

Commissioning witness services

Impact Assessment

March 2013

Title: Commissioning witness services IA No: MOJ203 Lead department or agency: Ministry of Justice Other departments or agencies:	Impact Assessment (IA)
	IA No: MOJ203: found.
	Date
	Stage: Development/Options
	Source of intervention: Domestic
	Type of measure: Other
Contact for enquiries:	

Summary: Intervention and Options	RPC Opinion: Awaiting Scrutiny
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Cost of Preferred (or more likely) Option				
Total Net Present Value	Business Net Present Value	Net cost to business per year (EANCB on 2009 prices)	In scope of One-In, One-Out?	Measure qualifies as
Not Quantified (NQ)	NQ	NQ	Out of scope	N/A

What is the problem under consideration? Why is government intervention necessary?

The Government has committed to nationally commissioning the court-based witness service, which is currently provided in all magistrates courts and the Crown Court. However at local level Police and Crime Commissioners will be able to commission other local support arrangements for witnesses (to complement and augment the service which will be nationally commissioned and operate at court) and victims.

What are the policy objectives and the intended effects?

It was confirmed in the Government response to the consultation 'Getting it right for victims and witnesses'¹ that Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime in London and the Common Council of the City of London) would be responsible for providing or commissioning the majority of victim services in their area. The Impact Assessment (IA) supporting this document set out the impacts of PCCs commissioning victims services. This IA focuses on additional groups for whom PCCs can provide or commission services and should read alongside the previous IA. In November 2012, PCCs were elected to replace police authorities in each police force area in England and Wales. The HO Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill will create a clear statutory basis upon which local policing bodies can provide or commission services to support witnesses and other persons affected by an offence or anti-social behaviour. Locally commissioned witness services will not include the court-based witness service which is being commissioned nationally: instead any locally commissioned services for witnesses will be in addition to and augment the court-based service. The Ministry of Justice funding for PCCs is for victims, witnesses and other persons affected by crimes only. This will enable PCCs to use the funding that will be provided to them from Government for that specific purpose, resulting in more targeted support for these groups, and support that meets the requirements of the local community. PCCs will also have the option to provide services to victims of anti-social behaviour, i.e. the range of nuisances, disorder and low-level crimes which affect people's lives on a daily basis if they deem it desirable or necessary in their local area, using separate funding provision if they choose to do so.

What policy options have been considered, including any alternatives to regulation? Please justify preferred option (further details in Evidence Base)

Base case/Option 0: Do not legislate to give PCCs the power to provide or commission services for witnesses and other persons affected by an offence.

Option 1: Introduce a mixed model of national and local commissioning for support services for witnesses and other persons affected by offences. Nationally, services will be commissioned by the Ministry of Justice, locally by PCCs.

The preferred option is option 1.

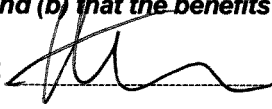
Will the policy be reviewed? It will be reviewed. If applicable, set review date: 04/2015

¹ <https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/victims-witnesses>

Does implementation go beyond minimum EU requirements?			Yes		
Are any of these organisations in scope? If Micros not exempted set out reason in Evidence Base.	Micro Yes	< 20 Yes	Small Yes	Medium Yes	Large Yes
What is the CO ₂ equivalent change in greenhouse gas emissions? (Million tonnes CO ₂ equivalent)			Traded: N/A	Non-traded: N/A	

I have read the Impact Assessment and I am satisfied that (a) it represents a fair and reasonable view of the expected costs, benefits and impact of the policy, and (b) that the benefits justify the costs.

Signed by the responsible SELECT SIGNATORY:



Date:

8 May 2013

Summary: Analysis & Evidence

Description: A mixed model of national and local commissioning for support services for witnesses and other persons affected by offences. Nationally, services will be commissioned by the Ministry of Justice, locally by Police and Crime Commissioners.

FULL ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT

Price Base Year N/A	PV Base Year N/A	Time Period Years N/A	Net Benefit (Present Value (PV)) (£m)			
			Low: NQ	High: NQ	Best Estimate: NQ	
COSTS (£m)	Total Transition (Constant Price) Years		Average Annual (excl. Transition) (Constant Price)		Total Cost (Present Value)	
Low	NQ		NQ		NQ	
High	NQ		NQ		NQ	
Best Estimate	NQ		NQ		NQ	
Description and scale of key monetised costs by 'main affected groups'						
None						
Other key non-monetised costs by 'main affected groups'						
<p><i>Commissioners (Local and National):</i> costs of research into needs of witnesses and other persons affected by an offence, or anti-social behaviour, contracting with and monitoring service providers</p> <p><i>Providers of support services to victims of crime or anti-social behaviour:</i> cost of providing application and monitoring information to relevant national or local commissioner(s); some funding spend on commissioning process; reduction in funding to providers the PCCs assess as not providing good services to the victims most in need</p> <p><i>Witnesses and other persons affected by an offence:</i> some funding spent on commissioning process reducing spending on frontline services; reduction in amount spent on services for witnesses and other persons affected by an offence considered low need, (optional) costs of engaging with commissioners.</p>						
BENEFITS (£m)	Total Transition (Constant Price) Years		Average Annual (excl. Transition) (Constant Price)		Total Benefit (Present Value)	
Low	NQ		NQ		NQ	
High	NQ		NQ		NQ	
Best Estimate	NQ		NQ		NQ	
Description and scale of key monetised benefits by 'main affected groups'						
None						
Other key non-monetised benefits by 'main affected groups'						
<p><i>Commissioners (Local and National):</i> opportunity to shape the design of services; reduction in duplication of commissioned services.</p> <p><i>Providers of support services to victims of crime or anti-social behaviour:</i> possible reduction in number of different funding streams to apply to; increase in funding to providers assessed as providing good services to the those most in need.</p> <p><i>Witnesses and other persons affected by an offence or anti-social behaviour:</i> Increase in the amount spent on services for those groups considered high need; improvement in service design and quality due to better research, engagement, contracting and monitoring; opportunity to shape the design of services and hold commissioners (local and national) and providers to account. Possible improvements in tackling local low level crime or anti-social behaviour issues through increased community confidence.</p>						
Key assumptions/sensitivities/risks					Discount rate (%)	N/A

The key assumptions and associated sensitivities/risks are that:

- the split in funding between national and local PCCs, and the funding formula used to allocate funding between local areas reflects variation in need
- PCCs will have to balance the needs of gathering information to make decisions on needs of the local community to provide or commission appropriate services, with the expense this will incur. This impact assessment assumes an outcomes based commissioning framework is developed and will be used by commissioners (see 'Getting it right for Victims and Witnesses' impact assessment)
- services that meet the needs of witnesses and other persons affected by an offence identified by the PCCs as priorities for funding either already exist, or will be expanded/set up
- more research into needs and a move to contracting on outcomes rather than giving grants will result in a change in the distribution of funding and the activities of service providers
- the costs of administration, both nationally and locally, are kept to a minimum
- PCCs should devote all the funding allocated to services for the victims of crime in line with the MoJ's objectives.
- In relation to the victims of anti-social behaviour PCCs will need to assess and determine according to local needs what type of support is appropriate and in what circumstances (it is assumed that not all those experiencing anti-social behaviour will require any additional or specialised support).

BUSINESS ASSESSMENT (Option 1(a))

Direct impact on business (Equivalent Annual) £m:			In scope of OIOO?	Measure qualifies as
Costs: NQ	Benefits: NQ	Net: NQ	No	N/A

Evidence Base (for summary sheets)

Introduction

1. Central government spends money on a range of services for victims and witnesses of crime. The bulk of Ministry of Justice funding for services for victims provided by the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector goes to Victim Support which receives core grant funding. Victim Support has, in the past, striven to offer support to all those referred by the police rather than specialising in support for those in greatest need. This means that support has been directed at those who potentially have less need for it, which is arguably inefficient and unsustainable.
2. Under the present approach, the majority of central government funding for services is provided in a piecemeal way and to a small number of organisations. The government has previously been criticised by victims' groups and the Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses for trying to provide universal services to victims who may not want or need them instead of targeting services to those who really need them.
3. In November 2012, Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) were elected to replace police authorities in each police force area in England and Wales. This provision seeks to take account of the reform of police governance under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 by implementing reforms to the way that support services for witnesses and other persons affected by an offence are commissioned.

Problem under consideration

4. We believe there are two main problems with the current system, under which funding decisions are often taken in isolation and funding is provided in the form of grants rather than tied to outcomes:
 - a. Despite ongoing work by MoJ (at the national level) to better understand and quantify the needs of witnesses and other persons affected by an offence, we cannot be sure whether the current funding allocations target those victims (geographically, demographically, or by crime type) who are most in need of support; and
 - b. The current funding allocation process doesn't allow for sufficient measurement and quality assurance of services that receive Government funding.

Rationale for Intervention

5. The conventional economic approach to government intervention to resolve a problem is based on efficiency or equity arguments. The Government may consider intervening if there are strong enough failures in the way markets operate (e.g. monopolies overcharging consumers) or if there are strong enough failures in existing government interventions (e.g. waste generated by misdirected rules). In both cases the reform itself should avoid creating a further set of disproportionate costs and distortions. The Government may also intervene for equity (fairness) and redistributive reasons (e.g. to reallocate goods and services to the more needy groups in society).
6. The Government spends money on services for witnesses and other persons affected by an offence primarily for equity/fairness reasons, though there may also be efficiency benefits. In equity terms, society provides support in recognition of the fact that witnesses and other persons affected by an offence can experience considerable suffering. In efficiency terms, supporting these groups to cope and recover is thought to reduce demand on other areas of the public sector, in particular healthcare and benefits.
7. Only Government can change the allocation of the money it provides to witnesses and other persons affected by an offence. The rationale for the reform is that the equity, and probably also the efficiency, benefits of funding for services for these groups will be enhanced if the

funding is allocated in pursuit of more clearly specified criteria by an organisation, or organisations, with more expertise, resources and incentives to target funding at services that provide good quality support to those in greatest need.

Policy objectives

8. It was confirmed in the Government response to the consultation 'Getting it right for victims and witnesses'² that the intention was for Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime in London and the Common Council of the City of London) to be responsible for providing or commissioning the majority of victim services in their area. The IA supporting this document set out the impacts of PCCs commissioning victims services. This IA focuses on additional groups for whom PCCs can provide funding.
9. In November 2012 PCCs were elected (except in London) to replace police authorities in each police force area in England and Wales. The HO Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill will create a clear statutory basis upon which local policing bodies can provide or commission services to support witnesses and other persons affected by an offence or anti-social behaviour. The Ministry of Justice funding for PCCs is for victims, witnesses and other persons affected by crimes only. However, PCCs will have the option to provide specific anti-social behaviour services using separate funding provision if they choose to do so.
10. Whilst some services will continue to be commissioned at the national level, the majority will be commissioned locally, by local policing bodies (Police and Crime Commissioners and in London, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime and the Common Council of the City of London), using the funding that will be provided to them from Government for that specific purpose, resulting in more targeted support for these groups, and support that meets the requirements of the local community. The funding for victims and witness services will be up to £100m. A proportion of this will be spent on those services that will be nationally commissioned with the remaining budget divided amongst the local commissioning bodies.
11. In addition, provision is being made to enable PCCs also to provide services to the victims of and witnesses to anti-social behaviour, should they consider it necessary or desirable to do so in response to local need, drawing on their other available funding.
12. The kinds of services that PCCs will provide or commission may include practical measures such as the provision of information, refuges or shelters, financial support and guidance, and advice and assistance on security measures. They may also include emotional support services and counselling, treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder and peer support groups. They may also include restorative justice measures involving interaction with the offender.
13. Any service who provides assistance for a witness as a witness through the criminal justice system will want to ensure that there is a fit with the criminal justice agencies who will drive the main witness experience of the criminal justice system; supports witness engagement with the criminal justice system; and informs their willingness to be witnesses in the future and their confidence in the criminal justice system.

The Main Affected Groups:

14. The following key groups are likely to be affected by the policy reform:
 - a. Victims of and witnesses to crime, and other persons affected by an offence or anti-social behaviour.
 - b. Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime and the Common Council of the City of London),
 - c. Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector (a small number of which are also businesses)
 - d. Other funders of VCSE providers of services to witnesses and other persons affected offences.

² <https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/victims-witnesses>



Cost and Benefits

Base Case/Option 0

15. The base case is the “do nothing” option, making no amendments to legislation to enable PCC commissioning of services to witnesses and other persons affected by an offence. Taking no action would mean that the current situation would continue and therefore there would be no costs or benefits in addition to those which are already incurred. Because the do-nothing option is compared against itself, its costs and benefits are necessarily zero, as is its Net Present Value (NPV)³.

Option 1

16. This option is to set out a local commissioning model where commissioning decisions would be based on the local commissioner’s understanding of the local needs and demand for services. PCCs will be responsible for the commissioning process at a local level.

Costs of option 1

Costs to Police and Crime Commissioners

17. PCCs will be encouraged to research the needs of victims and witnesses, engage with victims and partner organisations and monitor and measure the performance of providers. They will incur costs from doing this. The PCC should, however, have access to different types of information and experience particularly through their strong links with community safety partners, local government and NHS primary care trusts so should be able to access information regarding local need and current service provision from these sources.

Costs to providers

18. Providers may need to provide more and/or different information to the PCCs than to current funding bodies.
19. Providers who cover more than one local area will need to submit multiple applications. National providers may potentially need to submit a large number of applications.
20. As some of the overall budget could be spent by the PCCs on research into the needs of witnesses and other persons affected by an offence, the total budget available for providers could be lower than it otherwise would be.
21. Some organisations will receive less funding as resources are reallocated to those assessed as providing a good service to those witnesses and other persons affected by an offence most in need of support.

Costs to witnesses and other persons affected by an offence

22. The costs of research and commissioning by PCCs may reduce the amount of Government money providers receive to spend on frontline services for witnesses and other persons affected by an offence (although this should be considered in conjunction with the impact assessments published with the Government’s consultation response and with this Bill, on reforms to increase and extend the Victim Surcharge and to use revenue raised from an increase in motoring Fixed Penalty Notices (by the Department for Transport) and Penalty Notices for Disorder to generate additional funding (of up to an estimated £50m) for support services for victims and witnesses).

³ The Net Present Value (NPV) shows the total net value of a project over a specific time period. The value of the costs and benefits in an NPV are adjusted to account for inflation and the fact that we generally value benefits that are provided now more than we value the same benefits provided in the future.

23. As the PCC is likely to reallocate resources to services for witnesses and other persons affected by an offence or an act of anti-social behaviour assessed as the most in need of support locally, other groups may not receive the same level of support they would receive under the base case of do nothing. However the witnesses and individuals affected will be those who are viewed as less in need and do not require the same level of support as an individual who has been identified as requiring substantial support.

Benefits of Option 1

Benefits to Commissioners (Local and National)

24. PCCs will have the opportunity to shape the design of services (in conjunction with service providers) and reduce duplication in service provision.

Benefits to Providers

25. There are likely to be opportunities for service providers to be involved in and shape the commissioning process by engaging with the PCC.
26. Providers of good services to witnesses and other persons affected by an offence assessed as most in need of support, including small local providers who might have difficulty applying successfully for national grants, should receive more funding.
27. Access to, and monitoring of, funding could be less bureaucratic as PCCs would be closer to service providers and therefore need to rely less on formal processes.
28. Providers who work in one area but currently apply to multiple funding bodies may have to submit fewer applications if they choose to continue to work in one place. If a provider wishes to expand their service into a different area(s), they will have to submit additional applications to the relevant PCC.

Benefits to witnesses and other persons affected by an offence or anti-social behaviour

29. Witnesses and other persons affected by an offence should benefit from improvements in the suitability and quality of services resulting from additional research into local needs and a more rigorous commissioning process. PCCs will be expected to have an understanding of local issues and work in a collaborative manner with other statutory service providers which should improve the responsiveness and effectiveness of support for victims. In particular, witnesses and other persons affected by an offence that are the most in need of support are likely to benefit as the police and PCCs will reallocate resources for services specific to them. This could improve the responsiveness and effectiveness of support for victims.
30. While individuals reporting acts of anti-social behaviour may already receive a degree of support (in the form of advice or other assistance) from the organisation to whom they report the incident, individuals (particularly vulnerable or repeat victims of anti-social behaviour) or local communities may benefit from additional and more targeted support in future where PCCs consider there is a need. This might for example be linked to wider PCC plans for tackling identified local crime or anti-social behaviour priorities (agreed in consultation with local communities and victims).
31. PCCs will be directly accountable to the people in their area for the services they have commissioned, ensuring that they respond to local priorities.

Net Impact of Option 1

Net impact on PCCs

32. There will be costs associated with researching needs, contracting with service providers and then monitoring performance. These costs will be paid for out of the overall budget available for services so the net impact on the PCC should be zero. The PCC may value the opportunity to shape the provision of support services. In addition, there may be potential

benefits if PCCs can make service provision more joined up and reduce duplication of commissioning services in their local area.

Net impact on witnesses and other persons affected by an offence

33. The costs of research and commissioning may reduce the amount spent on frontline services. (Note that this impact assessment should be read in conjunction with those relating to reforms to increase and extend the Victim Surcharge and to use revenue raised from the an increase in motoring Fixed Penalty Notices (by the Department for Transport) and Penalty Notices for Disorder which will generate additional funding (up to £50m) for support services for victims. However offsetting this, overall this group should benefit from improvements in the suitability and quality of services resulting from additional research into their needs and a more rigorous commissioning process.
34. The commissioning process is also expected to shift resources toward those most in need. This will benefit these groups and individuals, but will have less of an overall benefit to those assessed as having less need of support. However, targeting resources at services for those in greatest need would help commissioners make best use of available resources.

Net impact on providers of support services

35. Providers may benefit by a move to local commissioning as it reduces the number of different funding streams they need to apply to. However, they will incur costs to the extent that both PCCs and the MoJ require more or different information for applications and monitoring than current funding bodies and they will need to understand how to gather the different information requested of them. In addition, the commissioning process is expected to direct resources to services that are assessed as providing good quality services to those groups that are the most in need. This may result in some organisations losing government funding and others gaining, in organisations changing their activities or working in collaboration with others.
36. Overall, we are clear that our policy reform – most services provided or commissioned by PCCs, and low volume, specialist services and national services (e.g. helplines) commissioned nationally by the Ministry of Justice – will deliver the policy objectives set out. The requirement to act in co-operation with community safety partnerships and criminal justice agencies will provide PCCs with many advantages such as access to more detailed information about the local area and ultimately having a strategic overview of support provisions across their area. The public directly voted for a single person to represent the needs in their area, thereby ensuring that PCCs are scrutinised and held accountable for the decisions they make.

Risks, assumptions and sensitivities for option 1

37. There is an assumption that PCCs will want to target resources at good services for witnesses and other persons affected by an offence or anti-social behaviour that are most in need. Whether this is accurate is likely to depend on the views of the PCC. There is little opportunity to replace the Commissioner (only through the electoral process once every four years) and there is therefore quite heavy reliance on public accountability mechanisms proving effective, including voters and other stakeholders being concerned about the support provided for victims, and any engagement not being dominated by the interests of one group over another. An effective accountability mechanism is an essential requirement of the move to a local commissioning model. The PCC themselves will be monitored and scrutinised by their Police and Crime Panel who can look at the activity of the PCC, review the police and crime plan and request PCC papers, so the Panel could also consider whether the PCC is commissioning the most appropriate services for the area.
38. Improvements in service quality and the targeting of resources rely on the PCC gathering good information on the needs of witnesses and other persons affected by an offence and the quality of services as well as making good commissioning decisions. There is a risk that this will turn out to be difficult and/or expensive.

39. Improvements in the targeting of resources also rely on services that meet the needs of those groups identified by the commissioners as priorities for funding either already existing, or being expanded/set up.
40. There is an assumption that the current allocation of resources across groups of witnesses and other persons affected by an offence, and provider activities could be improved upon – and therefore that more research into needs (and a move to contracting on outcomes rather than giving grants) will actually alter the distribution of funding and the activities of service providers.
41. There could be additional costs if the commissioners choose to produce information or analysis specifically for local purposes particularly for monitoring or public transparency requirements.
42. There is a risk that providers only publish data that reflects positively on their performance or provide insufficient information for witnesses and other persons affected by an offence to effectively challenge them. The PCCs would be able to withdraw funding to organisations that did not meet monitoring requirements. This would mitigate risks only if alternative organisations existed who could receive the funding and provide services.
43. There is a risk that the performance PCCs will vary between different areas, resulting in varying levels/quality of support in different areas. However, it should be noted that though funding is currently allocated at national level, the system does not provide any guarantee of consistent provision across areas.
44. The impacts are sensitive to the initial decision on which services to commission nationally and the amount of funding to retain centrally for these services. There is a risk that, due to a lack of information about the needs of witnesses and other persons affected by an offence, the allocation between national and local, as well as between different local areas, will not reflect these needs.
45. The impacts are also sensitive to how effectively commissioners and the VCSE are able to join up local service provision. Some voluntary sector organisations, such as Victim Support, already have built up relationships with the criminal justice agencies, local authorities and community safety partnerships. Some have also attracted funding for services from the Department of Health. The VCSE will need to build upon these relationships and forge closer links with other local partners that currently commission services that witnesses and other persons affected by an offence might need, such as health services, if they are to ensure that local services are joined up and carry out joint commissioning where appropriate. It is important that the VCSE sector also have a strong relationship with the police and crime commissioner who should encourage collaborative working amongst the different partner organisations.
46. There is a risk that the formula used for the initial allocation of funding between areas may not accurately reflect variation in need across areas. We will review and further develop the funding formula for future commissioning rounds, including drawing on information gathered by commissioners where available.
47. It is not known to what extent specific support is already provided by different local agencies for the victims of anti-social behaviour, and local needs in this field would need to be assessed by PCCs. However it is assumed that in many cases individuals reporting incidents of anti-social behaviour will not necessarily require specialist or intensive support in quite the same way as the victim of a serious criminal act. Basic information may fulfil the needs of many individuals – but PCCs may wish to consider special provision for vulnerable or repeat victims of anti-social behaviour, or consider wider support to individuals or community groups where for example there are “hot-spots” of anti-social behaviour. While some of the provisions may mirror those given to victims of crime, other services provided will need to be tailored to take account of the particular nature and impact of the anti-social behaviour, thus focusing on the needs of victims.



Specific Impact Tests

Statutory equality duties

See the Equality Impact Assessment published as part of the Government response to the consultation '*Getting it right for Victims and Witnesses*', dated July 2012.

Competition Assessment

Does the policy:

Directly limit the number or range of suppliers? No

Indirectly limit the number or range of suppliers? No.

(A locally-led commissioning model will introduce competition into the delivery of victim and witness services. We therefore expect the number and/or range of suppliers to increase.)

Limit the ability of suppliers to compete? No.

(By encouraging and supporting capacity and capability building within the sector we hope a more diverse range of providers, from all sectors and of all sizes, will have the opportunity to compete to run and deliver services.)

Reduce suppliers' incentives to compete vigorously? No

No competition assessment required.

Small Firms Impact Test

Some providers of services for victims are businesses so locally-led commissioning will apply to businesses, including small businesses, which wish to provide support services to witnesses and other persons affected by an offence. However, we do not have evidence on the number of providers of services that are businesses or whether they are micro, small, medium or large businesses. We therefore can not be sure whether the impact is likely to fall on a disproportionate number of small businesses compared to their representation in the private sector as a whole.

It would not be appropriate to exempt small businesses from locally-led commissioning as this will be the means of them seeking and obtaining government funding. Along with the outcomes-based commissioning framework it will be the means by which commissioners, providers, witnesses, other persons affected by an offence and tax payers can be satisfied that limited resources are being spent on those services which do the most to help the vulnerable cope with, and recover from, the effects of crime.

Greenhouse Gas Assessment

Not applicable as the reform has no impact upon the emission of Greenhouse Gases.

Wider Environmental Issues

Not applicable as the reform has no impact upon the environment.

Health and Well-being Impact Assessment

Will your policy have a significant impact on human health by virtue of its effects on the wider determinants of health? : Income; crime; environment; transport; housing; education; employment; agriculture; social cohesion. No.

Will there be a significant impact on any of the following lifestyle related variables: Physical activity; diet; smoking; drugs or alcohol use; sexual behaviour; accidents and stress at home or work? No

Is there likely to be a significant demand on any of the following health and social care services?: Primary care; community services; hospital care; need for medicines; accident or emergency attendances; social services; health protection and preparedness response. No

No health impact assessment required. The provision of effective practical and emotional support to those who suffer the impact of serious crime, the most vulnerable and those who suffer the serious cumulative impact of persistently targeted low-level crime, at the time when most needed can be expected to have a positive effect on health and the wider determinants.

Human Rights

The reform is not non-compliant with the Human Rights Act 1998.

Justice System Assessment

Justice Impact Test completed. No expected impact on justice system.

Rural proofing

The policy option of a combination of national and local commissioning of services should help improve the availability of services in rural areas. The policy reform to devolve the commissioning of most

services to local areas should enable services to be designed to reflect and meet local needs. This should benefit groups in rural areas who may have very different needs to those in inner city areas. The overall strategy for victims and witnesses involves directing funding to those who have suffered the greatest impact from crime, the most vulnerable, and those who are persistently targeted. These groups may not be concentrated in rural areas and so within a local area resources may be focused on inner city areas where these groups may be more concentrated. But it will be for PCCs to ensure that those who have suffered the greatest impact from crime, the most vulnerable, and those who are persistently targeted in rural areas have access to the services that they need.

Sustainable Development

The reform set out in this Impact Assessment is consistent with the principles of sustainable development. In particular, the reform should lead to a sustainable economy and a healthy and just society.

Privacy Impact Test

Not applicable as no impact expected on privacy.

Annexes

Annex 1: Post Implementation Review (PIR) Plan

Basis of the review:

It is intended to review the operation of the framework against the policy objectives once it has been in operation for the initial round of commissioning. The review will take place one year before the end of the first commissioning period, so that the framework can be amended, if appropriate, to inform the next round of commissioning.

Review objective:

The MoJ's post-implementation review will assess, as far as possible, whether the national elements of commissioning meet the policy objectives both in relation to the services that are delivered and the commissioning process itself.

Police and Crime Commissioners will be responsible for reviewing locally commissioned services.

Review approach and rationale:

The review of national commissioning is likely to take two forms: the collection of monitoring information on

the effectiveness of services; and a qualitative review of the commissioning process itself.
PCCs will be encouraged to conduct reviews of their commissioning.

Baseline: Information is not currently collected systematically on the effectiveness of support services for witnesses and other persons affected by an offence or on the commissioning process.

Success criteria::

Support services for witnesses and other persons affected by an offence are effective in helping them to cope and recover

Witnesses and other persons affected by an offence are engaged in the commissioning of support services

The commissioning process is transparent and accountable
services are commissioned at the appropriate level (local or national)

Monitoring information arrangements:

The MoJ intends to use the commissioning framework to monitor the effectiveness of those services that are commissioned nationally. We will seek stakeholder views to inform a review of the commissioning process for nationally commissioned services. We will also periodically review whether services are being commissioned at the appropriate level, including via engagement with stakeholders.

The collection of any monitoring information for locally commissioned services will be the responsibility of PCCs. They will be encouraged to use the commissioning framework to monitor the effectiveness of services, and also to review their commissioning processes.

Reasons for not planning a PIR: N/A

