

London Victims' Board May 2024

Tuesday 28th May 2023, 2-4pm (In Person meeting and via Teams link)

Attendees:

London Victim's Commissioner – Independent Chair
Bar Council
Citizens Advice
Crown Prosecution Service
Judiciary
London Heads of Community Safety
Magistrates Association
Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime
Metropolitan Police Service
Parole Board
Probation Service London
Victim Support

Agenda items:

Welcome, introductions, and apologies

The Chair welcomed all members to the meeting.

1. Review of minutes and update on actions arising from the last meeting

Minutes from the last meeting held in February 2024 were accepted and the actions updated.

2. New Mayoralty and objectives for the board

The Chair confirmed Sadiq Khan's election for a third term with work beginning to adopt manifesto commitments into a new Police and Crime Plan. Claire Waxman will continue as London's Victim Commissioner.

The Victim and Prisoners Bill received royal ascent and will now become law. The Chair provided an overview of this Act and highlighted that the key takeaway point from this for partners was that compliance with the code is no longer optional. Partners will need to monitor data to evidence compliance.

MOPAC's Evidence and Insight Team have been working on developing metrics and data dashboards for all boards. The Chair shared the current proposals for feedback. Partners shared details of surveys they undertake with victims to better understand their experience within the CJS. Agreed to add item to next agenda focusing on surveys and satisfaction.

3. Parole update

The Parole Board presented on their recent pilot and planned national roll out of their victim observation scheme. This scheme enables victims to observe and receive a summary of hearings. As the process can be difficult and often lengthy for victims, the Parole Board are

seeking to improve referral pathways for support services throughout this process. As part of the national roll out, Parole are also seeking neutral venues in which to hold observations.

4. End to end victim care programme

The MPS provided an update on their ongoing work to improve engagement with and experience of victims. Updates focused largely on training.

- Reviewing training around Victims' Code to ensure all officers and staff are knowledgeable in this.
- Call handling and trauma informed training being rolled out to Victim Focus Desk (VFD) and witness care units.
- RJ awareness training is in development stage.

In addition to training, MPS are also:

- Exploring the possibility of a single integrated system across police and CJS to support victims.
- Looking at the new Victims and Prisoners Act to understand how this translates to performance measures and actions to be taken in line with the new law.
- A fix has now been put in place to address recent issues with data referrals to LVWS through the new Connect system.

5. Prison capacity and impact on victims

The Chair provided an update on the emergency meeting of LCJB convened by the Deputy Mayor of Policy and Crime due to concerns around the early release of prisoners scheme and the impact of this in probation and victims. Partners provided updates on the current impact of this scheme on their work and staff. As the scheme is in early days, the impact is currently low but partners anticipate this will rise. Partners will continue to monitor the impact of these emergency measures and escalate to the board and London's Victims Commissioner.

6. Portfolio updates from London's Victims Commissioner and partners

CPS – Preparing for implementation of the Victims and prisoners Act. Recruiting staff to support in RASSO unit.

Victim Support – Pleased to be awarded the adult service contract by MOPAC and are busy mobilising this.

MOPAC – Preparing to announce outcome of other strands of victim support services. Establishing a steering group to support with developing restorative justice in London.

7. AOB

None

Close of meeting.