

<b>Approved By:</b>	<b>Classification of Paper:</b> Not Protectively Marked
<b>Report to PCC</b>	<b>Report reference number</b> PCC/ 0035/15
<b>Date of Decision</b> 19 March 2015	<b>Area of County/Stakeholders affected</b> Countywide
<b>Title of report</b> PCC Victims Fund – Essex Victims' Assessment & Referral service (2015-16)	
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**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1. To seek approval for the allocation of £658,201 from the PCC's 2015-16 Victims' Commissioning Fund to Victim Support, via the Surrey, Sussex, Thames Valley (SSTV) framework.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. Approve the allocation of the 2015-16 victims' commissioning fund grant to Victim Support for the delivery of the Essex Victims' Assessment & Referral Service from the regional Victims' Assessment & Referral Centre (VARC) in Ingatestone.

**3. Benefits of Proposal**

- 3.1. This service will ensure Essex residents are supported to cope and recover after becoming victims of crime. Victim Support will provide a victims' assessment and referral service via a regional Victim Assessment & Referral Centre (VARC). The service will incorporate 4 key delivery phases of support:
- **Access** – To ensure quick and easy access, and re-access, to the service for those that want and need it
  - **Cope** - To help victims to cope with a range of issues through a range of appropriate responses and signposting to other forms of support
  - **Recover** - To move individuals through a process of change, aiding the recovery of those affected by becoming a victim, and preventing repeat victimisation
  - **Move On** - To ensure the long-term recovery of those affected by becoming a victim of crime, ensure their presenting problems have been resolved, and that they can successfully become independent of the Service

- 3.2 The delivery methods to achieve this will include:
- Face-to-face and telephone provision
  - Use of trained and supported volunteers
  - Specialised paid staff
  - Use of technology - such as telephone, SMS text and online support
- There is an expectation that the interventions provided will be local, and will be evidence-based and deliver the best possible social, emotional and practical return.
- 3.3 Support will be prioritised for those that are entitled to an enhanced service as specified within the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime, including
- Victims of a serious crime
  - Vulnerable victims
  - Intimidated victims
  - Persistently-targeted victims

#### **4. Background and proposal**

- 4.1. From April 2015 the commissioning of referral and assessment services to victims of crime becomes the responsibility of local Police & Crime Commissioners. Prior to this, the Ministry of Justice arranged a national contract for this service to be supplied by Victim Support.
- 4.2. Eastern region OPCCs worked with the consultancy firm TONIC to negotiate a regional reduction of £200,000 to ensure the costs of this contract were within the budget allocated to OPCCs from Ministry of Justice.
- 4.3. This contract forms part of the Surrey, Sussex, Thames-Valley (SSTV) framework that was arranged by those three force areas in 2014 – Victim Support were successful in responding to an open, competitive OJEU tender process, for the delivery of this service.

#### **5. Police and Crime Plan**

- 5.1. This proposal supports the PCC's vision and delivery of the following key areas of focus:
- Supporting our victims of crime
  - Reducing Hidden Harm
  - Ensuring local solutions meet local problems

#### **6. Police Operational Implications**

- 6.1 The effective operation of this service will rely on timely and accurate information being provided to Victim Support from Essex Police via the daily Automatic Data Transfer (ADT) of information from Police systems to Victim Support.

#### **7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1 The PCC would have commissioned Victim Support to meet the outcomes outlined above, at an annual cost of £655,201, with year 1 set-up costs of £3,000.



**Publication**

**Reasons for non-publication (state 'None' if applicable)**

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Signed/Print name

Report for publication

YES

NO

If the report is not for publication, the Chief Executive will decide if and how the public can be informed of the decision.