

Classification **PUBLIC**

Meeting **March 10th, 2014**

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.

VICTIM SERVICES OF DURHAM REGION: 2012 AND 2013 (Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st) STATISTICS

REFERRAL SOURCE										2012	2013
Police										4,133	3,466
Health Organizations (including EMS)										6	2
Sexual Assault Centre (SAC)										1	4
Shelter										1	4
Children's Aid										2	2
Self-Referral										81	78
V/WAP										27	40
Other										43	20
Total										4,294	3,616
TYPE OF OCCURENCES		# INCIDENTS		VICTIMS SERVED							
	2012 # INC	2013 # INC	2012 Male	2013 Male	2012 Women	2013 Women	2012 Children	2013 Children	2012 Total Victims Served	2013 Total Victims Served	
Abduction	-	5	2	3	2	7	-	-	4	10	
Assault (Domestic)	3,329	2,958	1,187	1,016	2,738	2,794	20	8	3,945	3,818	
Assault (All Other)	99	77	66	23	106	75	6	2	178	100	
Break & Enter	137	73	81	37	95	52	28	-	204	89	
Criminal Harassment (Incl. Stalking)	106	73	27	22	86	55	7	1	120	78	
Elder Abuse (Crime-Related)	23	5	-	1	20	5	1	-	21	6	
Hate Crime	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	
Homicide	20	11	-	19	28	32	-	3	28	54	
Human Trafficking	4	27	14	19	5	44	-	-	19	63	
Motor Vehicle Accident (Crime-Related)	12	12	34	8	9	11	-	3	43	22	
Robbery	54	40	24	24	38	20	2	1	64	45	
Sexual Assault	80	100	2	23	72	110	12	7	86	140	
Theft/Fraud	25	12	2	-	22	12	1	1	25	13	
Vandalism	2	1	28	-	2	1	-	-	30	1	
Other Crime-Related Occurrence	109	51	71	11	94	46	3	-	168	57	
Tragic Circumstance	228	172	137	112	204	180	14	5	355	297	
TOTAL	4,228	3,617	1,681	1,318	3,521	3,444	94	31	5,296	4,793	
Total Crime-Related	4,000	3,445	1,544	1,206	3,317	3,264	80	26	4,941	4,496	

FOLLOW-UP CONTACTS							
	2012 OC	2013 OC	2012 TC	2013 TC	2012 # of Victims	2013 # of Victims	
Abduction	-	1	1	4	2	4	
Assault (Domestic)	45	97	435	654	293	610	
Assault (All Other)	9	14	50	55	40	58	
Break & Enter	2	-	10	-	11	-	
Criminal Harassment (Incl. Stalking)	-	4	23	3	17	7	
Elder Abuse (Crime-Related)	-	3	3	11	3	14	
Hate Crime	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Homicide	15	-	40	145	39	191	
Human Trafficking	-	5	7	33	3	33	
Motor Vehicle Accident (Crime-Related)	-	1	2	8	2	12	
Robbery	2	-	11	7	11	4	
Sexual Assault	14	17	57	95	43	91	
Theft/Fraud	1	-	1	1	2	1	
Vandalism	-	-	2	-	1	-	
Other Crime-Related Occurrence	3	-	26	1	22	1	
Tragic Circumstance	4	4	37	55	59	55	
TOTAL	95	146	705	1,072	548	1,081	
Total Crime-Related	91	142	668	1,017	489	1,026	
COMMUNITY DEBRIEFS							
			2012 Debriefs	2012 Attendees	2013 Debriefs	2013 Attendees	
Number of Community Debriefs			-	-	1	100	
INFORMATION AND REFERRALS TO COMMUNITY AGENCIES							
					2012	2013	
Health Organizations/Counseling/Bereavement/Other					5,636	6,480	
Sexual Assault Centre (SAC)					19	30	
Shelter					150	101	
V/WAP					356	183	
				TOTAL	6,161	6,794	
ACCOMPANIMENT							
					2012	2013	
				TOTAL	-	2	

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 Victims Services of Durham Region (VSDR), a program of the Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG).

During the course of 2013, VSDR provided support to 4,793 victims of crime and tragic circumstance as a result of 3617 incidents. Of those 4,793 victims, 1,081 required on-going follow up and support, 3,444 were female, 1,318 were male and 31 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 3,617 incidents cases, 6,794 referrals were made to our Community Partners for further intervention, assistance or support as required.

In 2013 the Durham Regional Police Service provided 7752 Criminal prosecutorial briefs to the Durham Region Crown Attorney's Office. This is in comparison to 7,781 briefs in 2012. 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.