

## Victims -lead

- **Shared Outcome: Victims and witnesses are placed at the heart of the criminal justice system and have access to clear pathways of support.**
- **Aim: Deliver a victim first approach**

<i>Objectives</i>	The police respond to an individual's immediate needs and safeguard them from potential future victimisation	Victims and witnesses of crime can access appropriate and proportionate needs-led emotional and practical support at all stages of the criminal justice process	Victims and witnesses are treated with respect and their needs are acknowledged during the criminal justice process
<b>2019/20 priorities for action</b>	<p>Ensure that victims from the three priority groups (as defined in the Victims Code) are identified and provided with an appropriate response based on their level of risk at the initial point of contact.</p> <p>Ensure victims of crime receive a timely &amp; high quality investigation and are kept informed in-line with the Victims Code.</p> <p>To develop a performance matrix which incorporates a qualitative measurement as well as quantitative.</p> <p>To ensure we maximise the use of civil powers, for example SHPO's/DVPO's.</p> <p>To ensure investigation strategies record safeguarding measures that have been implemented to protect the victim and they have been assessed as appropriate. (for example presumption of bail for DA)</p>	<p>Fully engage with the countywide partnership response aimed at reducing the number of victims of high harm and risk crimes types.</p> <p>Ensure effective and efficient use of the referral process into Victim and witness hub/Sexual Assault Referral Centre.</p> <p>Ensure suitable forensic and welfare medical facilities are available (SARC) for adult &amp; child victims of sexual abuse.</p>	<p>Ensure that when new Criminal Justice processes are implemented the impact on victims and witnesses is considered and negative impacts mitigated against.</p> <p>Develop an effective way to measure compliance with the Victims Code.</p> <p>Ensure there is a comprehensive victim strategy in place which acknowledges the impact of key timings in a 'victim's journey' from initial report to finalisation through the Criminal Justice system.</p> <p>Where a criminal threshold is not reached police support partners with civil proceedings.</p>

	<p>Develop a clear understanding of those most at risk from the highest harm, from vulnerable children to those unlikely to report crime (hate/DA) in order to effectively reduce re-victimisation.</p> <p>Ensure the 'lived experience of the child has been captured and safeguarding is effective to prevent future victimisation</p>		
<p><i>Broader partnership support</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure support services for victims and witnesses are jointly commissioned in cost efficient collaborative way to ensure seamless pathways.</li> <li>• Support the Constabulary to ensure people in mental health crisis receive the right care at the right time and from the right service through effective partnership working.</li> <li>• To maintain Victim and Witness hub support/funding.</li> </ul>		