

Grant funded projects:

**Victims’ Commissioning Fund – Grant funded projects 2016/17 (August 2016)**

From October 2014, Police and Crime Commissioners became responsible for locally commissioning most of the emotional and practical support services for victims of crime. In its Grant Agreement with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire, the Ministry of Justice gave clear instructions on how the Victims Commissioning Fund should be spent, namely on:

- (i) emotional and practical support services for victims of crime (as defined by Article 2(1)(a)(i) of the Victims Directive) including restorative justice services and practical support measures and particularly for victims in the priority categories outlined in the Victims’ Code: victims of the most serious crime, persistently targeted victims, and vulnerable or intimidated victims, to help them cope with the immediate impacts of crime and, as far as possible, recover from the harm they have experiences;
- (ii) emotional and practical support services for family members (as defined in Article 2 (b) of the Victims’ Directive);
- (iii) emotional and practical support services for victims of sexual violence and domestic violence;
- (iv) building the capacity and capability of providers of services for victims of crime (including providers of restorative justice services) from the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector; and
- (v) covering any associated costs that arise in the process of commissioning / provision of victims’ services.

A list of the projects and organisations funded by the Commissioner can be found below:

Organisation	Project synopsis	Grant awarded (£)	Where you can find more information?
Luton All Women’s Centre	<i>Counselling Service</i> - The support offered will include individual counselling sessions for women within a safe, confidential setting on either a short-term (12 weeks) or long-term (24 weeks) basis. Each session lasts 50 minutes and this service is currently being offered at Luton All Women's Centre over three days each week. In addition, the counselling programme runs a weekly peer-to-peer support group (called HOPE) for women who have experienced childhood sexual abuse, enabling	16,887	<a href="http://www.lutonallwomenscentre.org.uk/">http://www.lutonallwomenscentre.org.uk/</a>



	them to share and explore their feelings freely.		
Victim Support	<p><i>Vulnerable Victims Caseworker</i> - The VVCW's can offer emotional and practical support, advocacy, information, sign posting and referral on to other services for the most vulnerable victims, people who often have the most complex and challenging needs. Such victims require a variety of specialist support interventions to help them cope and recover from the impact of crime and the VVCWs are well skilled and practiced in this area of victim work.</p>	28,453	<a href="https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/help-and-support/get-help/support-near-you/east-england/bedfordshire">https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/help-and-support/get-help/support-near-you/east-england/bedfordshire</a>
Luton All Women's Centre	<p><i>Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence Service</i> - The service is led by a specialist FM/HBV Coordinator who, through 1-1 support, advice and advocacy for victims, helps women to remove themselves from harmful positions, understand their legal rights, cope and recover from emotional trauma, build confidence and move forward with their lives.</p> <p>The service also provides group therapy sessions; referrals for legal advice; access to counselling services; a programme of community outreach/ events; training for other professionals/ agencies; and preventative work in schools and colleges. All aspects of the service are free, confidential and non-discriminatory.</p>	22,132	<a href="http://www.lutonallwomenscentre.org.uk/">http://www.lutonallwomenscentre.org.uk/</a>
TOKKO Youth Space	<p><i>Freedom Programme</i> - The Freedom programme is designed to engage and support male and female victims of domestic abuse enabling them to recognise the signs of potential perpetrators, to change their own behaviour and</p>	4,313	<a href="http://www.tokko.co.uk/">http://www.tokko.co.uk/</a>

	<p>to recognise when they are being controlled.</p> <p>The Freedom Programme examines the roles played by attitudes and beliefs on the actions of abusive partners and the responses of victims and survivors. The aim is to help them to make sense of and understand what has happened to them, instead of the whole experience just feeling like a horrible mess. The Freedom Programme also describes in detail how children are affected by being exposed to this kind of abuse and very importantly how their lives are improved when the abuse is removed.</p>		
Luton All Women's Centre	<p><i>ONA Project</i> - The service is led by a specialist Polish Women's Coordinator who, through 1-1 support, advice and advocacy for victims, helps women to escape abuse, understand their legal rights, cope and recover from emotional trauma, build confidence and move forward with their lives. All aspects of the service are free, confidential and non-discriminatory. All support both written and spoken is available in Polish.</p>	26,778	<a href="http://www.lutonallwomenscentre.org.uk/">http://www.lutonallwomenscentre.org.uk/</a>
Bedfordshire Police	<p><i>Junior Police Squad</i> - The principal aim of the Junior Police Squad project within Bedfordshire Police is to be viewed as a fun and interactive volunteering opportunity for children age 9-11 years old whereby, through positive interaction, children develop and maintain trust in the Police. Once a school has agreed and been accepted onto the programme, children are chosen by the school, as the school has detailed knowledge about each child involved. The children then volunteer to participate in a variety of events.</p>	3,000	<a href="http://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/about_us/news/latest_news/2016/160919_-_bedfordshire_police_l.aspx?theme=textonly">http://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/about_us/news/latest_news/2016/160919_-_bedfordshire_police_l.aspx?theme=textonly</a>
Luton All Women's Centre	<p><i>Domestic Abuse Service</i> - Supports vulnerable women and girls who are experiencing (or have</p>	38,451	<a href="http://www.lutonallwomenscentre.org.uk/">http://www.lutonallwomenscentre.org.uk/</a>

	<p>suffered historical) abuse and enables young people to better recognise abusive relationships at an early age, in Luton and the surrounding areas.</p> <p>The service has specialist qualified staff who, through 1-1 support, advice and advocacy for victims, help women to remove themselves from harmful positions, understand their legal rights, cope and recover from emotional trauma, build confidence and move forward with their lives.</p>		
Anne Frank Trust	<p><i>Anti-Hate Crime Schools Project</i> - The project is aimed at supporting victims and potential victims of hate crime, and raising awareness amongst young people and schools of the reporting and support services for victims.</p> <p>They will hold a workshop in six secondary schools to young people aged 11-16 (two in Bedford, two in Central Bedfordshire and two in Luton). In addition, they will also be working with two youth parliaments in order to reach young people who are outside of mainstream education. The project will take the form of a tiered programme of exhibitions, workshops and training days</p>	15,000	<a href="http://www.annefrank.org.uk">http://www.annefrank.org.uk</a>
Women's Aid in Luton	<p><i>Support Service for clients affected by Domestic Abuse with Complex Needs</i> - The complex needs refuge support project will provide access to safe secure accommodation to 15 women across Bedfordshire during the lifetime of the funding period with an approximate length of stay of 6/9 months per client. Who are victims of Domestic Abuse and have been assessed as; at Medium/High Risk of current DA or, having high support needs around mental health and or</p>	39,275	<a href="http://www.womensaidinluton.org/">http://www.womensaidinluton.org/</a>

	problematic substance misuse which can be a barrier to accessing refuge support.		
Central Bedfordshire Council	<p><i>Children's Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (KIDVA)</i> - Pilot project to provide evidence of the need for support for children and young people who are witnessing, or are a victim of domestic abuse and violence. Provision of one member of staff to work as a Children's IDVA who will measure the outcomes to inform future commissioning. To support children who are witnessing domestic abuse and violence in their home currently, and those young people, 17 and under, who are themselves a victim of domestic abuse and violence. To run groups in schools for young people 13+ who are in or identified as being at risk of entering an abusive relationship.</p>	37,000	<a href="http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/community-safety/domestic-abuse/sexual.aspx">http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/community-safety/domestic-abuse/sexual.aspx</a>
Road Victims' Trust	<p><i>Support for 100 victims</i> - The Road Victims' Trust contact all families and individuals through referrals to offer a service that is unique nationally. These people are contacted within 48 hours of referrals being received with the offer of immediate support. Those taking up the service then receive emotional and practical support by a team of local highly trained and qualified Counselling Volunteers and Coordinating professionals.</p>	30,000	<a href="http://www.rvtrust.org.uk/">http://www.rvtrust.org.uk/</a>
Bedfordshire Criminal Justice Board/ Sexual Assault Referral Centre	<p><i>Live Link</i> - With the growing availability and utilisation of Live Links for witnesses to give their evidence to a court from a remote location it has been identified that having such a facility within the SARC location is enabling for the victim to go forward and give evidence in a secure, unidentifiable location where they can</p>	27,500	<a href="http://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/advice_centre/bedfordshire_criminal_justice.aspx">http://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/advice_centre/bedfordshire_criminal_justice.aspx</a>

	<p>access easily the support structures of Independent Sexual Violence Advocates and Independent Domestic Violence Advocates during an extremely harrowing and traumatic time. The use of this facility allows the victim to present their best evidence and further supports the prosecution of perpetrators of RASSO (Rape and Serious Sexual Offences) and serious Domestic Violence (DV) crimes.</p>		
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