

Victims Board - 4 June 2018 Record of Meeting

Attendees

Chair: Claire Waxman, Independent Victims' Commissioner for London
Claire Lindley, Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)
Judge Martin Edmunds QC, Advisor to the board
Commander Neil Jerome, Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)
Kilvindur Vigurs, National Probation Service (NPS)
Gabrielle Browne, Victims' Reference Group (VRG)
Jo Burch, Ministry of Justice (MOJ)
Michelle Filby, HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS)
Asst. Commissioner Martin Hewitt, MPS
Caroline Birkett, Victim Support (VS)
Kelly Lock, Opinion Research Services (ORS)
Ellie Cumbo, The Bar Council
Judith Baker, Citizens Advice Witness Service
Susanne Jarman, Citizens Advice Witness Service
Neil Thurlow, London Heads of Community Safety (LHOCS)
Geeta Subramaniam-Mooney, LHOCS
Rangan Momen, London Councils
Jon Collins, Magistrates Association

In attendance

Matthew Chester, MOPAC
James Tate, MOPAC
Brendan Charnock, MOPAC

Agenda items

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

The chair welcomed attendees and undertook a round of introductions. Apologies noted.

2. Notes and actions from the last meeting

The notes from the meeting of 5 March 2018 were agreed without comment. All actions were agreed and complete or discussed if ongoing.

3. Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for the Victims Board were accepted without further comment.

4. Workplan Review

Updates on progress to workplan objectives provided.

London Victims Summit discussed with some members agreeing to be involved in delivering the summit.

5. Update on the Review of Compliance with the Victims' Code and Provision of Support Services for Victims

The Chair asked board members to give an increased push to the online survey through their organisations and networks. The board also heard from Kelly Lock - ORS information on the review work undertaken so far.

6. National Agenda Update

An update was provided by Jo Burch of MOJ.

The Victims Strategy

The board discussed that the strategy will be published in the summer and a key part of the strategy will be improving compliance with the Victims Code of Practice. Discussion was held around how best to measure and monitor compliance with the Victims Code.

Parole Board Review

The board discussed that consultation is underway on rule changes and the mechanism for victims to challenge Parole Board decisions. As with other services, it was raised that victims find it hard to find information about the parole process.

Cross-agency VPS Work

New guidance will be issued for police and CPS on Victim Personal Statements (VPS).

7. Knife Crime Strategy and Tackling Serious Violence

There was a discussion on the victim profile in knife crime/serious violence. The potential for victims to also be perpetrators and vice versa is higher than in other types of crime. The board noted that this could also impact on victims' perceptions regarding Restorative Justice (one of the commitments).

Next meeting 10:00-12:00 Monday 17 September 2018