



# **OPCC Victims & Commissioning Team Market Engagement Event**

Supporting Young Victims of Crime

24<sup>th</sup> April 2023



# Today's Aims

- To engage with service providers (both potential and current) and commissioners of Victims' Services in Thames Valley.
- To share learning and future challenges regarding commissioning services for young victims of crime.
- To enable opportunities for service providers and commissioners to feed back and inform future commissioned service provision.



# Background to OPCC commissioning

- The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has been responsible for Victims' Services commissioning since October 2014.
- Annual Victims Grant from Ministry of Justice in the region of £3m.
- Since 2020, Thames Valley have used core funding to provide
  - An internal Victims First Hub to receive police and victims referrals
  - The Young Victims Service
  - The Victims First Emotional Support Service, which includes DA support for standard risk
  - The Victims First Adults Service, which includes specialist ISVA
  - The Victims First Counselling Service



# Current Young Victims' Service

- Offers support to CYP aged 5-18yrs who have been impacted by crime.
- Uses the Protective Behaviour model of support to provide 1:1 and group support.
- Provides a ChISVA/ChIDVA service to victims of Sexual and/or Domestic Violence and who require support through the criminal justice process.
- 41% increase Yr 1 – Yr 3.



# Current Service Referral Source

- Three biggest sources of referrals are Criminal Justice, Social Care, and Schools.
- There is significant variation at the county and LA level within counties.
- This could indicate variance in visibility and knowledge of the service across the area, or could suggest a reliance on our service in areas where other CYP services are unable to meet need.

	Berks	Bucks	Oxon	Total
<b>Criminal Justice*</b>	25%	38%	15%	25%
<b>Family Referral</b>	13%	12%	13%	13%
<b>Health</b>	4%	7%	11%	8%
<b>Local Authority</b>	1%	2%	1%	1%
<b>School</b>	15%	13%	26%	19%
<b>Self-referral</b>	3%	3%	5%	4%
<b>Social Care</b>	37%	19%	26%	28%
<b>Third Sector</b>	1%	6%	4%	3%

# Crime Types

Bullying	61	5%
Child Abuse	52	4%
CPV	9	1%
Cyber Abuse	16	1%
DV (Victim)	20	2%
DV (Witness)	331	27%
Exploitation	7	1%
Grooming	17	1%
Harassment	15	1%
Hate Crime	16	1%
Kidnap	2	0%
Physical Assault	160	13%
Sexual Offence (Victim)	428	35%
Sexual Offence (Witness)	3	0%
Stalking	5	0%
Theft/CD	13	1%
Threat/Intimidation	56	5%
Witnessed crime against another	28	2%
Dog Attack	1	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1240</b>	

In 2022 exposure to DA (27%) and victims of sexual offences (35%) were by far the most prevalent primary crime types on referrals, followed by physical assault (13%).

37% of referrals had an additional crime type. Most commonly this additional crime type/need e.g. bullying or child abuse.

Though recorded as the primary crime type in only 5% of referrals, bullying was recorded as present in 12% of referrals.

# TVP Young Victims Data



Recorded Crime against a victim <18 across Thames Valley 2018-2022						
Crime Type	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand Total
Violence Without Injury	4,472	5,198	5,161	5,846	6,776	27,453
Violence With Injury	3,016	3,204	2,566	2,949	3,367	15,102
Sexual Offences	2,568	2,622	2,484	3,011	2,969	13,654
Acquisitive Crime	2,136	2,208	1,229	1,330	1,736	8,639
Public Order	416	596	635	1,242	1,382	4,271
Other	351	334	341	387	459	1,872
Criminal Damage	121	156	97	108	117	599
#N/A	8	3	7	4	13	35
Drugs	3	2	5	4	2	16
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>13,091</b>	<b>14,323</b>	<b>12,525</b>	<b>14,881</b>	<b>16,821</b>	<b>71,641</b>

# Gender

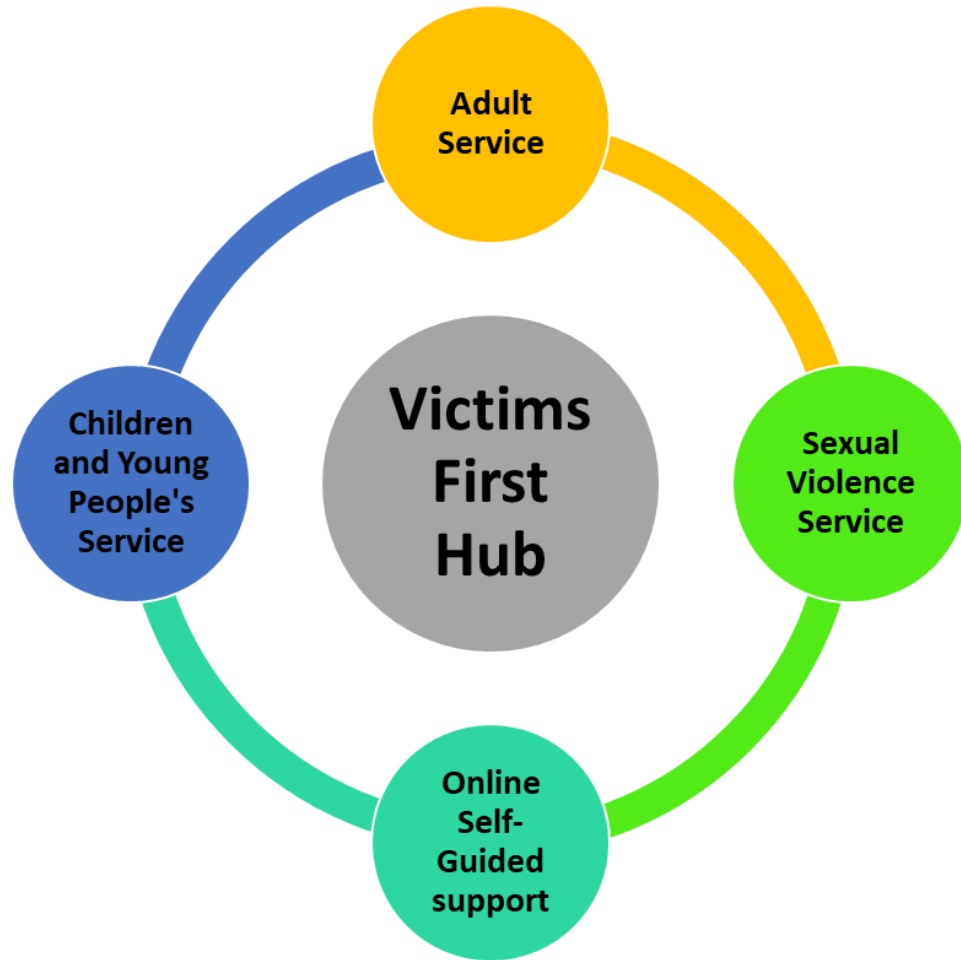


<u>Recorded Male and Female victimisation under 18 across Thames Valley 2018-2022</u>			
Crime Type	Female	Male	Grand Total
Violence Without Injury	13,682	13,244	26,926
Violence With Injury	6,082	8,734	14,816
Sexual Offences	11,035	2,441	13,476
Acquisitive Crime	1,824	6,610	8,434
Public Order	2,009	2,166	4,175
Other	1,318	522	1,840
Criminal Damage	251	336	587
#N/A	17	17	34
Drugs	8	8	16
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>36,226</b>	<b>34,078</b>	<b>70,304</b>





# New Services Model



**Counselling support**



**26 specialist grant-funded provision for DA and SV**



**Other potential funding opportunities**

# Proposed OPCC Young Victim's Service



<b>Children and Young People</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CHISVA/CHIDVA</li><li>• Emotional support</li><li>• Online support</li><li>• Group and peer support</li></ul>
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# Supporting Young Victims Research

Commissioned by the TV OPCC

Research by Professor Nadia Wager  
(Teesside University)



# Research areas

- Interventions
- Peer Support
- Technology
- Domestic Abuse
- Counselling
- Whole family
- Mental Health
- Volunteer Models
- Interventions for specific cohorts
- Best Practice
- Quality Standards
- Waiting List Support
- Parent Support



# Supporting CYP in Unsafe Environments

- This research was unable to identify a rationale for support only being used where it is perceived there is no ongoing risk.
- Most children's DA programmes appear to assume/require the agreement and engagement of the non-abusing parent.
- The same hesitance to use psychoeducational models where there is ongoing victimisation has not been applied to universal, school-based, or primary prevention programmes.



# Prevalence

- Evidence and professional insight both show that children and young people are at a relatively high risk of victimisation, and of experiencing high levels of distress as a result.
- Two UK surveys found that around 1/3 of the children respondents reported having witnessed at least one form of Domestic Abuse in their home.
- ONS Data for ages 10-15 found 7.1% had been exposed to Domestic Abuse in the last 12 months.
- Children with disabilities were significantly more likely to report being exposed to Domestic Abuse.

# Impact

- ‘**Shattered assumptions**’ about the world as a safe orderly place where people can be trusted, and also the ‘**level of autonomy**’ they have over their life path.
- Those most likely to experience longer-term distress were those who witnessed Domestic Violence, or Sexual or Physical Violence, and also Burglary.
- Some children’s response was worsened by:
  - A lack of understanding of the event or developing an understanding later in time.
  - It was their first experience of victimisation.
  - Shock that adults could not provide support and protection.
  - Relative physical weakness compared to adult perpetrators.
- Children’s victimisation is distinct from adults’ due to developmental impacts.

# Needs

- Being able to retreat to a safe, comfortable “space” can protect young people from the impacts of stress.
- Group discussion could help discharge internalised shame and provide validation.
- Procedural fairness – being listened to, offered explanations.
- Calmness in decision makers.





# Evidence Based Support Models

- Psychological debriefing
- Psychoeducation
- Trauma-Informed Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT)
- Eye Movement Desensitisation Reprocessing (EMDR)
- Family Therapy



# Peer Support

Can be beneficial to both the giver and receiver of the support.

For CYP it allows an opportunity to share lived experience and be part of a community which can help them in their quest to feel 'normal'.

Providing support and/or supervision from a trained member of staff provides a way of safeguarding those with lived experience who become peer supporters.

Providing support to CYP who engage in peer support can have a positive impact on their well-being.

# Training

- Specialised training should be mandatory
- Practitioners need professional level qualifications
- Sector-specific and cross-sector (to promote better understanding of each agencies responses)
- Trauma informed
- Restorative approach



# Current Challenges Supporting Young Victims

- Volume and waiting lists.
- Underfunding of health and wider social support services.
- Lack of Mental Health support pathways and limited support.
- More research and analysis is needed.



# Tea/Coffee Break





# Tabletop exercise – service model

- What could peer support, group support, online support, psychoeducational support, and counselling support look like?
- What does parent support look like?
- How do we ensure the new service works closely with TVP (automatic referrals for assessment?), Mental Health Services and Social Care?
- Where are the gaps in support for children and young people in Thames Valley?
- What are the future trends?
- How do we manage the increase in demand to meet the needs of young people who have witnessed Domestic Abuse?
- How do we commission to meet the needs of children and young people from diverse and disabled communities?



# Lunch and Networking





# Tabletop Exercise – Commissioning Focus

- How can we encourage partnership responses to our tenders which will be effective in service delivery?
- How can we commission to meet the needs of Thames Valley on a limited budget, for example do we need static locations for services?
- What training do staff need and what should staff salaries look like?
- When and how should support be available? (E.g. out of school hours, core business hours)?
- How do we ensure staff have the right support and encourage recruitment and retention?
- What should we definitely not include in our next commissioning?
- How do we engage with children and young people to gather their views to inform our commissioning?





# Timetable and Next Steps

- Contract term – **5 years** – likely 3 plus 1 plus 1
- Approximate Budget is **£900,000** but we want to build contracts that can flex dependant on increases in funding

- **Tender timeline**

Intending to issue the tender on **end of July 2023**

Bids submitted on **end of September 2023**

Anticipated award date **mid December 2023**

Mobilisation **January 2024 – 31st March 2024**

New Service start **1st April 2024**



**Thank you!**

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