

Classification **PUBLIC**

Meeting **March 14, 2016**

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 s.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 is 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: 2014 AND 2015 (Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st) STATISTICS

REFERRAL SOURCE											2014	2015
Police											4,369	6,062
Health Organizations (including EMS)											10	3
Sexual Assault Centre (SAC)											3	6
Shelter											8	4
Children's Aid											1	10
Self-Referral											151	271
V/WAP											58	49
Other											29	42
TOTAL											4,629	6,447

TYPE OF OCCURRENCES	# INCIDENTS		VICTIMS SERVED							
	2014 # INC	2015 # INC	2014 Male	2015 Male	2014 Female	2015 Female	2014 Children	2015 Children	2014 Total Victims Served	2015 Total Victims Served
Abduction	0	2	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	6
Assault (Domestic)	3,370	3201	935	1166	3,327	4702	21	29	4,283	5,897
Assault (All Other)	205	249	118	196	128	257	3	11	249	464
Break & Enter	72	29	35	11	54	28	1	0	90	39
Criminal Harassment (incl. Stalking)	79	48	20	21	68	57	4	0	92	78
Elder Abuse (Crime-Related)	59	4	22	1	51	5	0	0	73	6
Hate Crime	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Homicide	9	12	17	28	20	55	0	4	37	87
Human Trafficking	52	38	5	0	68	52	6	13	79	65
Motor Vehicle Accident (Crime-Related)	13	15	15	60	14	48	0	1	29	109
Robbery	67	71	57	86	34	42	2	11	93	139
Sexual Assault	119	111	36	34	154	202	24	26	214	262
Theft/Fraud	23	11	11	4	16	12	0	0	27	16
Vandalism	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
Other Crime-Related Occurrence	82	85	30	31	93	144	5	5	128	180
Tragic Circumstance	478	474	236	316	443	480	4	6	683	802
TOTAL	4,629	4351	1,537	1959	4,471	6086	70	106	6,078	8,151
Total Crime-Related	4,151	3877	1,301	1643	4,028	5606	66	100	5,395	7,349

FOLLOW-UP CONTACTS																
											2014 OC	2015 OC	2014 TC	2015 TC	2014 # OF VICTIMS	2015 # OF VICTIMS
Abduction											0	0	0	0	0	0
Assault (Domestic)											72	128	902	871	629	530
Assault (All Other)											18	29	61	114	47	58
Break & Enter											0	0	4	6	4	4
Criminal Harassment (incl. Stalking)											0	1	11	4	7	2
Elder Abuse (Crime-Related)											0	0	22	1	22	1
Hate Crime											0	0	0	0	0	0
Homicide											35	41	197	164	40	36
Human Trafficking											56	77	141	127	56	39
Motor Vehicle Accident (Crime-Related)											0	0	14	15	8	13
Robbery											3	1	17	17	16	10
Sexual Assault											18	22	126	76	80	52
Theft/Fraud											0	0	5	2	5	2
Vandalism											0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Crime-Related Occurrence											0	1	34	21	25	16
Tragic Circumstance											1	6	78	63	62	46
TOTAL											203	306	1,612	1481	1,001	809
Total Crime-Related											202	300	1,534	1418	939	763

COMMUNITY DEBRIEFS									
						2014 Debriefs	2014 Attendees	2015 Debriefs	2015 Attendees
Number of Community Debriefs						0	0	0	0

INFORMATION AND REFERRALS TO COMMUNITY AGENCIES					
				2014	2015
Health Organizations/Counselling/Bereavement/Other				6,588	4697
Sexual Assault Centre (SAC)				88	46
Shelter				177	125
V/WAP				186	214
TOTAL				7,039	5,082

ACCOMPANIMENT					
				2014	2015
TOTAL				9	0

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

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, Victim Services), a program of the Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG).

Victim Services ensured that the needs of our community members were met 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 people want to speak to someone who will understand their immediate need for information pertaining to: personal safety and options available to them. Victim Services intervention ensures the victim is safe, emotionally stabilized and connected to the appropriate support services.

Victim Services 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 2015, VSDR provided support to 8,151 victims of crime and tragic circumstances as a result of 6,447 incidents. Of those 8,151 victims, 809 required on-going follow up and support, 6,086 were female, 1,959 were male and 106 were children under the age of 15 years of age. Of the 6,447 incident cases, 5,082 referrals to our community partners that offer on-going support were also provided.

In 2015 the Durham Regional Police Service provided 7,061 Criminal prosecutorial briefs to the Durham Region Crown Attorney's Office. This is in comparison to 7,180 briefs in 2014. 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. In 2015, the DVOMU conducted 491 compliance checks and facilitated the arrest of 66 domestic violence offenders.

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. In 2015, DVOMU monitored 33 high-risk offenders.

The DVOMU initiated a week long compliance check “blitz” in November 2014 to coincide with Domestic Violence Awareness Month coined, project Alabama. The project resulted in 76 compliance checks being conducted on domestic violence offenders, and 1 arrest. In 2015, DVOMU built on the success of project Alabama, and launched project Gale, resulting in 106 compliance checks on domestic violence offenders, and 6 arrests. Plans are in the works to conduct similar projects bi-annually.

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.