

Mr Chris Naylor  
Chief Executive  
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham  
chris.naylor@lbbd.gov.uk

26 November 2019

MOPAC31102019-D3087

Dear Chris

Over the last six months there have been a number of changes to MOPAC's commissioned services for victims and witnesses of crime in London. I am writing to inform you of these changes and provide you with a broad overview of the key support services available to victims and witnesses of crime in London.

## **London Victim and Witness Service**

MOPAC recently commissioned a seamless, end-to-end support service for victims and witnesses of crime resident in London. This is the London Victim and Witness Service (LVWS) and is available both to those who report their crime to the police and to those who choose not to.

The LVWS is a partnership led by Victim Support and the range of support includes:

- Support for adult victims of crime
- Specialist support for victims and survivors of domestic violence
- Access to Restorative Justice
- Pre-trial support for witnesses
- Support for victims and witnesses of major crime incidents

Further information about this service can be found online here: <https://londonvws.org.uk/>. The LVWS can take referrals from all victims and witnesses of crime in London and make any necessary onward referrals, therefore serving as London's main gateway into support. Alternatively, direct referrals can be made into one of the other core victim services which are set out below.

## **Children & Young People's Victim and Witness Support Service**

MOPAC commissions Victim Support to run the Children & Young People's Victim and Witness Support Service, which provides practical and emotional support to young victims and witnesses of crime in London. For 2019/20 and 2020/21, MOPAC has significantly increased funding to the Service in order to provide four new priority elements:

1. Practical and emotional trauma-informed support for young victims and witnesses of serious youth violence through the co-location, within key local services, of Youth Advocates in the ten boroughs most impacted in 2018 (Brent, Camden, Croydon, Enfield, Haringey, Lambeth, Newham, Southwark, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest);
2. Pre-trial support for young witnesses of crime;
3. A dedicated team to support children living with a parent (where the parent is being supported by Victim Support) who is experiencing DA
4. Bespoke support for young people bereaved by homicide in collaboration with the Homicide Service.

Further information about this service and how to make referral can be found in the attached briefing note.

## **Homicide Service**

The Homicide Service is commissioned on a national basis by the Ministry of Justice and is also run by Victim Support. This service work provides support for families bereaved by homicide and works closely with both of the above services. Enclosed is a leaflet for this service and further details can be found online here:

<https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/more-us/why-choose-us/specialist-services/homicide-service>


## **London Survivors Gateway**

The Gateway provides a single point of contact for survivors of sexual violence, their families and agencies. The Gateway works with anyone aged 13 or above regardless of gender, sexuality, disability, language, ethnicity or immigration status. The Gateway is a partnership between the four London Rape Crisis Centres, Galop, Survivors UK and the Havens and is run by the Women and Girls Network. Please see their website for further details:

<https://survivorsgateway.london/>

You can find more information about the all services available to victims and witnesses in London on MOPAC's website here: <http://www.london.gov.uk/victim-services>. If you have any questions about these services please contact MOPAC's Victims Team at [victims@mopac.london.gov.uk](mailto:victims@mopac.london.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,



Sophie Linden  
**Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime**