



**To:** Cambridgeshire Community Safety Countywide Board  
**From:** Chief Executive Dorothy Gregson  
**Date:** September 26, 2013

## **Providing 'victim-centered' support in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough**

### **1. Purpose**

1.1 This report provides the Board with an overview of the ongoing partnership work to prepare for the transfer of historical Ministry of Justice (MoJ) funding for local victims' services to Police and Crime Commissioners.

### **2. Background**

2.1 The transfer of historical MoJ funding for local victims' services to Police and Crime Commissioners is scheduled for autumn 2014. The responsibility for commissioning national support services, such as the Witness Service and Homicide Support will remain with the MoJ.

2.2 The total budget to be transferred has not yet been announced (and will depend on revenue raised from the Victims' Surcharge and increases in the value of Penalty Notices for Disorder and motoring Fixed Penalty Notices), however indicative budgets are expected in October 2013.

2.3 Police and Crime Commissioners will be responsible for commissioning local support for victims of crime in Cambridgeshire in accordance with the new Code of Practice for Victims of Crime.

2.4 Statistics in the refreshed victim section of the Victim and Offender Needs Assessment revealed there was 31,000 victims of reported crime in Cambridgeshire in 2012. Just over 12,000 of these victims were referred to Victim Support to be triaged by Victim Care Officers in the Customer Management Centre.

2.5 In 2012 victims in Cambridgeshire were supported by staff from a range of services such as:

- Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA)
- Independent Sexual Violence Advocates (ISVA)
- Women's Aid and Refuge
- Sexual Advice Referral Centre (SARC)

- The Bobby Scheme

### 3. CCJB - Victim and Witness Sub Group

3.1 In March 2013 the CCJB created a Victim and Witness Sub-Group, made up of representatives from the statutory and voluntary sector, to prepare for the impending changes. It was clear that even though the locus of control remains with the OPCC, providing effective victim-centered support is a shared agenda requiring a partnership approach.

3.2 The group is already playing a crucial role in translating the Government’s victim and witness agenda and understanding how it can be delivered locally. It has already achieved particular momentum with regards to:

- mapping the existing local services provided for victims by a range of agencies and identifying areas of need;
- the creation of a draft Victim Strategy for the county to inform the **understand** phase of the Commissioning cycle and help **plan** the commissioning intentions for support for victims; and
- creating a joint agency understanding of the new Draft Code of Practice for Victims of Crime, which places responsibilities on a range of statutory agencies, and preparing for its implementation.

### 5. Recommendation

5.1 Members of the Board are asked to note the contents of this report and recognise that the delivery of effective support services for victims of crime is a shared partnership agenda.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Document (s)	Contact Officer	Location
	Chief Executive Dorothy Gregson 01954 713202	Office of Police and Crime Commissioner, South Cambridgeshire Hall Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, Cambridgeshire, CB23 6EA