



COMMUNITY JUSTICE SECURITY

EXECUTIVE ORDER 0041 – VICTIM AND WITNESS SERVICE

By the authority of the Police and Crime Commissioner as designated by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, and, by democratic mandate invested in me by the electorate of Northamptonshire, I have taken the following decision:

To award the contract for provision of the Victim and Witness Service in Northamptonshire to Victim Support for a three year term 1st October 2014 to 30th September 2017, for the total maximum contract value of £1,759,939

The new service provides holistic and seamless support to victims and witnesses of all types of crime, and where they choose to report to the police, through any investigation, court or justice processes, ensuring they are informed and supported for as long as they need it. This service will also coordinate the delivery of specialist support to victims, including services for those affected by domestic and sexual violence, serious road traffic collisions, on-going antisocial behaviour and for those with learning or physical disabilities or mental health needs. Enabling and supporting victims and witnesses to attend court and ensuring they receive the support and measures to help them do so is vital to this new service supporting the justice system. Using robust research and evaluation mechanisms, this new model is the first of its kind in the UK, using insights into victims and witnesses experiences to push evidence-based practice in the delivery of support services and to influence policy makers and all justice agencies to listen to the voices and needs of victims and witnesses.

ADAM SIMMONDS

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

4th August 2014

Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken in November 2013 during the design stages of the new service, using feedback from victims, witnesses and stakeholders. This assessment was reviewed in April 2014 and July 2014 which highlighted areas to address relating to the accessibility of services. Additional funding has been achieved through a Ministry of Justice scheme to put in place specialist services to support victims with learning, physical and mental health needs. The next assessment is due in October 2014 when the new service is running and feedback from service users and staff will inform further opportunities to ensure the equality, diversity and human rights of all victims and witnesses are being met.

Other Advice Taken

Procurement and legal advice was sought from the East Midlands Strategic Commercial Unit.

The OPCC is working closely with the Ministry of Justice to ensure seamless and successful transition from national victim service arrangements to local provision.