



**OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME  
COMMISSIONER FOR THAMES VALLEY**

**REPORT FOR INFORMATION / DECISION**

2015/002

**Title: Contract for non-specialist victim services awarded to Victim Support**

**Executive Summary:**

Police and Crime Commissioners will take responsibility for commissioning victim referral, assessment and non-specialist support services with effect from 1st April 2015. This responsibility was previously held by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and the change follows a Government consultation in 2012, Getting it Right for Victims and Witnesses.

In response to this shift in responsibilities, the Offices of the Police and Crime Commissioners (OPCCs) for Surrey, Sussex and Thames Valley jointly conducted an OJEU process for a framework that will provide these services for all three police areas. Other OPCCs have joined the framework.

The procurement process is complete and the contract has been awarded to Victim Support.

**Recommendation:**

This paper recommends that the PCC for Thames Valley awards the framework contract to Victim Support and calls-off on services from the framework.

**Police and Crime Commissioner**

I hereby approve the recommendation above.

**Signature**

**Date**

27.1.15

## **PART 1 – NON-CONFIDENTIAL**

### **1 Introduction and background**

- 1.1 The OPCCs for Surrey, Sussex and Thames Valley have worked collaboratively to commission a single support service, and can demonstrate better value prices as a result. The OPCCs completed significant research into victims' needs including data analysis, focus groups, quantitative consultation, legal requirements and use of best practice and national research for this project.
- 1.2 The OPCCs jointly developed the 'Invitation to Tender' documents which stipulated the needs of victims and the OPCCs involved. The tender has been opened up as a framework to enable other OPCCs to call off on the services without the need to go through costly procurement exercises. The OPCCs conducted significant market engagement prior to going to tender, including a market engagement event.
- 1.3 The tender process opened in June 2014 and closed in August 2014. The evaluation considered cost of service, quality of service, security and social responsibility and legal requirements. Victim Support's bid passed the evaluation process and will offer victims a service that will help them to cope and recover from crime.

### **2 Issues for consideration**

- 2.1 The UK along with 26 other Member States of the EU will be bound by the obligations of the EU Directive which comes into force from October 2015. The aim of the EU Directive is to ensure that all victims of crime anywhere within the EU receive a minimum standard of support and protection.
- 2.2 The benefits of collaboration must be balanced against local needs and priorities.

### **3 Financial comment**

- 3.1 The Ministry of Justice has indicated that it will grant the OPCC for Thames Valley £2,467,000 in 2015/16 for the provision of Victims and Witnesses services.
- 3.2 The cost of calling-off on the specified services in Thames Valley will be £789,970 in Year 1, and £787,970 in Years 2 and 3 (i.e. minus £2,000 set-up costs). This cost may reduce if additional PCCs use the framework to call-off on services since there is provision built into the contract for the 3 founding members (i.e. Surrey, Sussex and Thames Valley) to receive a rebate should additional PCC's use the framework to procure services
- 3.3 The cost of this annual contract is significantly lower than the annual MoJ grant which leaves plenty of spare capacity for the PCC to invest in specialist victims' services.



**4 Legal comments**

4.1 This contract has been let in accordance with English Law in all respects, and subject to the jurisdiction of the Courts of England.

**5 Equality comments**

5.1 All services must meet the Equality Duty legal obligations for public bodies set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. When evaluating the tender submission, Victim Support demonstrated compliance with statutory regulations regarding equality and diversity.

5.2 The Founding Members and Victim Support will conduct regular reviews of equality issues to highlight and address areas of need and to ensure the service is responsive to the needs of specific communities.

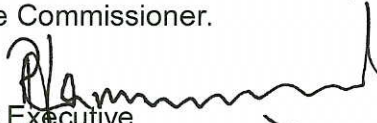

**6 Background papers**

6.1 None

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<b>Name &amp; Role</b>	<b>Officer</b>
Head of Unit	Shona Morrison
Legal Advice	Paul Hammond
Financial Advice	Ian Thompson
Equalities & Diversity	Shona Morrison

**STATUTORY CHIEF OFFICERS' APPROVAL**

We have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that financial and legal advice have been taken into account in the preparation of this report.	
We are satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner.	
 Chief Executive	Date 26/01/2015
 Chief Finance Officer	Date 23/1/15

2020/10/22

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