



**To:** Business Coordination Board

**From:** Chief Executive

**Date:** 09 October 2019

## **POLICE & CRIME PLAN - VICTIMS THEME - OPCC WORK TO DELIVER BROADER PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT**

### **1. Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- update the Business Coordination Board (“the Board”) on Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) activity to deliver the ‘broader partnership support’ priorities set out in the Victims section of the Police and Crime Plan (“the Plan”).
- to formally set out the Police and Crime Commissioner’s (“the Commissioner”) delegation of the responsibility to stand up victim support services in the event of a major crime incident to Cambridgeshire Constabulary (“the Constabulary”).

### **2. Recommendations**

2.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of the report.

2.2 The responsibility for standing up (activate) ‘victim support’ services in the event of a major crime incident is delegated to the Constabulary by the Commissioner.

### **3. Background**

3.1 Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Police and Crime Commissioner (“the Commissioner”) is required to produce a Police and Plan.

3.2 The Commissioner’s Plan became effective from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 and is structured around four key strategic themes: Victims, Offenders, Communities, and Transformation. Each theme has its own aim and has a framework through a series of shared outcomes to enable all agencies with a part to play in community safety and

criminal justice, to strategically direct the future delivery of services through these common goals. Each theme is supported by key objectives and priorities for action.

- 3.3 The Constabulary have a key role in delivering the Plan and on April 4, 2019 brought a set of refreshed comprehensive Constabulary priorities to this Board. These allow the OPCC to concentrate on their wider commissioning and joint commissioning role.
- 3.4 The progress around these Constabulary priorities is reported in a separate paper – see Agenda item 5.1. An internal audit into the implementation of Police and Crime Plan priorities to improve victim satisfaction is scheduled for February 2020. This will be aligned to existing ongoing work to monitor compliance with the **Code of Practice for Victims of Crime**, which is part of the Ministry of Justice reporting requirements, as well as internal organisational development.

#### **4. Commissioning referral and universal support services**

- 4.1 The victims element of the Plan seeks to put victims and witnesses at the heart of the criminal justice system and ensure they have access to clear pathways of support. The responsibility for commissioning emotional and practical support transferred to Police and Crime Commissioners from the Ministry of Justice (“the MoJ”) in 2014. A list of all services funded in 2019/20 by the Commissioner is attached at Appendix 1.
- 4.4 All Cambridgeshire victim support services funded by the Commissioner are required to provide six monthly outcome monitoring data. Unfortunately the timing of this report has not aligned with the availability of the data therefore it is not included in this report. However, positively the Constabulary was able to address the technical challenges highlighted in the May report they have now submitted its outcome data to the Ministry of Justice for 18/19. Informal mid-quarter monitoring for 19/20 has revealed a strong upward trend in the percentage of victims being referred into support services and outcomes being secured.
- 4.5 The MoJ is currently consulting on a number of significant proposed changes to the outcome monitoring returns OPCCs are required to complete. This will once again have an impact on the data required from the Constabulary and partners. However the OPCC will work closely with the Constabulary to reduce the impact upon the Corporate Performance team and ensure the data collected not only meets the needs of the MoJ but also allows for ongoing organisational development.

#### **5 Commissioning specialist victim support services – domestic abuse**

- 5.1 Work is still ongoing to scope the future of domestic abuse support services with the two successful bids to national government (Children Affected by Domestic Abuse & Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance) coming to an end. The OPCC is supporting the local authority to develop an offer which manages the risks within the significantly reduced funding envelope. However, it is possible that this model could still reveal cost pressures of an estimated £40k.
- 5.2 Gaps still remain within early intervention and prevention and therapeutic long term recovery; for example trauma-focused counselling for young victims and witnesses of domestic abuse and sexual violence. This was funded with Home Office ‘Violence Against Women and Girls’ (“VAWG”) money and delivered by Embrace and Rape Crisis.

The gaps in therapeutic services have been acknowledged by the Clinical Commissioning Group and were laid out in a paper to BCB in late September which addressed the need to consider the importance of preventative services.

## **6. Commissioning specialist support services – sexual violence**

6.1 The re-commissioning of Cambridgeshire's 24/7 Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) and the Countywide Sexual Violence Support Service, mentioned in detail in the May BCB report, is now well underway. The tender is currently live with all bids being evaluated in late October. This has been a significant resource commitment for the OPCC but has showcased excellent partnership working between OPCC staff, NHS England and the Constabulary.

## **7. Supporting people in the event of a major crime incident**

7.1 The responsibility for providing support to victims of crime in the event of a major crime incident, such as terrorism, has been given to PCCs through the Victim Services grant agreement with the MoJ.

7.2 In the event of a major crime incident the Constabulary's senior officers would assume Gold Command to formulate the strategy for dealing with the incident. Therefore as the Constabulary is the main provider of both the 'initial referral and assessment' and 'emotional support provision' through an in-house model (Victim and Witness Hub) it seems pragmatic that the responsibility to 'stand up' victim support services is delegated to the Constabulary by the Commissioner.

7.3 The OPCC commissioned additional support to work with the Constabulary to develop an operational project plan to drive the provision of these services. This includes agreements from partner agencies to provide additional proportionate resources to staff the Victim and Witness Hub. Specialist training in dealing with trauma has been commissioned and delivered to victim support staff. Work is also underway with the local mental health trust to scope potential pathways into longer term mental health support for those who require it following such a major crime incident.

## **8. Recommendations**

8.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of the report.

8.2 The responsibility for standing up 'victim support' services in the event of a major crime incident is delegated to the Constabulary by the Commissioner.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

<b>Source Document(s)</b>	<b>Police and Crime Plan</b> <a href="http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/police-crime-plan/">http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/police-crime-plan/</a> <b>Attached:</b> <a href="#">19-09-18-BCB-Strategic Direction for the OPCC Investment in Prevention</a> <a href="#">19-05-16-BCB-Agenda-Item-9.0-Police-Crime-Plan-Victims-Theme-OPCC-work-to-deliver-broader-partnership-support.pdf</a>
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