

Classification **PUBLIC**

Meeting **05 February 2007**

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 Report* have been complied with.

Broadest Policy Provision:

“Citizens or visitors who are victims of a crime in Durham Region are referred to appropriate support services.”

Interpretation of the Chief of Police:

It is my interpretation of this policy that it requires that victims of crime receive and/or are referred to the appropriate level of support in accordance to the severity of the crime and the vulnerability and needs of the victim. While this policy sets a direction of providing service to every victim of a crime, neither we, nor the related community agencies currently have that level of capacity. Therefore it is my reasonable interpretation that the words “appropriate support services” includes the option of providing no referral to victims of very minor offences and/or those who decline or who are apparently not in need of such services. Further it is my interpretation that referral means providing the victim with the information and only with the consent of the victim providing the victim’s particulars to other service providers. It is my further reasonable interpretation that in every case where we provide a Crown Brief to the Ministry of the Attorney General that this constitutes de facto referrals to VWAP.

It is my further interpretation that “appropriate referral” 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 that is funded and/or regulated by the Federal, Provincial or Municipal levels of Government.

Compliance Statement:

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

I report **compliance** with this policy.

Signed: _____
Chief of Police

Date: _____

Data Support:

In 2006 the Victim Services Unit assisted members of our community in 2890 incidents. The Victim Services Unit ensured that the needs of our community members were met in each instance either by direct support, advice, consultation or referral. Of the 2890 cases 1561 referrals were made to our Community Partners for further intervention.

The Durham Regional Police Service Victim Services Unit and the Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral Service (VCARS) are co-located in 18 Division, Whitby. This partnership allows greater ease in the sharing of information and enhanced service to our victims. VCARS staff assisted in 767 incidents in 2006.

The chart below indicates the name of the agency and the number of referrals.

Agencies and Services of Durham Region	Referred
Addiction Services and Resources	39
Bereavement Services and Grief Counselling	61
Domestic Violence / Sexual Assault Services (i.e.: Assaulted Women's Help, Distress Centre)	145
Elder and Vulnerable Adult Services (Includes: Alzheimer's Society, Hospice of Durham)	18
Employment Services	14
Family Services / Individual Counselling (i.e.: Catholic Family Services, John Howard Society, Rose of Durham, Children's Aid Society, Frontenac Youth Services)	836
Financial Assistance / Injuries Compensation	16
Immigration and Interpreter Services (i.e.: Women's Multicultural Resource and Counselling)	11
Lawyers / Legal Services (i.e.: Crown's Office, Legal Aid, Luke's Place, VWAP)	341
Mental Health Services	21
Shelters and Emergency Housing (i.e.: Bethesda, Denis, Herizon, Muslim, Y's Wish Houses)	59
Declined Assistance	785
Services outside of the Durham Region	21
Special Interest to Police (S.I.P) Entries	214
V.S.U. Pamphlets / Home Letter Mail-outs (i.e.: Safety Planning, Assorted Durham Support Resources)	1658
V.S.U. Referred by Divisions/Units	81
V.C.A.R.S. – Incidents Handled	767
V.S.U. – Total Incidents Handled	2890

In 2006 the Durham Regional Police Service provided 8,427 Briefs to the Crown Attorney. Each Brief constitutes a referral to the Victim Witness Assistance Program. VWAP provided support to victims of crime associated to 2412 of the Briefs provided.

The Victim Services Unit and the Professional Standards Unit indicate that our Service has not received any complaints, from victims or our community partners, regarding the provision of victim assistance services.