
Victims

Version 3

1. Policy statement

Supporting victims of crime must be at the heart of the criminal justice system. All criminal justice agencies and communities have a vital part to play in working together with the police to protect victims and to bring offenders to justice.

We need a well-funded, fully trained and effective police service to ensure the welfare and efficiency of police officers, resilience and the provision of the best possible service for the public including victims of crime.

2. Responsibility

The National Board is responsible for all policy formation.

3. Summary

PFEW believes that the services offered under the statutory Code of Practice for Victims of Crime should be extended to victims of any criminal offence not just victims of the more serious criminal offences, to comply with the EU Victims' Directive (2012/29/EU) which establishes minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime. This would contribute to improving public confidence in the police and the wider criminal justice system.

However, PFEW believes that currently victims of crime are suffering a poor service because cuts to police budgets have resulted in added strain and pressure on police officers. There is a widening gap between the service officers would like to provide, and what the public rightly expect, and the resources available. A PFEW National Detectives' Survey¹ found that only 32% of respondents were 'able most or all of the time to provide the services victims needed'. The reasons for this are the reduction in officer numbers, poor technology, an increase in non-crime related incidents and increase in cyber-crime. This leads to dissatisfaction and loss of confidence in the police which may impact on the success of investigations and the likelihood of victims reporting incidents in the future.

The Home Office, Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners must ensure sufficient resources are provided to enable the police service to support to more victims of crime and to meet the requirements of the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime. This includes providing police officers

¹ PFEW National Detectives' Survey 2015

with on-going awareness training on key aspects of victim care to meet the diverse needs of all victims and, where appropriate, investing in restorative justice.

4. Procedures/implementation

PFEW will press the Home Office, APCCs and NPCC to provide sufficient resources to enable the police service to support more victims of crime and to meet the requirements of the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime.

Responsibility is delegated to the National Secretary and/or the appropriate sub-committee.

	Author	Date	Date to be reviewed	Change
Version 1	EP-KP	October 2015	October 2016	
Version 2	EP-KP	October 2016	October 2017	No change
Version 3	KP	January 2019	October 2019	Minor changes

Signed by:



National Chair



National Secretary