



Name of Meeting / Policy / Document Reviewed:

Proposed South Wales Victim and Survivor Collaborative Network

Request to the South Wales Criminal Justice and IOM Board:

Representatives on the South Wales IOM Criminal Justice Board are asked to:

1. Agree and adopt the approach and principles proposed in this paper for a Victim Survivor Network and comment on the detail.
2. Nominate a designated representative from each agency to support the implementation of the Victim and Survivor Network.

Overview and Proposal:

The Criminal Justice process is often complex to navigate and is likely to have profound and far-reaching impacts on the victim, witnesses and their families. To remedy these complexities and deal with any inconsistencies presented within the Criminal Justice process, victims and survivors of crime must be empowered to share their experiences, which should subsequently be considered of fundamental importance when implementing improvements to the Criminal Justice System, both at a strategic and operational level.

The South Wales Criminal Justice and IOM Board continues to drive the coordinated improvements to the Criminal Justice System. The South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner's Team proposes that victim and survivor experiences and feedback should be put at the heart of ongoing efforts to drive these improvements. Following consultation with local victims and survivors across South Wales, this proposal is designed to enable victim and survivors to share their experiences of the Criminal Justice System through a South Wales Victim and Collaborative Survivor Network which will be facilitated through the Police and Crime Commissioner's Victims and Vulnerability team. Through this network agencies will be afforded the opportunity to directly feed back to victims and survivors on improvements and respond to the issues identified.

Proposal for a Victim and Survivor Collaborative Network;

The South Wales Victim and Survivor Network will develop and establish a victim and survivor engagement monitoring framework, which will capture a coordinated set of recommendations for criminal justice agencies, third sector support services. It will engage with devolved services as well as non-devolved agencies. Through this framework we will monitor the impacts of survivor feedback on the improvements of all aspects of policy, practice and service delivery on a local, regional and Welsh footprint.

This network will be open to representatives from local Violence against Women, Domestic Violence & Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) victim and survivor groups across the South Wales Police footprint. The network will also have two underpinning principles.

First, we will work with local partners within South Wales through existing formal structures and on existing footprints within South Wales. The South Wales Police BCUs (Basic Command Units) now use the same boundaries as the Probation Service, the University Health Boards and some other public service structures and cover two or three local authority areas. Key local structures include Public Service Boards (PSBs), Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and Councils as we seek to understand how victim and survivor voices are listened to in practice across shared regional footprints. In the past agencies have made separate arrangements for providing a service to victims, with the victim sometimes left to make sense of three or four different agency arrangements. The Vulnerability and Victims team will facilitate conversations between victims and survivors and relevant agencies to ensure victim and

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survivor feedback reaches each agency and is also considered as part of inter-agency operational and strategic improvements. We will also seek to identify best practice with a view of remodelling across shared regional footprints where applicable. We will work to create consistency in relation to the way victims and survivors are heard, so that we have a shared approach to meeting the needs of victims and survivors in policy and practice.

- Second, the network will provide the opportunity to build upon the current monitoring and compliance arrangements through the South Wales Victim Code of Practice. It will seek to use the views and experiences of victims and survivors to enhance existing arrangements and to support joint work with both criminal justice and devolved partners. This approach will assist agencies to better understand and seek positive solutions to improve the experiences of victims and survivors.

The Commissioner's Vulnerability and Victim team is seeking to facilitate the network which we hope will provide local victim and survivor perspectives to current issues, future commissioning opportunities and the development of new co-produced victim services.

Work to date has identified that more needs to be done to better support those with protected characteristics as well as children and young people. The network will support a set of sub-groups, which will provide an opportunity for feedback and peer-to-peer support to; for example for male victims, black and ethnic minority victims children and young people, and the LGBT+ community as well as maintaining our long-standing commitment to women and girls.

Request to the South Wales Criminal Justice and IOM Criminal Justice Board:

Colleagues representing their agency on the South Wales Criminal Justice and IOM Board are asked to:

- Agree to be involved in the Network and to endorse the principles proposed in this paper and contribute to developing the detail and practice of the proposed Victim and Survivor Network.
- Nominate a representative to support the implementation of the Victim and Survivor Network.

Hannah Evans Price
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25th of August