

**WEST MIDLANDS POLICE
AND CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

**NON-CONFIDENTIAL
NOTICE OF DECISION**

005/2016

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Title: Victims Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

From April 1st 2015, Police and Crime Commissioners took on responsibility for commissioning locally most of the emotional and practical support services for victims of crime that are provided by the voluntary and community sector and restorative justice. These services help victims to cope with and recover from the impacts of crime.

The services that have been commissioned form part of a complex and varied network of support that exists for victims, to ensure that the needs of victims are met through improved services. The Victims Commission, the Commissioners' expert advisory group of representatives from the voluntary and community sector have recommended support services in a number of key areas that the Commissioner needs to address. All services will offer a West Midlands response across areas of critical need and emerging issues. Annex 1 sets out the funding awarded.

DECISION

I approve the allocations set out in the attachment at Annex 1.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in this decision and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for the West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime. Any interests are indicated below.

Signature.....

Date.....15.02.16.....

NON - CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1. Funding for victims of crime and responsibility for services for victims of crime transfers to Police and Crime Commissioners on the 1 October 2014. They will take on responsibility for commissioning locally most of the emotional and practical support services for victims of crime that are provided by the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector. These services help victims to cope with and recover from the impacts of crime. Cope and recover are the outcomes which services for victims should be aiming to achieve as far as possible.
2. The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) will retain responsibility for commissioning certain specialist services and £22 million of the core budget has been allocated for these national services. Support includes services for those bereaved through homicide, rape support centres, court based witness services, human trafficking and some telephone helplines such as BRAKE.
3. The support services outlined at Annex 1 are services recommended to the Commissioner by the Victims Commission; the expert advisory group that has been working for the last 12 months on the Commissioners hidden crimes priority. At the January meeting of the Strategic Police and Crime Board, the Victims Service report was considered and a link to the report is here: <http://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/media/411229/08-SPCB-05-Jan-Victims-Services-in-the-West-Midlands-2015.pdf> The report sets out the key recommendations, the work that has been done to establish referral pathways, existing services, map services and look at gaps in delivery. The services that the Commissioner has approved are delivered by voluntary and community organisations working in partnership to deliver West Midlands wide services in response to the priorities identified and recommended by the Victims Commission.

Financial Implications

4. The total budget for Victims Services in 2015-16 is £2,344,273.

Legal Implications

5. The funding will be issued as a grant under s56 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004.
6. Schedule 9 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 provides Commissioners with the powers to award crime and disorder grants to any organisations and projects they consider will help them achieve their crime prevention and wider priorities.

Schedule of Background Papers

None

Public Access to Information

Information contained in this decision is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and other legislation. This decision will be made available on the Commissioner's website.