

## SURREY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

### UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE ASSISTANT POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (VICTIMS)

1<sup>st</sup> December 2016

#### INTRODUCTION

Jane Anderson was appointed by the previous Police & Crime Commissioner to the role of Assistant Police & Crime Commissioner (Victims) in April 2013. Mrs Anderson's appointment to the PCC's staff followed a recruitment process initiated through the Local Criminal Justice Partnership Board. PCC David Munro has extended Mrs Anderson's short term contract until the end of the financial year. The role sees the Assistant PCC advise the PCC and partners on how services for victims could be improved and support the PCC in the allocation of grant funding for victims services. The report below sets out the objectives set for Mrs Anderson and the work she has undertaken to deliver them.

#### DETAIL

##### **Outcome 1: The voice of the victim is championed and listened to at the highest level, within police and partner agencies**

Working closely with voluntary service partners such as RASASC (Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre), Domestic Abuse Outreach and the Witness Service, and with specialist units in Surrey Police, I meet some of the most vulnerable victims of crime. It is only possible for me to do this because the agencies trust the OPCC to listen sensitively and to use what is said carefully. I turn these experiences, along with a commentary of what needs to change into succinct and frank reports that are used throughout the force and by partners. For example, in the last year:

- I have been invited to three group sessions run by RASASC for rape victims and heard the stories of 15 women which I have written up and circulated
- I have talked to several victims on my unannounced visits to court
- I have followed up cases raised with me by the Independent Sexual Violence Advisors and the police Witness Care Unit, where the victim did not have a satisfactory service. Two of these I am currently writing up as case studies, using the victim's own words and feelings
- I have also been invited by Surrey Police to deliver face to face training day input with the specialist investigation team dealing with sexual

assault. This informed me about operational challenges and pressure points, which I have raised as part of PCC scrutiny function.

**Outcome 2: Services across the Criminal Justice System (CJS) are informed about what needs to be improved on both practical and strategic level for both offender and victim**

I attend the quarterly Victim and Witness Group, which gathers together police, Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service (HMCTS) and others to look at experiences and where improvement is needed. I also attend the Out of Court Disposal meeting in order to ensure that the victim perspective is represented; and the Sexual Assault Management Board and Public Protection Executive Board to raise points of general concern and spread understanding of good practice. In addition:

- I have gathered a dossier of victims of domestic violence which illustrates the impact on victims of changes to court listings and CPS organisational issues, for use in discussions with senior officials
- I ensure that my connections with the Home Office and Ministry of Justice are used to bring national learning to Surrey and vice versa: for example I am meeting with the new Chief Executive for the Victims Commissioner to exchange views before the Commissioner visits Surrey

**Outcome 3: The PCC is supported to influence, shape and drive positive change**

I draw on my past experience, learning and current knowledge to inform new developments e.g.

- I selectively read and assess Government policy papers or reports to see what is of relevance for our work, most recently how the Troubled Families report tells us about high intensity interventions
- I am contributing to the development of the PCC's re-offending strategy
- Both in attendance at the Transforming Women's Justice programme board and outside it, I contribute to policy, scrutinise progress and value for money and ensure a victim focus in this project. I am particularly concerned that we have a clear insight into the effectiveness of high intensity intervention
- I am leading work on ensuring the Voice of the Child is heard in developing a response to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) as well as ensuring that OPCC funding is carefully targeted e.g. on key posts such as a CSE analyst and a Partnerships Manager

**Outcome 4: Quality, value for money services are accessible for all victims to provide the support needed to prevent harm, intervene early and respond effectively**

My principal concerns are that the PCC's Victims Fund is as well targeted as we can make it, that we are prioritising correctly, and that we see value for money. Most recently

- I have brought together people from different areas to share best practice on how to reach out to BME communities, developing a network of contacts within faith groups, and using the experience of BME victims
- I have been invited to speak at an outreach event for women in Maybury, Woking.
- I am introducing an event for stakeholders interested in bidding for a service to support victims of anti-social behaviour.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Panel notes this report.

**LEAD/ CONTACT OFFICER:** Jane Anderson, Assistant PCC (Victims)

**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** 01483 630200

This page is intentionally left blank