

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

<b>Attendees</b>	
London Victims Commissioner	Independent Chair
Victims Reference Group	VRG
Crown Prosecution Service	CPS
Judiciary	J
London Heads of Community Safety	LHOCs
Victim Support (LVWS)	VS
Metropolitan Police Service	MPS
Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service	HMCTS
National Probation Service	NPS
Ministry of Justice	MoJ
Parole Board	PB
Citizens Advice	CA
London Councils	LC
Magistrates Association	MA
Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime	MOPAC
PA Consulting	PAC

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

The Chair welcomed new members from CPS and MA and thanked colleagues for their attendance at this meeting which was rescheduled from Sept 15th 2021 to allow for a progress update on the Police and Crime Plan (PCP) and the Victim Care Hub (VCH).

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

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

**3. MPS Update on VAWG**

The MPS spoke of the reputational damage caused to public trust and confidence with the sentencing of Wayne Couzens in the case of Sarah Everard's murder and others. Baroness Louise Casey has been appointed to lead the independent review which will focus on the culture of the MPS, standards, professional use of social media, misogyny and listening to the views of women working within the MPS and recruitment processes. The terms of reference (TOR) will likely include institutional misogyny. The MPS will provide the board with future updates.

#### **4. Victim Care Hub – progress update**

The London's Victims Commissioner published the VCOP review in 2019 and made several recommendations to partners across the CJS. One of those recommendations was to develop a Victim Care Hub (VCH). The Mayor committed to considering the creation of a victim hub for London in his 2021 manifesto. MOPAC and the MPS, supported by PA consulting are currently involved in a project to develop a comprehensive business case to inform next steps and outcome of this which could lead to a transformational project. PA Consulting presented an update on the work to date and potential next steps.

#### **5. Mayoral commitments and developing the Police and Crime Plan (PCP)**

MOPAC discussed the Mayor's Police and Crime Plan (PCP) consultation. The PCP consultation period will run for 10 weeks until 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022. It will involve the use of polls, surveys and face-to-face meetings with groups and victims of crime, engaging with diverse communities to ensure the reach is across a wide spectrum.

#### **6. Victim Contact Scheme – progress update**

The National Probation Service (NPS) presented figures on how the referral process has changed since the implementation of the new Victims Code in April 2021 and discussed the impact.

#### **7. Portfolio update from the London Victims Commissioner and partners**

##### **London Victims Commissioner Update**

The Chair discussed The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Bill which has now entered the House of Lords. The Victims Commissioner is leading on work to propose two areas of amendments: Unduly Lenient Sentence Scheme and Home Detention Curfews.

##### VAWG Strategy

The VAWG strategy launched this week. The Mayor is holding workshops and focus on Black victims and specialist groups focussed on FGM, HBV, Prostitution and other specialist areas. The VAWG strategy will be published in Jan/Feb 2022.

##### Phone Research

MOPAC will be publishing the second part of the rape review, which looked specifically at the issue of digital disclosure and practices. To date, there has been no systematic research into the impact of requesting and use of technology evidence in rape cases upon victims and justice outcomes. Alongside the research, the Commissioner is publishing reflections and recommendations for how to improve practice in this area.

##### Crime scene clean-up

The Victims Commissioner led discussions about policy gaps with regards to supporting families and loved ones with regard to crime scene clean up following homicide in a private home. The MPS agreed to improve the response including costs for cleaning a crime scene following a homicide in a private dwelling. The National Victims Commissioner will pick this up with the NPCC lead.

### **Victim Reference Group (VRG) Update**

The chair of the VRG provided an update of the groups work over the last quarter. The Suzy Lamplugh Trust has been working on the stalking amendments to the police bill with Lord Russell which have now been submitted to the House of Lords committee. Also, on the PCSCB, RoadPeace discussed 'Hit and Run' crimes.

The VRG also shared reflections on the Sarah Everard murder, the failings of the MPS and the impact on public trust and confidence.

The VRG were also consulted on the plans to consider a Victim Care Hub (VCH) and the Mayor's draft Police and Crime Plan, providing valuable insights from across the sector.

### **MoJ Update**

The MoJ advised that drafting of the Victims Bill is continuing. The newly appointed Secretary of State for Justice, Minister Dominic Raab is keen to engage in this work. The MoJ is continuing to work with partners to embed the revised Victims Code of Practice.

### **LVWS Update**

LVWS presented a summary of performance data from quarter one.

### **CPS Update**

The CPS continue to work towards tackling the court backlogs. They reported a levelling of the curve, assisted by the Nightingale Courts. There is now a need to look at the capacity of the judiciary and to support the bid for a continuance of the Nightingale Courts.

### **Judiciary Update**

The Judiciary discussed the London's experience being different to the rest of the country. If the conversion works to some existing courts are achieved, this will enable them to be used for trials.

### **Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service Update**

HMCTS shared plans to increase the levels of capacity to achieve an optimum operating model for local areas.

### **Any other business (AOB)**

None.

### **Close of meeting.**