



Supporting victims and witnesses of crime – Headline data

April to September 2020 (six months reporting)

Victim & Witness Hub

- Supported 1,615 people (1,059 in a single call; 426 in two or more calls and 130 people have an ongoing support relationship). This is a 27 per cent increase on the same period last year.
- 60 per cent of victims supported were women; 30 per cent male and ten per cent not stated
- Victims came from across the county although Peterborough residents accounted for 30 per cent of calls and Huntingdonshire 15 per cent of calls.
- Victims reported feeling better informed and better able to cope and recover as a result of the service provided
- 3,404 letters and 3,258 emails sent to victims letting them know support is available

Specialist Support Services

- 135 victims assessed and supported by **1.8 mental health nurses** – a 42 per cent increase in cases compared to the same period last year with victims reporting increased anxiety as a result of the pandemic. Of that 68 were supported in a single call while 67 were provided with ongoing support.
- Lithuanian and Romanian speaking specialist victim and witness care co-ordinators supported 152 victims of modern slavery and/or domestic abuse from 15 nationalities.
- Two specialist workers from Family Action worked with 140 young victims of crime and their families providing 1-1 support and onward referral and signposting to a wide range of local agencies. All young people agreed that they felt more empowered as a result; 89 per cent agreed their health and wellbeing had improved.
- 27 young victims of domestic abuse, bullying, hate crime or sexual abuse accessed therapeutic support provided by **Embrace – Child Victims of Crime**. Therapists moved their sessions from physical to online virtual rooms along with phone-based support and occasional 'walk and talks'. Young people reported feeling more in control of their problems and emotions and having improved sleep patterns as a result of the support.
- The **Bobby Scheme**, despite being closed for nearly three months, secured the homes of 275 elderly victims of property-related crime and provided phone-based emotional support to 49 additional victims. During the lockdown period the Victim and Witness Hub stepped in to provide telephone-based support to victims who would usually have been referred to the Scheme.

- 68 victims of stalking and harassment accepted specialist support and advice with 61 of these valuing an ongoing support relationship.

Restorative Justice – holds RJ Quality Mark for safe and high quality service

- The service has received 33 new referrals during the past six months and supported eight victims still on the caseload. The co-ordinator is now working with volunteers to explore the use of technology to facilitate future conferences.

Countywide Support for Survivors of Sexual Violence

- Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (adult service) received 268 new referrals for support an increase of 67 per cent from the same period last year. The service supported 420 clients and more than a quarter presented with additional mental health needs.
- A total of 118 children and young people were supported by the specialist Child and Young Person ISVA service.
- The service worked with 464 survivors through its emotional support service which consists of a helpline, email support and crisis intervention sessions and longer therapeutic trauma informed work.
- The feedback from survivors has included comments like: “Thank you for getting me through lockdown” and “I even managed to laugh today, who would have thought. It’s so great to be able to call you.”