

West Mercia Victims Board Minutes

Date: 17th December 2020

Venue: Zoom

Chairman: Andy Champness, CEO, West Mercia OPCC

Minute-taker: Rachael Thorold, OPCC

Name	Capacity
Attendees: Andy Champness	Chairman, CEO, West Mercia OPCC
Tracey Onslow	Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Chris Jensen	CJS Business Manager, OPCC
Claire Richardson	Commissioning Manager, OPCC
Paul Moxley	Ch Supt Local Policing, WMP
Sally Williams	CJ Manager, West Mercia
Jackie Stevenson	Head of Service, NPS
Suzanne Llewellyn	Deputy Chief, CPS
Jonathan Price	Senior Legal Manager, HMCTS
Keith Barham	Head of Service, WMYJS
Matt Chester	Head of Victim Services, West Mercia
Karen Holgate	RJ Area Co-ordinator, Victim Support
Chris Hodson	Operations Manager, Victim Support
Apologies: Jayne Perkins	WMYJS
Rachel Jones	ACC, WMP
Sarah Tredaway	Citizens Advice

Open Session (items to be made available for public view)

No.	Item.	Action
01/17/12/20	<u>Introductions & Apologies</u> Apologies noted as above.	
02/17/12/20	<u>Minutes and Actions Arising from Sept 2020.</u> Accuracy; The minutes are recorded as accurate. Action Updates; TOR - Action: All are to review the TOR and are to return comments to CJ, who will then re-issue. – Complete. Agency Updates – CPS; Action: SL to send SW the URN's for the non given VPS' for WMP Officers. – Complete.	

03/17/12/20	<p><u>PCC Victims Strategy – Draft.</u> Is awaiting circulation pending approval by the Police and Crime Commissioner. Action: CJ will circulate the Strategy for comment, which all are asked to comment on.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An in depth assessment of Criminal Exploitation is going to be conducted by the University of Worcester, which will be shared with the Board. 	CJ/All
04/17/12/20	<p><u>PCC Victim Services Dashboard.</u> A presentation on Victim service performance was circulated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feedback and comments are welcome. - The term ‘engaging’ has been taken from the MoJ report; i.e. meaning those who have had interaction with the VAL in some form. - Caveats need adding into the report regarding the areas where data cannot be extracted from the VAL. - Breakdowns in the seamless integrated service and gaps relating to those with additional mental health needs need to be better understood. - The report was considered useful. It was originally planned to be maintained and shared on at least a 6 monthly basis in line with MoJ reporting timescales. This timescale was felt too long and that if achievable quarterly would be better. <p>Action: CR will consult with Providers to the report to see if Quarterly would be possible.</p>	CR
05/17/12/20	<p><u>Victims’ Code of Practice + Assessment Tool.</u> A covering note was circulated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The actions set out in the covering note are to be carried out. Action: All are to provide their Agency reporting nominees to CJ, by the 11th January 2021. - Practitioner Guidance from the MoJ is awaited. In the meantime, assumptions and inferences can be drawn as to the actions to be taken. - A quick gap analysis is to be undertaken to produce an improvement plan, which CJ is to lead on. - A progress report will be given at the next meeting. <p>Decision: The proposed document and actions were agreed by this Board.</p>	All
06/17/12/20	<p><u>MoJ / NPCC Attrition Project.</u> A covering note was circulated for awareness information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An MoJ Deep Dive was conducted on this topic at the beginning of the year. Some of that work fed into this programme of work, to enable the mapping and modelling. <p>ACTION – Agency leads to review victim and witness attrition,</p>	ALL

	identifying factors contributing to attrition, implementing solutions and reporting back to CJ on action taken, or recommend solutions by the 11 th of Jan.	
07/17/12/20	<p><u>WMP Victim and Witness Update.</u> Papers were circulated.</p> <p>Performance Report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is still work to be done to reach the target 25% VAL referral rate from the Police. - Supt Pettit is looking into Repeat Victimization. - A confidence survey has been carried out by the PCC. - The report has been produced for internal VAL use, but there are cross-overs in terms of the information within it and that which the represented agencies use. Some of this information can be used by this Board, and as such was felt this Board is to continue receiving this report. <p>Victim and Witness Improvement Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MC provided overview of the plan to members. No substantive issues raised. <p>ACTION – Agency leads to review WMP Performance report, identifying where their agency’s data could be used to create a richer picture. Agency leads to feed suggestions into MC.</p>	ALL
08/17/12/20	<p><u>Impact of Covid-19 on Victims and Witnesses.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A summary was circulated. It considers the Impact of Covid-19 on Victims and Witnesses links in with the MoJ / NPCC Attrition Project, and what can be done to reduce the high level of attrition, and the impact is having. - The information within the report is aimed at informing new ways of working. - Monthly feedback is gathered from Providers. - From January 2021 there will be additional Magistrates Court in terms of DA trials being heard. Provisions are in place and steps are being taken to ensure Victims and Witnesses are being kept up to date. - Thanks are to go to the author of the report. 	
09/17/12/20	<p><u>Agency Updates – Reports and by exception.</u></p> <p>a) WMP Update: Regular meetings have been set up to ensure good comms between CPS and Witness Service.</p> <p>b) CPS Update: Additional information is being gathered and in depth work is being done on Victim Impact/Personal Statements, on which this Board will be updated.</p> <p>c) NPS Update: Nothing further raised.</p>	

	<p>d) WMYJS Update: Continued Victim contact, mainly virtual.</p> <p>e) HMCTS Update: Across West Mercia recovery is being made, with additional trials courts sitting. The removal of the backlog in the Magistrates Courts has been well received.</p> <p>f) Victim Support Update: West Mercia Team are operating from home using virtual media for appointments. Averaging 600 successful support calls per month since March 2020. Compliments have been received from Victims having the same Officer support throughout their cases. This feedback is to be passed onto ACC Jones.</p> <p>g) Witness Service/Citizens Advice Update: Nothing further raised.</p> <p>h) Commissioned Services Update: ISVA/CSE Services have been re-commissioned. The successful provider will be announced in January 2021.</p> <p>i) VAL Update: Nothing further raised.</p> <p>j) RJ Update: Nothing further raised.</p>	
10/17/12/20	AOB. None raised.	
11/17/12/20	Date and time of next meeting. The next meeting will be held on the 24 th March 2021, at 11:30 – 13:00 at Hindlip Hall.	

Closed Session

(items likely to fall within the Freedom of Information Act exemptions)