

London Victims' Board July 2020**Record of Meeting**

Attendees	
Independent Victims Commissioner (chair)	VC
Mayors Office for Policing and Crime	MOPAC
Victims Reference Group	VRG
Metropolitan Police Service	MPS
Ministry of Justice	MoJ
National Health Service	NHS
Metropolitan Police Service	MPS
Ministry of Justice	MoJ
National Probation Service	NPS
Crown Prosecution Service	CPS
Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service	HMCTS
Victim Support (LVWS)	VS
Judiciary	J
Parole Board	PB
London Councils/London Heads of Community Safety	LC/LHoCs
Independent Bar Council	IBC
Citizens Advice	CA

Agenda Items**1. Welcome, introductions, and apologies**

The chair welcomed attendees and thanked them for their hard work during COVID-19 pandemic. Apologies were received and noted from NHSE and Magistrates Association.

2. Minutes and update on actions from last meeting

The notes from the meeting in April 2020 were agreed without comment.

3. Update: Impact of COVID 19 on Victims and Witnesses

Members provided key updates:

Hate crime – during lockdown recorded levels were initially low but recently these have increased. The increase from May to June 2020 was the highest monthly level recorded in last ten years – above levels seen before lockdown and higher than the period preceding EU referendum.

Domestic Abuse – levels continue to be high. MOPAC has been working with sector to secure refuge accommodation for different cohorts of victims.

Courts and provision of special measures – flagged as an area of concern due to contingency measures changing listing process and court layouts.

LVWS – previously saw decrease in MPS referrals in earlier phases of lockdown. Referrals are now at pre-COVID levels except. The service is focussed on delivery of face-to-face services and pre-trial court visits where it is safe to do so.

4. HMCTS London COVID Recovery

Partners engaged in discussion regarding the situation within the courts in the midst of the pandemic. A number of victim and witness concerns were flagged.

5. Supporting Black and Minority Ethnic Victims and Witnesses

The chair updated on a roundtable held in July 2020 to discuss the experiences of Black victims in London to better understand and improve their experiences.

Members provided updates on internal pieces of work ongoing within their organisations with regard to disproportionality.

4. Progress Update – VCoP Review

MOPAC presented the action plan developed following the consultancy project completed earlier in the year. A further accelerator event which was delayed by COVID, focussed on exploring the victim hub model will be planned for later in the year subject to government guidance on social distancing.

5. Partner updates and key events

MoJ advised that responses to a public consultation on the Victims Code are being received and MoJ hope to have a revised code in the autumn. MoJ noted that COVID-19 has impacted development of Victims' Law but has allowed for Helen's Law and Domestic Abuse Bill to be progressed.
