

Victims Board - 5 March 2018 Record of Meeting

Attendees

Chair: Claire Waxman, Independent Victims' Commissioner for London
Kilvinder Vigurs, National Probation Service
Patricia Cadden, NHS England
Shaun Brewer, Citizens Advice Witness Service – deputising for Judith Baker
Catherine Hinwood, Ministry of Justice
Michelle Filby, HM Courts and Tribunals Service
Commander Neil Jerome, Metropolitan Police Service
Bernadette Keane, Victim Support
Claire Lindley, Crown Prosecution Service
Rangan Momen, London Councils
Neil Thurlow, London Borough of Merton
Natasha Plummer, Head of Engagement, MOPAC
Jon Collins, The Magistrates Association
Kelly Lock?

In Attendance

Matthew Chester, MOPAC
Sangeeta Bhui, MOPAC
Samantha Macleod, MOPAC

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

The chair welcomed attendees and undertook a round of introductions.

2. Notes and actions from the last meeting

The notes from the meeting were agreed without comment. All actions were either complete or covered in the agenda.

3. Terms of Reference and Work Plan

The Terms of Reference were broadly agreed with slight final changes to be made. Terminology to be amended before sign off before the next board. There was also some discussion about ensuring that the board members provide a broad perspective and fair representation.

The board agreed to work collaboratively together to place victims at the heart of the justice system.

4. VCOP Review and Needs Assessment

Kelly Lock, ORS, advised the board on the VCOP review being undertaken including the key research questions and the proposed methodology including an online survey, telephone interviews and focus groups. There was some discussion about accessing victims who do not come forward to Police.

5. Victim Strategy

Catherine Linwood advised that this is due to be published in the Spring, with the findings from the Parole Board review included.

The Board discussed the impact media can have on victims. There was also discussion around disclosure, particularly in the digital world, and victims' rights to privacy being compromised.

6. Victims' Summit Day

The Board were asked to consider the purpose and objectives of the next Summit, and to get involved with specific areas collaboratively with MOPAC.

7. Knife Crime Strategy

Board asked to think of how we can assist with this - looking into how professionals can identify vulnerabilities that may increase the likelihood of victims progressing into offenders.

8. Any Other Business

During the meeting Claire invited a sexual offences survivor to speak to the Board regarding her experiences, and issues with the criminal justice service, particularly in regard to the Victim Contact Scheme.

The Board thanked her for her bravery in coming to this meeting to highlight to the Board on a personal level how a victim can be impacted by poor service.

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