

## **Victims Board- 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

### **Record of Meeting**

#### **Attendees**

Chair: Claire Waxman, Independent Victims' Commissioner for London  
Patricia Cadden, NHS England  
Deepti Davenport, Citizens Advice Witness Service – deputising for Judith Baker  
Eleanor Davidson, Ministry of Justice – deputising for Catherine Hinwood  
Michelle Filby, HM Courts and Tribunals Service  
Commander Neil Jerome, Metropolitan Police Service  
Bernadette Keane, Victim Support  
Jan Lamping, Crown Prosecution Service – deputising for Claire Lindley  
Rangan Momen, London Councils  
Neil Thurlow, London Borough of Merton  
Natasha Plummer, Head of Engagement, MOPAC

#### **In Attendance**

Matthew Chester, MOPAC  
Sangeeta Bhui, MOPAC  
Roger Hadwen, MOPAC

### **1. Terms of Reference**

The drafted Terms of Reference were discussed by members and broadly agreed with some small amendments recommended by the board. It was agreed they would be redrafted before the next board for approval.

### **2. Membership**

The Board members agreed to identify named deputies of sufficient decision-making authority in case of nonattendance. It was also discussed about inviting additional attendees to be present depending on the agenda to ensure specific topics could be covered most effectively.

### **3. Governance**

The members discussed how this Board relates to and differentiates from other boards. It was agreed that arrangements should be reviewed regularly in order to have clarity about the different roles of the governance Boards to avoid duplication.

### **4. Victims' Reference Group**

The board discussed that the Victims' Reference Group's (in development, to be chaired by Claire) work will impact on the Victims Board. A cross section of victims, from different crime types and demographics will be needed to make up panels at the VRG and ensure discussions are broad and representative.

### **5. Victims' Summit**

Claire Waxman thanked everyone for their participation and contributions towards the 2017 Summit and feedback from members about the event was positive. There was some brief

discussion about developing the next Summit including having a specific theme, or a 'victims week' to promote this.

## **6. Workplan**

The Board looked at the actions from the Justice Matters session on victims from September 2017 to form the basis of the workplan for the Board. This includes, review of compliance with the Victims Code of Practice, Victim Personal Statements, trials and victims' compensation schemes. There was a discussion around VPS and the lack of communication about the fact that victims can be cross examined on the content of their personal statements in court as well as potentially have this published by media. It was also highlighted that victims are not aware whether their VPS was considered during sentencing.

## **Other workstreams**

Online Victims' Portal – Claire updated the Board on progress.  
Claire Waxman described Deep Dive of rape cases that was being undertaken and the findings will be fed back to the board.

## **7. VCOP review**

This Review looks at the full range of services provided to victims – by statutory and CJS agencies as determined by the Victims' Code and the provision of support services, primarily delivered by the VCSE sector. All members are supportive of this Review and will be kept up to date on progress.

## **8. Court Survey**

There was an update that MOPAC and partners are developing a criminal justice court satisfaction survey. There was a request for members to identify key questions and any oversights.

## **9. Any Other Business**

There was some discussion about the role of London Heads of Community Safety and the need to clarify their roles to ensure that they have insight into issues of ASB and intervention.

**Next meeting: 10:00-12:00 Monday 5 March 2018**