

Classification **PUBLIC**

Meeting **April 9, 2018**

Agenda Item **Monitoring Report:  
Assistance to Victims of Crime**



**Recommended Motion:**

**THAT the Board finds that all provisions of the *Assistance to Victims of Crime Board Policy Monitoring Report* have been complied with.**

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**Assistance to Victims of Crime**

I hereby submit my monitoring report on your Police Services Board Ends Policy, Assistance to Victims of Crime, according to the schedule set out. I certify that the information contained in this report is true.

Signed:   
Chief of Police

Date: MARCH 29, 2018

**Broadest Policy Provision:**

The police are often the first point of contact within the criminal justice system for victims of crime, who have a wide range of needs based on their own unique circumstances. Having experienced the trauma of being victimized, all victims deserve special care and attention. Further, event trauma often extends to the support needs for family members, children and witnesses impacted.

*It is the policy of the Durham Regional Police Services Board that the Durham Regional Police Service will extend victims of crime an abundance of respect, understanding and appropriate levels of support and services.*

**Interpretation of the Chief of Police:**

It is my interpretation that the Board End of Community Safety is directly related to Section 1, principle 4 of the *Police Services Act, R.S.O. 1990 - "The importance of respect for victims of crime and understanding of their needs"*. The Victim Services Board End is also responsive to s.4 (2) (3) of the *Police Services Act* regarding adequate and effective police services must include: assistance to victims of crime. This Board End encompasses all manner of victim services either provided directly or indirectly by or for the Durham Regional Police Service.

It is my interpretation of this policy that it requires victims of crime receive and/or are referred in a timely manner to the appropriate level of support in accordance to the severity of the crime, and the vulnerability and individual needs of the victim. We strive to meet the needs of all victims based on the practical limitations of service capacity and individual victim requirements. Therefore, it is my interpretation that the "appropriate levels of support and services" includes the option of providing no referral to victims who decline or apparently are not in need of such support. Further it is my interpretation that referral means providing the victim's information (only with the victim's approval) to other victim service providers.

It is my further interpretation that Victim Witness Assistance Program (VWAP) of the Ministry of the Attorney General provides support to victims in their core mandated cases. Where we provide a Crown Brief to the Ministry of the Attorney General in these core mandated cases, it is my interpretation that this constitutes de facto referral. These core mandated cases are:

- Domestic Violence
- Child physical and sexual assault
- Sexual Assault
- Human Trafficking
- Homicide
- Elder Abuse
- Guns and Gangs
- Hate Crimes
- Impaired Causing Death
- Attempt Murder
- Victims with disabilities/vulnerabilities

It is my further interpretation that "appropriate levels of support and services" is one that refers the victim to an agency that provides services in the field or specialty that the victim needs and that said agency either has a memorandum of understanding with us or is funded and/or regulated by the Federal, provincial or municipal levels of government.

**Compliance Statement:**

I report **compliance** with this policy.



## Data Support:

VICTIM SERVICES OF DURHAM REGION: 2016 and 2017 (Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st) STATISTICS											
REFERRAL SOURCE										2016	2017
Police										8,495	6,164
Health Organizations (including EMS)										1	0
Sexual Assault Centre (SAC)										1	0
Shelter										4	14
Children's Aid										2	5
Self-Referral										216	236
V/WAP										46	82
Other										89	89
TOTAL										8,854	6,590
TYPE OF OCCURRENCES		# INCIDENTS		VICTIMS SERVED						2016 Total Victims Served	2017 Total Victims Served
		2016 # INC	2017 # INC	2016 Male	2017 Male	2016 Female	2017 Female	2016 Children	2017 Children		
Abduction		3	5	0	1	3	1	0	1	3	3
Assault (Domestic)		3882	2911	1015	482	4527	1520	183	430	5,725	2,432
Assault (All Other)		505	587	266	185	351	208	62	80	679	473
Break & Enter		15	16	8	4	9	3	0	1	17	8
Criminal Harassment (incl. Stalking)		176	194	42	35	141	86	8	10	191	131
Elder Abuse (Crime-Related)		4	4	3	1	6	1	0	0	9	2
Hate Crime			6	0	4	0	3	0	0	0	7
Homicide		7	9	37	14	96	26	2	5	135	45
Human Trafficking		18	55	2	5	99	28	13	8	114	41
Motor Vehicle Accident (Crime-Related)		14	68	7	29	20	22	2	3	29	54
Robbery		167	318	92	100	60	73	31	87	183	260
Sexual Assault		145	219	51	37	275	162	61	72	387	271
Theft/Fraud		21	19	8	8	16	4	1	0	25	12
Vandalism		7	6	2	0	5	0	0	0	7	0
Other Crime-Related Occurrence		90	179	32	36	87	87	2	17	121	140
Tragic Circumstance		278	395	244	131	394	185	14	8	652	324
TOTAL		5332	4991	1809	1072	6089	2409	379	722	8,277	4,203
Total Crime-Related		5054	4596	1565	941	5695	2224	365	714	7,625	3,879
FOLLOW-UP CONTACTS											
						2016 On-scene	2017 On-scene	2016 Remote	2017 Remote	2016 # OF VICTIMS	2017 # OF VICTIMS
Abduction						0	0	0	3	0	2
Assault (Domestic)						284	244	1564	1470	879	1038
Assault (All Other)						35	29	129	120	85	121
Break & Enter						0	0	1	3	1	3
Criminal Harassment (incl. Stalking)						5	3	25	35	26	22
Elder Abuse (Crime-Related)						0	3	0	2	0	2
Hate Crime						0	3	0	0	0	0
Homicide						18	18	65	111	33	39
Human Trafficking						26	10	48	126	26	27
Motor Vehicle Accident (Crime-Related)						0	0	3	7	2	15
Robbery						0	11	17	45	13	75
Sexual Assault						37	80	103	231	72	132
Theft/Fraud						0	0	2	1	1	1
Vandalism						2	0	0	0	1	0
Other Crime-Related Occurrence						4	3	20	29	9	31
Tragic Circumstance						15	6	77	68	63	78
TOTAL						426	404	2054	2251	1211	1586
Total Crime-Related						411	398	1977	2183	1148	1508
INFORMATION AND REFERRALS TO COMMUNITY AGENCIES											
										2016	2017
Health Organizations/Counselling/Bereavement/Other										6364	8081
Sexual Assault Centre (SAC)										166	231
Shelter										364	489
V/WAP										674	966
TOTAL										7,568	9,767
ACCOMPANIMENT WITH VICTIM(S)											
										2016	2017
TOTAL										349	377

## NOTE:

Incidents and occurrences include contact made with victims from neighbouring jurisdictions, however the people affected reside in Durham Region.

In consultation with MAG, beginning 2017 the VSDR figures have been stated consistent with MAG statistical reporting criteria to align VSDR and MAG program reported data.

## **Victim Services Durham Region**

Victim Services Durham Region (VSDR) is the primary provider of support to victims of crime with the Region of Durham. VSDR is comprised of civilian specialists through a program funded jointly by the Durham Regional Police Service and the Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG).

VSDR ensures that the victim needs of our community members are identified and suitably addressed in each instance. While each person's reaction to trauma is highly individual, people who have been victims of a crime or tragedy often share a sense of having lost control over their lives. In the initial stages of any crisis, most victims want to speak to someone who will understand their immediate need for information including but not limited to personal safety and support options available. VSDR intervention ensures the victim is safe, emotionally stabilized and connected to the appropriate support services.

VSDR will provide immediate crisis response, intervention and/or prevention services which may include but is not limited to the following: crisis support 24/7, psycho-education about common reactions to crime, victimization and its impact, identifying and addressing the victim's needs and safety concerns, supplying information about the criminal justice system, offering victims counselling services, linking victims with community resources and referrals, and delivering enhanced support for particularly vulnerable victims.

During the course of 2017, VSDR provided support to 4203 victims of crime and tragic circumstances as a result of 4991 incidents. Of those 4203 victims, 2,655 required on-going follow up and support, 2409 were female, 1072 were male and 722 were children under the age of 15 years of age. Within the 4991 incident cases, 9767 referrals to our community partners that offer on-going support were also provided.

In 2017 the Durham Regional Police Service provided 7563 criminal prosecutorial briefs to the Durham Region Crown Attorney's Office. This is in comparison to 7184 briefs in 2016. Each brief which meets the criteria of the mandated cases stated above constitutes a referral to the Victim Witness Assistance Program (VWAP – MAG).



## **Domestic Violence Investigative Unit (DVIU)**

The DVIU was created in 2016 with the goals of improving investigative quality, reducing time for front line members to complete lengthy paperwork, shortening the overall length of time spent per investigation, and improve victim service support to victims of domestic violence. By virtue of having a unit that specializes in domestic violence, members within this unit are trained in assessing the risk of an offender to re-offend and the potential risk to a victim's safety. Members of the unit are able to identify these high risk offenders and confirm that proper efforts are taken to ensure safety planning is addressed and referrals are made to the Offender Management Unit (OMU) to complete compliance checks in the event that the offender is released.

DVIU supervisors attend monthly Domestic Violence High Risk Assessment Review Team (DVHART) meetings. The DVHART meetings are attended by partners in the justice field such as the Office of the Crown Attorney, Victim Witness Assistance Program (VWAP), Domestic Violence Bail Unit (DVBU), Partner Assault Response (PAR) Program, Durham East Probation, and members of the DVIU. During these meetings, strong foundations have been fostered between members as they meet with a common specific agenda of identifying and monitoring the high risk offenders of domestic violence within the community.

Strategic measures are discussed and put into action during these meetings, utilizing all available resources to specifically address the respective victim's safety needs. During these meetings, plans are made to effect compliance on the part of these offenders, utilizing the Offender Management Unit (OMU) as a valuable resource for compliance checks. These compliance checks provide victims with peace of mind and reassurance of their safety as well as hold the offenders accountable to their release conditions.

In 2017, the DVIU completed 912 domestic violence investigations and case managed 514 other files resulting in 2204 charges laid. DVIU members routinely request on scene and follow-up support for victims from the VSDR to ensure safety planning and appropriate community referrals are completed. The victims in all domestic violence cases also receive support from VWAP.

## **Complaints**

The Community Safety Branch and the Professional Standards Unit confirm that our Service has not received any complaints from victims or our community partners regarding the provision of victim assistance services.