

London Victims' Board June 2021**Record of Meeting**

Attendees	
London Victims Commissioner	Independent Chair
Victims Reference Group	VRG
Crown Prosecution Service	CPS
Judiciary	J
Victim Support (LVWS)	VS
Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service	HMCTS
Parole Board	PB
National Probation Service	NPS
National Health Service	NHS
Metropolitan Police Service	MPS
London Heads of Community Safety	LHOCs
Leapwise (Consultants)	Leapwise
Crest Advisory (Consultants)	CA
Gate One (Consultants)	GO
Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime	MOPAC

Agenda Items**1. Welcome, introductions, and apologies**

The Chair welcomed attendees and apologies noted from PB, CPS, LHOCs.

2. Review of minutes and update on actions arising from the last meeting

Minutes from the last meeting held February 2021 were accepted and the actions updated.

3. Mayoral commitments and developing the Police and Crime Plan (PCP)

MOPAC introduced plans for the PCP which is produced within the year of when the Mayor is duly elected. MOPAC will be consulting on the PCP and delivery plans with Londoners, victims of crime, a wide range of organisations and stakeholders over a 12 week period via www.london.gov.uk and Talk London to gather feedback. MOPAC will also be conducting an Equality Impact Assessment.

4. Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) for Victims in London: summary of findings and next steps

The Gate One and Crest Advisory consultants presented their findings and recommendations from the summary version of the Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) report for victims of crime in London, which will help shape MOPAC's commissioning plans and Police and Crime Plan development. MOPAC will take forward the findings and recommendations with partners over the course of the Mayoralty.

5. Portfolio update from the London Victims Commissioner and partners

London Victims Commissioner Update

The Chair discussed The [Domestic Abuse Bill](#) which received Royal Assent on the 29th April 2021.

Other key updates included:

- Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill which is now in its second reading in the House of Lords.
- The sector is lobbying for parity in the timeframes in which an offender has a right to appeal and a victim's right to apply to the Unduly Lenient Sentencing Scheme, lobbying for safe and secure reporting for migrant victims.
- MOPAC met with NSPCC to call for a joined-up approach with Operation Hydrant.
- The Government has published its End-to-End review report and action plan for improving the Criminal Justice System's response to rape in England and Wales.
- There is a call to end the discrediting of victims and a move towards a more offender-centric approach. This approach will be piloted as part of Operation Soteria's pathfinder projects for four police forces.
- The National Victims Commissioner has produced a report on the review of 'Special Measures' and makes 21 recommendations on how to improve the provision of special measures and address barriers to access.

Victim Reference Group (VRG) Update

Amongst updates on the work of member organisations, the VRG escalated concerns that more work is needed to speed up justice due to court backlogs.

MOPAC Update

MOPAC was successful in securing £4.5 million this year in additional funding for services to DA/SV victims from the MoJ COVID emergency funding rounds across this year and next. There are also two further MoJ funds (Critical Support Fund and male victims fund) which MOPAC are in the process of bidding into. In addition, MOPAC have successfully completed a recommissioning exercise for a new Pan-London Hate Crime Victim Service.

LVWS Update

LVWS presented Q4 performance slides.

CPS Update

CPS continues to work towards tackling the court backlogs and positive progress had been made on improving the CPS letters provided to victims on case updates/outcomes.

Judiciary Update

There has been a broad welcome for Section 28 amongst the judiciary. The pilot is to be extended to include intimidated witnesses (in addition to vulnerable). It will be going live in Isleworth, Wood Green and Harrow Crown Courts.

MPS Update

The MPS discussed the feedback from use of the victims needs assessment and plans to develop a High Harm Survey. To support ongoing work, the Victim Care Team is creating a 'Victim Care Improvement Forum'. This will include 17 Panel members from different faith groups, ethnic backgrounds, as well member's representing LGBT and Disabled victims. The first panel is due to be held in July 2021. The MPS are looking to set up VPS Scrutiny Panel. The new Victims Information leaflet (VIL) was also discussed, MPS are pleased that the VIL can be translated into over 50 languages.

National Probation Service Update

The NPS updated partners on improvements to timeliness in reaching out to victims eligible for the scheme through Initial Contact Letters (ICLs). Timeliness levels have improved to the highest ever levels, attributed to permanent staff filling roles.

The Parole Board Update

A review of the parole process started at the end of 2020 and remains ongoing. The PB are working with the MoJ to explore pilot of allowing victims to attend hearings. The PB continue to work closely with the Probation service VCS.

NHS Update

The NHS are looking for collaborative bids with EOI by August on the mental health pilot project and are interested in victim and survivor fast-tracking pathfinder.

6. Any Other Business (AOB)

None

Close of meeting.