper
- Approve the reallocation of the identified in-year underspend (which is approximately two per cent of the overall Victims' Services budget)
- Approve the proposed direction of travel to ensure the continuation of an integrated model of victim support services into 2016/17 within the Ministry of Justice allocated funding envelope.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

<b>Source Documents</b>	<b>A Strategic Vision of Support for Victims in Cambridgeshire (Inter-agency Victim Strategy)</b> <a href="http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/police-crime-plan/victims-witnesses/">http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/police-crime-plan/victims-witnesses/</a>
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Appendix 1 – Original approved grant allocations

	<b>2015/16 Funding (£)</b>
<b>VICTIMS SUPPORT GRANT:</b>	
Victims' Hub	446,000
Shrievalty Trust	50,000
Support for parents of sexually abused children - SARC	42,000
Restorative Justice	147,000
Supporting migrant workers who are victims of exploitation	30,000
Cambridgeshire County Council Young Person IDVA	40,000
Young Peoples Independent Sexual Violence Advocates (two posts)	80,000
Mental Health Pathfinder Project	75,000
<b>TOTAL VICTIMS SUPPORT GRANT</b>	<b>910,000</b>

Updated Victims' Services grant allocations

	<b>2015/16 Funding (£)</b>
<b>VICTIMS SUPPORT GRANT:</b>	
Victims' Hub	446,000
Shrievalty Trust	50,000
Support for parents of sexually abused children - SARC	42,000
Restorative Justice	135,807
Supporting migrant workers who are victims of exploitation	15,000
Cambridgeshire County Council Young Person IDVA	40,000
Young Peoples Independent Sexual Violence Advocates (includes £18k for sexual violence)	80,000
Mental Health Pathfinder Project	75,000
Prisoner Earnings Allocations	5,000
Identified underspend	21,193
<b>TOTAL VICTIMS SUPPORT GRANT</b>	<b>910,000</b>