

## **LCRB – Victims’ Board**

### **September 2019 - Record of Meeting**

---

#### **Attendees:**

Chair: Independent Victims’ Commissioner for London  
Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)  
Victim Support  
Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)  
National Probation Service (NPS)  
Victims’ Reference Group (VRG)  
Ministry of Justice (MoJ)  
Ministry of Justice (MoJ)  
Magistrates Association  
London Councils  
Her Majesty’s Courts and Tribunal Service (HMCTS)  
Parole Board  
Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO)  
Mayors Office for Policing and Crime

#### **Agenda Items**

##### **1. Welcome, introductions and apologies**

The Chair welcomed attendees and undertook a round of introductions.

##### **2. Notes and actions from the last meeting**

The notes from the meeting in June 2019 were agreed without comment.

##### **3. Presentation from IPSO on standards and support for victims**

Representatives from The Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) attended the Board to discuss work to ensure that standards are upheld by journalists reporting on crime and what support is available to victims/witnesses with regard to press/media contact.

The IPSO is the independent regulator for the newspaper and magazine industry in the UK. IPSO also works with journalists to educate them regarding the impact of reporting on victims and survivors. It was agreed that MOJ should capture this information within the Victims Code.

##### **4. Update on plan for taking forward VCoP recommendations**

MOPAC updated on plans to take forward the VCoP recommendations, with support from an independent consultant to draw together the work that is going on to address victim issues and compliance with VCoP across the partner agencies. MOPAC shared a draft specification for comment before publication and partners were invited to respond on contents.

## **5. Partner updates and key events**

### Independent Victims Commissioner for London

- The London Rape Review was published in July, it received a lot of press and progress is being made to take forward those recommendations.
- There will be a Justice Matters meeting next month focusing on the finding of the Rape Review.
- Following much lobbying the unduly lenient sentencing scheme has been extended to 14 new offences.

### MOPAC

- An update was provided on the Mayor's VAWG fund - 4 tranches of work have been commissioned this year to support victims of VAWG developed in consultation with the sector experts offering support to those victims.

### MOJ

- Government announcement discussed at a roundtable on Rap Crisis Centres the MOJ secured additional funding for ISVA's /rape support centres.
- Additional support has been pledged for rape victims - aligning to timings of revised code.
- Consultation in VCoP and a Victims Law remains ongoing.

### NPS

- Current cases are being reviewed to ensure that access to the Victim Contact Scheme was offered.

### Victim Support

- An update was provided on the extension of the Children and Young Persons service which has seen an increased investment to address the impact of serious youth violence.
- An additional 10 youth advocates have been recruited under a new delivery model.
- Staff will be trained to address the offender/victim overlap and are expected to undertake detached outreach work with public agencies such as YOTS and Children's Services as well as public spaces such as McDonalds etc.

### Parole Board

- The Parole Board introduced a new reconsideration mechanism in July meaning victims are able to challenge a parole board decision in certain circumstances.
- Summary of parole decisions are now available to be shared with victims if requested.

## **6. Any other business**

N/A