

## LCRB – Victims’ Board

### 10 December 2018 - Record of Meeting

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#### **Attendees**

Chair: Independent Victims’ Commissioner for London  
Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)  
Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)  
Ministry of Justice (MOJ)  
London Heads of Community Safety (LHOCS)  
National Probation Service (NPS)  
Victims’ Reference Group (VRG)  
Her Majesty’s Courts and Tribunal Service (HMCTS)  
Victim Support  
London Councils  
Parole Board  
Magistrates Association  
Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime

#### **Agenda Items**

##### **1. Welcome, introductions and apologies**

##### **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. Workplan Review**

The Chair explained that the workplan for the Victims Board is being revised and redrafted document will be circulated for comment before the next meeting. This will include work being undertaken such as; partners role in embedding the London Integrated Victim and Witness Service, reviewing the Victims Code of Practice and supporting victims of major incidents.

##### **4. Victim Summit**

An overview document of the plan for the Victims Summit developed in consultation with the Victims Reference Group was provided to board members for comment.

##### **5. Victim Reference Group Update**

### **Victim Surcharge**

Victim Surcharge was discussed as VRG members had highlighted the concerns of challenges and blockages in accessing their compensation. MoJ advised that surcharge payments are paid into the MoJ Victims Budget which goes out to commissioned services. HMCTS advised that a system is in place to support enforcement of these payments.

The HMCTS's Trust statement looks at the amounts collected and what is used on. There is a 72% collection rate; this includes road traffic related offences where compliance is higher than other offence types.

### **Victim Liaison Unit review**

Discussions were held pertaining to the findings of the two inspections that took place in two VLU's. The Area Inspection for London North and South were both very positive and these can be found here: <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmctpsi/our-reports/>

### **Victims Engagement Roundtable**

The Magistrates Association discussed the current consultation that is being undertaken regarding Magistrates and their understanding of the gaps that effect victims. The consultation will develop resources and training to address these gaps.

## **6. National Agenda update**

MOJ provided an update on the Cross Government Victims Strategy. The Strategy has 86 commitments and is engaging stakeholders about priority commitments. There are three consultation exercises the Victims Strategy has committed to and they include:

1. Publishing the revised Victims Code by the end of 2019;
2. Consulting on the detail of a Victims' Law; and
3. Reviewing CICA, no timings attached to this yet.

The MoJ will provide progress updates to the Victims Board and would like to engage MOPAC, APCC, and practitioners in a staged way into the conversations about the revising and measuring Victims Code compliance going forward.

The strategy also mandates that as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019, Police and Crime Commissioners will be responsible for some monitoring of compliance with the Victims Code. More guidance on this exercise will follow.

## **7. Any other business**

All matters were covered during the meeting and no other business was highlighted.