



The Care and Treatment of Victims and Witnesses by the Criminal Justice System in Northern Ireland

Action Plan in Response to CJI Recommendations

July 2020

Key Recommendations - Strategic and Operational

No.	Report Reference	Recommendation	Lead Agency	Accepted Y/N	Proposed Action(s)	Milestone / Target Date ¹	Update
S4	Para 5.43	<p>PPS in partnership with PSNI should establish a VWCU working group to examine future VWCU modelling with focus on enhanced provision of care to victims and witnesses in NI within 3 months of publishing. A 'next steps' options paper with recommendations should be prepared and submitted to Criminal Justice Board for consideration within 6 months thereafter. The paper should include:</p> <p>a. Options for future human resource approaches/models.</p> <p>b. Options to development the current VSNI service provider role to include a Victim and Witness Needs Assessment Service adjoined to and supporting existing VWCU services.</p>	PPS	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of VWCU Working Group. • Development of resourcing options. • Agreement of preferred option by PPS and PSNI Senior Management. • Consideration of enhanced co-location role for VSNI within VWCU (see also Operational Recommendations 9 & 10). • Briefing of Criminal Justice Board members. 	30 September 2021	

¹. Delivery of agreed actions may be affected by the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on PPS / VWCU operational capacity and on partner agencies. Therefore all dates should be regarded as provisional at this stage.

No.	Report Reference	Recommendation	Lead Agency	Accepted Y/N	Proposed Action(s)	Milestone / Target Date ¹	Update
O1	Para 3.33	PPS should introduce enhanced induction and continuous training for staff attached to the VWCU within 6 months of publishing.	PPS	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of proposal documentation. • Review of existing training materials. • Initiation of refreshed training programme. 	30 June 2021	
O6	Para 3.120	PPS and PSNI should review policy and practice for single point of contact arrangements (SPOC) in line with provision of information under article 2 of the EU directive to ensure best practice meets the needs of bereaved victims and family members as defined under Article 1 of the EU directive within 3 months of publishing.	PPS	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review current practice for the provision of information in cases involving bereaved victims and family members. • Agreement of protocol for managing engagement moving forward. • Consideration of review mechanism to evaluate the effectiveness of agreed protocol. 	31 December 2020	

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No.	Report Reference	Recommendation	Lead Agency	Accepted Y/N	Proposed Action(s)	Milestone / Target Date ¹	Update	
O8	Para 4.87	PPS in partnership with VSNI should: Review the Stage 1 Initial Needs Assessment letter sent to victims and witnesses within 3 months of publishing.	PPS	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of joint working group to review needs assessment process end-to-end, including correspondence. Enhancements to IT systems to support capture and transfer of individual qualitative information. Development and implementation of a needs assessment service provision protocol. 	30 September 2021		
O9	Para 4.90	Review stage 1 of the overall 3 stage needs assessment process within 3 months of publishing.						
O10	Para 5.25	Formalise and implement a partnership service provision protocol within 3 months of publishing.						

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