



Police and Crime Panel

DATE: Monday 3rd February 2025

Presentation by 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, including key deliverables and service improvements 2024.

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 to 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 and their support services 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.
6. The Champions use the '3R' approach: Raise awareness of victims' issues; Respond locally wherever possible; seek Reform where a national solution is required.

Recommendations

7. The Police and Crime Panel are invited to receive the presentation, ask questions and provide comments.

**Michael Banks, Andrea Patterson & Tonya Pattison
Victims' Champions**

Andrea.patterson@durham-pcc.gov.uk

Michael.banks2@durham-pcc.gov.uk

Tonya.pattison@durham-pcc.gov.uk