

LCRB Victims' Board

April 2019 - Record of Meeting

Attendees

Independent Victims' Commissioner for London - *chair*
Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) – *secretariat*
Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)
National Health Service (NHS)
Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)
National Probation Service (NPS)
Victims' Reference Group (VRG)
Ministry of Justice (MOJ)
Victim Support (VS)
Citizens Advice Witness Service
London Councils
Magistrates Association
Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS)

Agenda Items

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

The chair welcomed attendees and a round of introductions was undertaken.

2. Notes and actions from the last meeting

The notes from the meeting of 10th December 2018 were agreed without comment.

3. Update from Victims' Reference Group

An update from the Victims' Reference Group (VRG) was provided, outlining members' feedback on the Victims' Summit and Victims' Code of Practice (VCoP) report. An action was taken for the Victims' Commissioner to write, on behalf of the VRG, letters to organisations and Government Ministers following up relevant recommendations in the VCOP review.

4. Feedback from Victims' Summit

Members were invited to comment on the recent Victims' Summit. Of note was the response to the Trauma Informed Approach which partners agreed is a key area to explore within their organisations.

Members praised the mixed agenda and felt that the Summit was timely for the launch of the VCoP review, as well as newly commissioned services such as IVWS ahead of going live in April.

5. VCoP Recommendations

Members discussed the publication of Claire Waxman's Review into compliance with VCoP. The recommendations were widely accepted, with all members agreeing to formally respond in writing, to form a new workplan for the board. An action was taken for all responses to be provided to MOPAC by mid-May.

6. Pathways into mental health support for victims

Health and Justice commissioning provided an overview of Increasing Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) services. They discussed opportunities to improve the service offered to victims and raised concerns about victims and witnesses being told to avoid therapy pre-trial due to the potential for files to be raised as evidence. An action was taken for a further discussion to take place about this.

7. Integrated Victims and Witness Service (IVWS) update

MOPAC and Victim Support provided an update on the mobilisation of IVWS. This included working closely with statutory partners to embed the new delivery model, integrating the previous pan London domestic abuse service, Restore: London Restorative Justice provision, Pre-trial witness support devolved from MoJ and multi crime support.

The new service went live as of 1st April 2019 and is successfully receiving referrals for victims and witnesses.

8. National Agenda update

MoJ provided an update on new services which went live on 1st April:

- Male Sexual Support Services
- National Rape Support across all PCCs
- New Homicide Service (including provision for witnesses of murder/manslaughter in London)

Other consultations remain ongoing:

- The Domestic Abuse bill is in the pre-legislative scrutiny phase
 - Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority review
 - Victims' Code of Practice review
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