

Classification **PUBLIC**

Meeting

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.

Assistance to Victims of Crime

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.

Signed: _____
Chief of Police

Date: _____

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.

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.

"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 that the Board End of Community Safety is directly related to Section 1, principle 4 of the *Police Services Act, 1990* - *"The importance of respect for victims of crime and understanding of their needs"*. The Victim Services Board End is also responsive to sec 4(2) (3) of the *Police Services Act*

regarding adequate and effective police services involving: 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 that 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 needs of the victim. While providing service to every victim of a crime is ideal, neither the Service nor the related community agencies currently have the capacity to meet that ideal. Therefore it is my interpretation that the “appropriate levels of support and services” includes the option of providing no referral to victims of very minor offences, or for those 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 in every case where we provide a Crown Brief to the Ministry of the Attorney General that this constitutes de facto referrals to Victim Witness Assistance Program (VWAP) of the Ministry of the Attorney General.

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: 2013 AND 2014 (Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st) STATISTICS											
REFERRAL SOURCE											
Police										3,466	4369
Health Organizations (including EMS)										2	10
Sexual Assault Centre (SAC)										4	3
Shelter										4	8
Children's Aid										2	1
Self-Referral										78	151
V/WAP										40	58
Other										20	29
TOTAL										3,616	4,629
TYPE OF OCCURRENCES			# INCIDENTS		VICTIMS SERVED						
	2013 #	2014 #	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	
	INC	INC	Male	Male	Female	Female	Children	Children	Total	Total	
									Victims	Victims	
									Served	Served	
Abduction	5	-	3	0	7	0	-	0	10	-	
Assault (Domestic)	2,958	3,370	1,016	935	2,794	3327	8	21	3,818	4,283	
Assault (All Other)	77	205	23	118	75	128	2	3	100	249	
Break & Enter	73	72	37	35	52	54	-	1	89	90	
Criminal Harassment (incl. Stalking)	73	79	22	20	55	68	1	4	78	92	
Elder Abuse (Crime-Related)	5	59	1	22	5	51	-	0	6	73	
Hate Crime	-	-	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	-	
Homicide	11	9	19	17	32	20	3	0	54	37	
Human Trafficking	27	52	19	5	44	68	-	6	63	79	
Motor Vehicle Accident (Crime-Related)	12	13	8	15	11	14	3	0	22	29	
Robbery	40	67	24	57	20	34	1	2	45	93	
Sexual Assault	100	119	23	36	110	154	7	24	140	214	
Theft/Fraud	12	23	-	11	12	16	1	0	13	27	
Vandalism	1	1	-	0	1	1	-	0	1	1	
Other Crime-Related Occurrence	51	82	11	30	46	93	-	5	57	128	
Tragic Circumstance	172	478	112	236	180	443	5	4	297	683	
TOTAL	3,617	4,629	1,318	1,537	3,444	4,471	31	70	4,793	6,078	
Total Crime-Related	3,445	4,151	1,206	1,301	3,264	4,028	26	66	4,496	5,395	
FOLLOW-UP CONTACTS											
					2013 OC	2014 OC	2013 TC	2014 TC	2013 #	2014 #	
									OF	OF	
									VICTIMS	VICTIMS	
Abduction					1	-	4	-	4	-	
Assault (Domestic)					97	72	654	902	610	629	
Assault (All Other)					14	18	55	61	58	47	
Break & Enter					-	-	-	4	-	4	
Criminal Harassment (incl. Stalking)					4	-	3	11	7	7	
Elder Abuse (Crime-Related)					3	-	11	22	14	22	
Hate Crime					-	-	-	-	-	-	
Homicide					-	35	145	197	191	40	
Human Trafficking					5	56	33	141	33	56	
Motor Vehicle Accident (Crime-Related)					1	-	8	14	12	8	
Robbery					-	3	7	17	4	16	
Sexual Assault					17	18	95	126	91	80	
Theft/Fraud					-	-	1	5	1	5	
Vandalism					-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other Crime-Related Occurrence					-	-	1	34	1	25	
Tragic Circumstance					4	1	55	78	55	62	
TOTAL					146	203	1,072	1,612	1,081	1,001	
Total Crime-Related					142	202	1,017	1,534	1,026	939	
COMMUNITY DEBRIEFS											
					2013	2013	2014	2014			
					Debriefs	Attendees	Debriefs	Attendees			
Number of Community Debriefs					1	100	0	0			
INFORMATION AND REFERRALS TO COMMUNITY AGENCIES											
					2013	2014					
Health Organizations/Counselling/Bereavement/Other					6,480	6588					
Sexual Assault Centre (SAC)					30	88					
Shelter					101	177					
V/WAP					183	186					
TOTAL					6,794	7,039					
ACCOMPANIMENT											
					2013	2014					
TOTAL					2	9					

NOTE: Incidents and occurrences include contact we are required to make with victims from neighbouring jurisdictions but the people affected reside in Durham Region.

Victim Services Unit

The Durham Regional Police Victim Services Unit (VSU) is the primary provider of support to victims of crime within the Service. The unit is comprised of civilian specialists from Victim Services of Durham Region (VSDR), a program of the Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG).

During the course of 2014, VSDR provided support to 6,078 victims of crime and tragic circumstance as a result of 4,629 incidents. Of those 6,078 victims, 1,001 required on-going follow up and support, 4,471 were female, 1,537 were male and 70 were children under the age of 15 years of age. VSDR ensured that the needs of our community members were met in each instance either by the provision and/or offering of direct support, advice, or consultation.

Of the 4,629 incidents cases, 7,039 referrals were made to our Community Partners for further intervention, assistance or support as required.

In 2014 the Durham Regional Police Service provided 7,180 Criminal prosecutorial briefs to the Durham Region Crown Attorney's Office. This is in comparison to 7,752 briefs in 2013. Each brief constitutes a referral to the Victim Witness Assistance Program (VWAP – MAG).

Domestic Violence Offender Management Unit (DVOMU)

The mandate of the Domestic Violence Offender Management Unit (DVOMU) is to ensure the safety of victims of domestic violence, due to their particular vulnerability to re-victimization. This is done by monitoring offenders who pose a high risk to re-offend and by contacting domestic violence victims for follow-up information pertaining to offender compliance levels. This contact gives victims peace of mind and reassures them of their safety. It also decreases breaches by consistently holding offenders accountable through regular compliance checks.

The DVOMU is also relentless in its pursuit of offenders who have breached conditions or have outstanding domestic violence related charges. The Unit also receives cases referred by the HART (High-Risk Assessment Review Team) that is made up of justice partners, and assists other police services as requested to locate suspects and execute warrants placed on CPIC by those agencies.

Complaints

The Victim Services Unit 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.