

## Assistant Police & Crime Commissioner (Victims) Jane Anderson - Objectives for 2013/14 and Progress as at April 2014

### Background – New Responsibilities for PCCs in relation to Victims

Care of victims and ensuring that they are at the centre of the Criminal Justice System is a key priority for the Police & Crime Commissioner. The Panel should note that, with effect from October 2014, all PCCs will be responsible for commissioning certain services for victims of crime. This is currently centrally funded and organised by the Ministry of Justice and most services are provided by Victims Support. In future, funding will come to PCCs and it will be their responsibility to ensure that victims of crime are provided with the services they need in their local areas.

This is an extremely significant responsibility and will entail careful research and planning. There are risks that, with the potential for 43 PCCs to adopt different arrangements, victims' services could become fragmented. Much of the Assistant PCC's work in recent months has been helping the Office of the PCC prepare to take on its new responsibilities and to ensure that the victims' needs are at the heart of any new services that will be provided.

Objective	Key actions	Progress as at April 2014	Outcomes
Support the Police and Crime Commissioner in delivering his promise to <i>'put victims at the centre of the criminal justice system'</i> and to ensure that <i>'victims will be given a quality service from reporting a crime to giving evidence'</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following victims' journeys through the criminal justice system and feeding this information back to the PCC and other key stakeholders</li> <li>Attendance at the Surrey Police Victims Board</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jane has visited all of Surrey's courts as an observer, including to the domestic violence courts</li> <li>Specific issues and problems raised with relevant partners – e.g. delays to trials, failure to disclose documents on time, problems with transport for witnesses, layout of courts</li> <li>Met with all Surrey's DA outreach providers to learn more about their services</li> <li>Discussed Surrey Police's approach to historic sex abuse cases with senior leadership in the Force</li> </ul>	<p>The information gathered from court visits and speaking to witnesses and victims has been fed back to the relative parts of the criminal justice system and will ultimately help inform the PCC's strategy for commissioning services for victims</p> <p>Information is also fed into the Victims Care Board held by Surrey Police to inform their dealings with victims of crime.</p>

Objective	Key actions	Progress as at April 2014	Outcomes
Operate as a member of the Criminal Justice Group in order to ensure that the needs of victims and witnesses are represented in key decision making	Attend meetings of the Local Criminal Justice Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attendance at all meetings of the Local Criminal Justice Board in Surrey, where representatives from probation, the courts, the CPS and police are represented</li> <li>Contribution to the on-going review of the Local Criminal Justice Board arrangements in Surrey and Sussex</li> </ul>	<p>Attendance has been an opportunity to raise issues such as timeliness of court papers, treatment of victims and witnesses etc. Senior officers attend these meetings so can hear first-hand this information.</p> <p>Jane has advocated the PCC membership and ultimately chairmanship of the Local Criminal Justice Board in order to improve his links with the criminal justice sector. This review is underway.</p>
Champion victims' interests with the judiciary	Forging links with the courts and judiciary in Surrey	Attendance at Surrey Local Criminal Justice Group where these groups are represented	Feedback from court visits have been fed back to the LCJG for action
Ensure that victims are able to benefit from Restorative Justice and contribute to the RJ strategy for Surrey	This is an emerging strategy for Surrey	Jane sits on the 'out of court disposals panel' which provides scrutiny of those cases which are dealt with by means such as 'community resolution'	It is too early yet to demonstrate any outcomes but the A/PCC's attendance ensures that we have proper oversight of this area of work.
Advise the PCC on future commissioning of victim services and advise on funding provisions required for supporting victims	Offer advice and experience from the victims perspective to inform the PCC's strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Office of the PCC has arranged workshops with victims of domestic abuse, attended by the Assistant PCC and DA outreach providers, as well as victims</li> <li>Surrey is leading for the region on commissioning of victims services</li> </ul>	<p>Information from the DA workshops will be fed into the PCC's strategy for commissioning</p> <p>More detailed, qualitative and quantitative research is planned for the coming months. We are working closely with Sussex on this issue.</p>