

Victims Services E-Bulletin Essex Edition



Hello and Welcome...



Nick Alston, Essex PCC

Welcome to the first in a series of regular e-bulletins designed to keep you up to date with developments around the victims' services commissioning agenda.

First of all, I would like to introduce my new Assistant Director for Commissioning, Greg Myddelton. Many of you would have met

our AD at the recent victim's conference. Greg comments, "A big thank you to those that were able to attend the conference on 14th March; this event was crucial to kick-off conversations with victims and service providers to inform our future commissioning intentions and strategy.

This bulletin will build on information discussed at the conference and will also include national, regional and local activity to keep you informed of changes in this area."

Developments this

month include the launch of our victims'-pathfinder projects, confirmation of funding amounts from the MoJ and the commissioning of a 'victim's perspective' research project.

In the next bulletin we will bring you an update from the national early adopter areas, which will give us some rich information to inform our local decision making.



Greg Myddelton,
Assistant Director for
Commissioning

PCC Hosts Unique Victims' Conference

On 14th March 2014, the PCC hosted a significant conference where victims of crime bravely spoke about their experiences and organisations came together to discuss victims' needs. The event entitled 'Building on Local

Strength; Victims Services Commissioning Conference' was held at the Oasis Church in Chelmsford. The jam-packed day was full of presentations, q&a sessions, brainstorming activities, workshops and some emotional real-life

accounts. The most valuable part of the day was when victims spoke about their experiences of sexual violence and abuse, and how they had coped. They were supported by staff from South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre (SERICC).



Susannah Opens Event



Mapping Exercise



Guests Brainstorm

[Making the Headlines](#)

Change is long overdue for sex abuse victims

<http://goo.gl/Nw8h9o>

Victims of FGM — anonymity in court

<http://goo.gl/Unse3k>

Police fail domestic abuse victims -- HMIC report

<http://goo.gl/yT9Uix>

Criminal funds to help victims

<http://goo.gl/tjD8xj>

What's happened so far?

March 2014

OPCC share conference feedback

March 2014

OPCC communicate process and criteria around pathfinder projects

Spring 2014

Conversations with sector regarding progress (now until summer 2014)



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Making the Headlines

Essex telephone scam victim in her 90s speaks out after tricksters target 140 residents in just one month
<http://goo.gl/dXz96k>

Acid attacks on the rise in UK, according to victim report figures
<http://goo.gl/gdN9jp>

Shining a light on human trafficking and modern slavery
<http://goo.gl/N4q021>

PCC's Pathfinder Project Criteria Revealed

The fund for the PCC'S Pathfinder Projects is now open and it is aimed at Essex voluntary and community sector organisations.

Nick Alston, PCC for Essex, is keen to use this as an opportunity to work with local voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations to ensure that victims are placed at the centre of the system and the services they receive best meet their individual needs to help them cope and recover. The Essex PCC would like to use some of this funding to allow local VCS organisations to

test some new approaches to victims' services.

Examples might include:

1. An opportunity to test out the delivery of services that already exist outside Essex but have not been tried locally
 2. Making existing services available to a wider audience or across a wider geographical area.
 3. Supporting the development of new consortia or collaborative ventures between VCS organisations.
- The PCC would also welcome proposals for ideas that do not meet the above criteria but

that could help to develop the capacity and capability of the victims' services sector across Essex.

Timescales
 Recognising that this funding is time-limited and that the learning from the pathfinders needs to inform commissioning from the end of 2014 onwards, it is proposed that pathfinder funding could be made available to successful applicants for a six month period. Grants will commence from June 2014. To apply for a grant, please see the form attached to this newsletter.

MOJ Announce Funding for Essex

The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) has confirmed that the total budget for all PCCs across the UK is £24million for all victims services. From October 2014 responsibility and funding for the majority of victims'

support services will be shifting from Central Government (Ministry of Justice) to local PCCs. Essex has been allocated £640,000 to develop local capacity and commission restorative justice services.



What's Next?

June 2014
 Draft Victim's Commissioning Strategy

October 2014
 PCCs assumes responsibility for some local victims' commissioning

April 2015
 Full transfer of funding and responsibility for victims' commissioning

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