



Police and Crime Panel

DATE: Thursday 1st February 2024

Report of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Victims' Champions

Purpose

1. To update the Police and Crime Panel on the work of the Victims' Champions.

Background

2. The role of the Police and Crime Commissioner is to secure efficient and effective policing. In exercising those statutory functions, the Police and Crime Commissioner has a legal duty to consult with victims in setting policing priorities and commissions many of the services that support victims to comply with the victims' code of practice. Putting victims first remains the 'golden thread' of the Police and Crime Plan.
3. In setting out the Police and Crime Plan, in order deliver her vision to reduce victimisation and ensure that her approach was victim centric, Durham's Police and Crime Commissioner appointed three Victims' Champions in December 2021 to act as an independent voice for victims, one each for anti-social behaviour, crime, and domestic abuse. The Commissioner's Champions are there to ensure that victims' voices are heard, and their lived experiences help shape future policy, planning and the commissioning of victim support services.

Work of the Victims' Champions

4. The Victims' Champions have engaged with victims to learn of their 'lived experience' from initial contact through their individual criminal justice 'journey' adopting different approaches and methods.
5. They have established a pattern of emerging themes with case studies and together with further research have helped to inform policy, planning and the commissioning of services for victims. The report categorizes concerns from victims into three key areas: Reporting & communication; investigative criminal justice process and victim impact.
6. The report highlights the work of the Champions, their findings, achievements to date and provides information to partners for opportunities to change.

The Champions' Annual Report is attached for consideration.

Next Steps

7. The Report is in currently in draft format and will be professionally designed and digitally formatted in colour for distribution from March 2024.

Recommendations

8. The Police and Crime Panel are invited to note the report and provide comments.

Andrea Patterson & Michael Banks
Victims' Champions

Andrea.patterson@durham-pcc.gov.uk

Michael.banks2@durham-pcc.gov.uk