

Please ask for: Councillor Rory Palmer
Tel: 0116 4540002
Our ref: July/SCL/RP/HJ
Date: 29 July 2014



Sir Clive Loader
Leicestershire & Rutland Police and Crime Commissioner
Police Headquarters
St Johns
Enderby
Leicester
LE19 2BX

Dear Sir Clive

Partner & Stakeholder Briefing - Victim & Witness Commissioning July 2014

Further to the recent communication from your Office with regards to the above, our understanding is that the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) wishes to change provision to meet the needs of victims and witnesses of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and crime. To that end, the OPCC is suggesting the establishment of a Victim & Witness Bureau, which would be accessed via a single helpline number by all victims of recorded and non-recorded ASB & crime.

In terms of a "victim focussed" approach, this is a welcomed approach as we all are aware that currently victims tend to receive inconsistent and patchy services depending on where they live.

Whilst we are aware that the OPCC's intention is to work with current providers and local authority commissioners to identify gaps and align plans and funding across LLR, we do have a number of issues that we would like to raise with you.

The OPCC has yet to consult this vision and the intended way forward with Members and officers at the highest level within organisations such as local authorities; sharing an idea (i.e. through the briefing) is not sufficient to garner buy-in. It is understood that the OPCC will be shortly writing to Local Authorities with a view to meeting and discussing the suggested ideas; this is a welcomed step forward.

Local authorities have existing plans and services which have been developed as a result of identifying a need (and following a commissioning process); and may be bound contractually into providing these services over the coming years.

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CITY MAYOR
Rory Palmer

3rd Floor, City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ
TELEPHONE: (0116) 4540002 deputymayor@leicester.gov.uk www.leicester.gov.uk

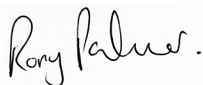
It is not clear at this stage how this fits in with the PCC's plans; particularly if the PCC feels that the current services are not in keeping with his vision. We think that this issue needs further discussions with officers on an individual basis to ensure better alignment of services going forward.

If not addressed and managed with due care, there is the potential for duplication, confusion and/ or disparity in services across the LLR, for example Leicester City Council has commissioned a single helpline service for victims of sexual abuse and domestic abuse – it is unclear how the PCC's V&WB general helpline will interrelate with this specialist helpline which will be available for city residents only.

Also, Leicester City Council funds and directs significant resources towards victim related work already e.g. support to victims of ASB, domestic abuse, sexual abuse, this is not always mirrored across the LLR – there is a real possibility that a large proportion of PCC funding will be allocated to those areas which have either not seen these activities as priorities and/ or where decisions have been made to reduce these services due to the need to make savings. This issue needs to be discussed in detail, it is therefore suggested that any meeting with the OPCC on a way forward, includes a discussion on the equitable share of resources across LLR.

I hope that you find these comments helpful in moving this agenda forward; we are keen to ensure the best possible outcome for victims of crime & ASB and would wish to engage positively in any discussion going forward.

Yours sincerely



Deputy City Mayor Rory Palmer



Assistant City Mayor Sarah Russell



Assistant City Mayor Vi Dempster

Cc Sir Peter Soulsby, City Mayor, Leicester City Council.
Joe Orson, Chair of the Police & Crime Panel, Leicestershire County Council

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CITY MAYOR
Rory Palmer

3rd Floor, City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ
TELEPHONE: (0116) 4540002 deputy mayor@leicester.gov.uk www.leicester.gov.uk