

Assistant Police & Crime Commissioner (Victims) Jane Anderson - Objectives for 2014/15 and Progress as at December 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.

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 in relation to Victim Services' Commissioning and to ensure that victims' needs are at the heart of any new services that will be provided. An update on the work the OPCC has undertaken to prepare for these new commissioning responsibilities was provided at the last formal meeting of the Panel.

Objective	Key actions	Progress as at December 2014	Outcomes
<p>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>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following victims' journeys through the criminal justice system and feeding this information back to the PCC and other key stakeholders. • Attendance at the Surrey Police Victims Board. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A/PCC has spent time with the contact centre, with response teams, with neighbourhood officers and with CID talking and listening to victims. • Report written and circulated to CJ partners following consultation with victims of domestic abuse. • Report written and circulated to CJ partners following consultation with young victims of domestic abuse. • Consultation currently underway with victims of sexual assault. • Programme of visits to domestic abuse refuges currently underway. • Extended visits to court, to CIAG and to Housing Association to track the handling of 2 anti-social behaviour cases. • 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. • Develop contacts with national agencies working on domestic violence (CAADA, Hampton Trust, Women's Aid). • Spoke at a national conference on Domestic Abuse (the PCC role) on 27 November. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports used to inform the PCC's strategy for commissioning services for victims. • Specific cases raised with senior police officers. • Presentation on domestic abuse findings to Surrey Police leadership conference improved awareness and handling. • Information regularly fed into the Victims Care Board held by Surrey Police to inform their dealings with victims of crime. • Both Safer Neighbourhood teams and Housing Association aware of PCC's emphasis on putting victims first. • Gave presentation to ESDAS AGM on importance of tackling domestic abuse (DA)

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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"> Contributed to the review of the local Criminal Justice Board arrangements in Surrey and Sussex. Ongoing comments and feedback to chairs and strand leaders for the structures currently being established to replace the local Criminal Justice Group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A/PCC ensures the OPCC is sighted on the new Criminal Justice Partnership structures and helps identify relevant issues for the D/PCC who attends. A/PCC continues to build relationships with criminal justice system partners so there is a forum for raising victim issues.
Champion victims' interests with the judiciary and other partners.	Forging links with the courts and judiciary in Surrey .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance at Surrey Local Criminal Justice Group where these groups are represented. Met with Judge Critchlow and fellow judges on 7 October. Gave the keynote speech at East Surrey Refuge 30th anniversary on 8 October. Met with Runnymede housing officers to address shortfall in sanctuary schemes for victims of DA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback from court visits have been fed back to the LCJG for action. Presentation to senior CJP staff on victims' experiences at court – well received by HMCTS, CPS and Youth Services. Providing written report to Guildford judges on victims' experiences at court, to be followed by meeting.
Ensure that victims are able to benefit from restorative justice (RJ) and contribute to the restorative justice strategy for Surrey.	Help shape an appropriate restorative justice strategy for Surrey.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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'. She also sits on the Restorative Justice Steering Group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A/PCC's attendance at steering group ensures that we have proper oversight of this area of work. Attendance at scrutiny panel ensures victims' perspectives are represented.
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Advise the PCC on future commissioning of victim	Offer advice and experience from the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Office of the PCC has arranged workshops with victims of domestic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surrey strategy for commissioning will be soundly based and reflect

<p>services and advise on funding provisions required for supporting victims.</p>	<p>victim's perspective to inform the PCC's strategy.</p>	<p>abuse, attended by the Assistant PCC and DA outreach providers as well as victims.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surrey is leading for the region on commissioning of victims services. Jane scrutinises and comments on the relevant proposals underpinning the tendering process. • Chaired grant making panel for specialist services and will chair Victim Strategy Board on 19 November • Exploring need for new specialist victims' services. • Visited organisations to whom we propose to give funding, or are giving grants (NAPAC, RASASC etc). 	<p>the reality of victims' experiences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A/PCC scrutiny of proposals supports the work of officers. • The OPCC has successfully bid for a £450k grant from the MoJ, for partner agencies to spend on helping victims of DA and sexual assault.
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