

Victims' Commissioning Fund – Grant funded projects 2015/16

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?
Well Springs Community Services – Restorative Justice	Well Springs provide Restorative Justice services and training in Luton and Bedfordshire. Specific emphasis is placed on a victim centred approach, supporting victims and ensuring their safeguarding needs are met.	£30,000	http://www.wsprings.org.uk/
Victim Support – Vulnerable Victims Case Worker	This post was identified to fill the gap in victim support service provision that has been identified in the county in relation to the most vulnerable victims of crime i.e. those impacted by Standard and High Risk Domestic Abuse, Burglary (Elderly), Anti- Social Behaviour, Hate Crime or any other crime where the victim has been assessed as 'most vulnerable'.	£37,817	https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/
Sorted and Hope Counselling Services	This project provides emotional support and counselling services for children and young people aged between 10 and 17 in Bedfordshire who have suffered from sexual violence at any time in their lives and in any place.	£26,550	http://www.hopeprogramme.com/
The Safer Luton Partnership	This funding is provided for a Victim and Witness Champion. Luton hosts an ASB team which works on identifying and	£32,000	http://www.theslp.co.uk/



	supporting victims and witnesses of anti-social behaviour. Priority A and A+ cases are referred to the V & W champion for support.		
Victim Support – Peer Support / Self-Help Facilitation	This bid is for a Peer support/ Self-help facilitator to establish client led peer support / self-help groups for victims of crime who no longer receive support from a named provider and/or who do not wish to engage with another provider.	£14,000	https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/
Sorted and Hope Counselling Services – ISVA service	The ISVA will provide a pro-active service, within a multi- agency context in Bedfordshire for victims 5-17 years of rape, sexual abuse and exploitation. The core role of the ISVA will be to ensure that victims of sexual abuse have the best possible practical advice on what counselling and other services are available to them, on the process of reporting a crime to the police and on taking their case through the Criminal Justice System, should they choose to do so.	£50,940	http://www.hopeprogramme.com/
ACCM (UK)	This project provides emotional support and counselling services to victims of illegal harmful traditional practices and sexual abuse in Bedford.	£28,750	http://www.accmuk.com/
Road Victims Trust	The Road Victim’s Trust will receive referrals from Bedfordshire Police. All referrals will be contacted and our services offered to support those affected by a road death.	£33,178	http://www.rvtrust.org.uk/
You Turn Futures - IOM	This new project has been established to support the victims of domestic violence offenders. IOM has until now focused its priorities on managing offenders. This funding will allow IOM to extend its remit to develop new services which provide a more holistic approach and provide support to victims and children in abusive relationships.	£32,000	http://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/
Luton All Women’s Centre - ONA Project	The proposal is for LAWC to establish a Polish Women’s Project (ONA). Funding will enable a full time Polish speaking domestic abuse worker to be employed to support Polish/ Eastern European Women who are victims of domestic abuse to report and escape abuse.	£33,395	http://www.lutonallwomenscentre.org.uk/
Homestart Central Bedfordshire	Homestart will run two ten week ‘Pattern Changing’ courses in Bedfordshire to educate victims of domestic abuse about the tactics of perpetrators to help to prevent repeat victimisation.	£9684	www.home-startcentralbeds.org.uk

<p>Bedford Borough Council – Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA)</p>	<p>IDVA's are specialist case workers working with domestic abuse victims at the highest risk of homicide or serious harm. The service provides specialist independent support on a short-term crisis intervention and safety planning basis. IDVA's are an integral part of the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process.</p>	<p>£98,000</p>	<p>http://www.bedford.gov.uk/</p>
<p>Bedford Citizens Advice Bureau: A survey of experiences of the support offered to victims and witnesses of crime</p>	<p>Citizens Advice Bedford was commissioned on behalf of the Police and crime Commission to survey victims and witnesses of crime throughout Bedfordshire to assess the service they received from both the police and other support agencies.</p>	<p>£9,240</p>	<p>http://www.bedfordcab.org.uk/</p>