



VERA BAIRD^{QC}
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Working Together to Put Victims First in Northumbria during 2015/16

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) devolved funding to PCCs for the provision of victim services.

I established Victims First Northumbria (VFN) in April 2015 so that the highest quality of services can be delivered to help victims cope and recover from their experience. The service is unique in that it gives victims a single point of contact for all their support needs. Some victims may not reach out for help until a later date and this service is available at any point for victims, whether a crime has been reported or not. Whatever point you make contact you will be offered a service to meet your individual needs.

VFN has gone from strength to strength in the last year and has provided support to over 17,000 victims of crime and has worked with even more to help assess their needs. Approximately 64% of victims who come into contact with VFN go onto receive some form of support and referral to a specialist agencies.

VFN has developed 'champion' roles within its workforce to take a lead on providing support for those with specialist needs in the areas of hate crime, youth related crime, domestic abuse, sexual violence, older people, and victims with mental health needs. Please be assured if you have experienced crime and would like to talk about what support is available to you, VFN will help and guide you through your recovery journey.

Northumbria Police plays a key role in understanding the needs of victims of crime and they work very closely with VFN to ensure the needs of victims are captured at an early stage and they are supported on the right pathway to recovery.