



INTERNAL MONITORING REPORT

ENDS: ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF CRIME

Period: 2004 YEAR TO DATE

Date: February 14, 2005

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.

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 Crown Brief to the Ministry of the Attorney General (Crown Attorney John Scott) that this constitutes de facto referrals to VWAP.

It is my further interpretation that “appropriate referral” is one the 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.

Data Support:

Directive VA –01-002, Victims Assistance Procedure sets out the responsibilities of all members to ensure victims of crime and tragic circumstances receive the appropriate support and assistance from available victim service agencies. The directive also addresses the need to provide victims with information, referrals and short-term emotional support.

Victim services information is readily available to all members on the Media One site under Victim Services, Community Agency Referrals. Members also receive victim service information via our Electronic Parade system. Platoon supervisors review the Electronic Parade information with members at the start of each shift.

Information is available to citizens and visitors by accessing the Durham Regional Police Service web site home page, clicking on the pull down menu for “Over the Counter” and then choosing “Support Services for Victims”. The following victim service information is available for selection:

1. Victim/Witness Information Guide
2. Domestic Violence Team of Lakeridge Health
3. Contact List of Community Agencies
4. Victim Services Unit of DRPS
5. Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral Service (VCARS)
6. Sexual Assault Medical Team

Directive VA-01-003, Victim/Witness Information Guide, ensures that members have available to them a means to provide victims and witnesses with information about the various support agencies available to them. The Victim/Witness Information Guide (DRP36) is a pocket-sized pamphlet designed to provide victims and witnesses with information regarding their rights, criminal law procedure and community support agencies. . The directive specifies that members will carry a supply of the Victim/Witness Information Guides for distribution to victims who may require the assistance of support agencies. The Victim/Witness Information Guides are also available to victims at all the Community Police Offices. Approximately 1000 of the Victim/Witness Information Guides per year are distributed to the Community Police Offices and front line Officers. Statistics on the exact amount of Victim/Witness Information Guides distributed and the amount of verbal referrals by Officers, to victims, is not available.

The Durham Regional Police Service, Sexual Assault Unit participated in a Police-Linked Community Victim Services Grant Project. Members of the Sexual Assault/ Child Abuse Unit worked jointly with representatives from the Durham District School Board and the Sexual Assault Care Centre to create sexual assault awareness and prevention materials (videos, manuals and wallet cards) to be presented to high school students within the Durham District School Board. The

project objectives are to educate young people about sexual assault awareness and to encourage victims, who have not reported incidents of sexual assault, to report the incidents to the Police. The project was completed in late December and is being implemented into the Durham District School Board High Schools in 2005.

The Community Police Offices were issued with information cards; which will assist Officers with the proper procedures to follow when dealing with victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. The cards also have information, which the Officer can provide to the victim regarding victim services provided by Lakeridge Health Oshawa DV/SACC.

The 2004 Semi Annual Report prepared by the Corporate Planning and Development Unit provides data on the number of incidents in the categories of – Crimes of Violence and Property Crimes. Each category involves the potential for victim referrals.

Crimes of Violence involve the application, or threat of application, of force to a person, including homicide, attempted murder, various forms of sexual and non-sexual assault, robbery and abduction. Traffic incidents that result in death or bodily harm are included under Criminal Code traffic incidents.

Property Crimes involve unlawful acts with the intent to gain property but not involving the threat or use of violence. Property crimes include theft, breaking and entering, fraud and possession of stolen goods.

Category	2003 Region Totals	2004 Region Totals
Crimes of Violence	2313	2239
Property Crimes	7574	8031

Primary Victim Service providers are:

- 1) Durham Regional Police Service Victim Services Unit
- 2) Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral Service (VCARS)
- 3) Victim/Witness Assistance Program (VWAP)
- 4) Durham Children’s Aid Society
- 5) Denise House
- 6) Bethesda House
- 7) Herizon House
- 8) Y – Wish
- 9) Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Care Centre (DV/SACC)

We have requested from the Primary providers, data for inclusion in this report. The data was requested for the purpose of comparing the total services provided in our community against the direct referrals made by the Police Service. Some of the primary service providers were unable to provide the necessary data for comparison.

The following chart reflects the data obtained:

Victim Service Provider	Total # of Referrals/Reports Received for 2004	Total # of Referrals by DRPS for 2004	Total # of Referrals other than DRPS for 2004
DRPS – Victim Services Unit	2884	2884	0
Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral Service (VCARS)	1424	1424	0
Victim/Witness Assistance Program (VWAP)	1115	1115	0
Durham Children’s Aid Society	3873	730	3143
Denise House	- 2004 Statistics unavailable	- DRPS responsible for 8 % of the referrals	92%
Bethesda House	- Not available	16	-Unknown
Herizon House	97	15	82
Y – Wish	- Does not keep referral statistics.		
Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Care Centre (DV/SACC)	246	90	156

The following chart indicates the number of victims who received assistance directly from the Durham Regional Police Victim Services Unit:

2004 Victim Services Unit Breakdown

2880	Total Incidents dealt with by VSU
Actual # of Incidents	Received Internally vs. Referred By Another Unit
2736	Total Spousal/Ex-Spousal incidents retrieved from direct entry by VSU
91	Total Incidents referred to VSU by other units within DRPS

Actual # of Incidents	VSU Staff vs. VCARS Staff
1301	Incidents without charges that were dealt with by VCARS
1579	Total Incidents assigned to VSU uniformed staff
Actual # of Incidents	Contact Made, Type of Contact, Refusal of Service
1128	Total Number of female victims with whom contact was made
200	Total Number of male victims with whom contact was made
273	Total number of victims with whom no contact was made or victims refused services available *
1279	Total number of mail outs made to victims
Actual # of Referrals	Community Referrals Offered to Victims
636	Total Number of various available community referrals offered to victims

VSU – Victim Services Unit

VCARS – Victim Crisis And Referral Service

The Victim Services Unit and the Professional Standards Unit indicate that our Service has not received any complaints, from victims, regarding the agency they were referred to for victim assistance.

A number of victim referral statistics are not being captured because there is currently no tracking system in place to accurately capture the data. We are currently exploring possible future tracking systems for victim referrals.

I report **compliance** with this provision.

Kevin McAlpine
Chief of Police