

Victim First NEWSLETTER

November 2017 

Welcome ...

..To our Autumn Newsletter

As well as providing you with the usual quarterly headlines, this edition of the newsletter will give you an insight into the difference we can make to the people we support. You only need to read the message we received from one of our Service Users to see just how vital it is that victims and witnesses have access to their own dedicated Caseworker whom they can trust and turn to for help and guidance. We've also shared some of the highlights from our summer of community engagement and awareness raising events.

We've included plenty of pictures this time as you've told us that you prefer photos and headlines to having to trawl through my rambling narratives! So without further ado, I'll leave you to grab a cuppa and enjoy the newsletter. Thanks for your continued support.

Paul Kiggell
Head of Service, Victim First



Headline Data

3,362

Cases referred to Victim First (April-June 2017)

482

Victims received
'Enhanced support'

2,172

Victims received
'Standard support'

Service User Feedback

"What happened to me was horrible but this is my silver lining. I got a deadline extension, I can take two of my exams in September and I can do better in my degree and it's all thanks to you...Keep doing what you do, keep helping people. You've been amazing".

On Twitter:

"I would like to thank Victim First for helping me to get my life back after I had a lot of trouble and problems at my old work" 

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What have we been up to?

Good News Stories

One of our amazing Victim First Caseworkers received the following message from a woman she had supported:

"I just wanted to thank you and Victim First for listening and your support over the last few months. My ex abused me psychologically and financially and left me £20,000 in debt. I felt it was my fault because I had let him manipulate me over the 5 years together - I felt I should have known better as an independent and intelligent woman in my 40s.

When I first contacted you I had already left him a couple of months before but I was absolutely broken emotionally and could not see a way forward. The guilt I felt was so extreme I isolated myself from friends and did not open up for fear that they would blame me too. And then I found your organisation - signposted from Domestic Violence Helpline and through regular phone counselling with you, an understanding and sensible voice, I feel more ready to face the future.

There is a difference between talking to friends and talking to you - you are impartial as you are not 'mine' and so what you say is from experience and knowledge gained in doing what you do.

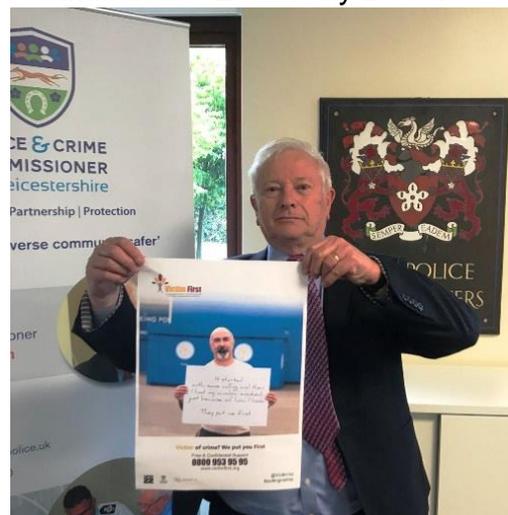
I still have downs as it is only 6 months since I moved out and moved on from him but accept this as normal to heal. The financial side is a

constant reminder of what he did to me, but it will sort, with time. I am so grateful for your service. Even though I am at the good point where I do not need to access your service further I do know I can contact you again should I need support.

Thanks so much - you should be very proud of what you do, this service definitely makes a difference to people, it did for me."

Poster Campaign

At the start of September, we launched our new Victim First Poster Campaign, supported by the Police and Crime Commissioner Lord Willy Bach:



The launch included an exciting build up on social media, with several competitions and prizes galore. As well as this, we held a grand tour of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to display the posters and distribute leaflets at over 100 venues including community centres, hospitals, libraries, leisure centres, GP's surgeries, Council buildings, Colleges and Universities.

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Community Events

We've been all over Leicestershire and Rutland during the past few months, raising awareness of the support Victim First provides. Here's just a taster of some of the places we've been to:

Holding a stall alongside Police colleagues at Leicester Pride



Reaching out to students at the University of Leicester Fresher's Fair



Engaging with our communities at the Leicester Mela



Being interviewed on Radio Fox to raise awareness amongst patients at Leicester Royal Infirmary, Glenfield Hospital and online



Holding stalls at several events across Rutland as part of the Rutland Community Safety Roadshow



Engaging in numerous activities as part of National Hate Crime Awareness Week, culminating in attending a Service of Hope and Remembrance at Leicester Cathedral

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Prize winners

We had a hugely successful night at the Catch22 Social Justice and Rehabilitation Award Ceremony, scooping no fewer than 8 awards, including Community Service of the Year (for the second year running).



A Reminder of who we are

At Victim First we are dedicated to supporting victims of crime and high risk antisocial behaviour across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to help them to cope and recover from their ordeal.

We recognise all victims' needs can be different and that is why our service is designed to be tailored to your requirements. If English is not your first language or if you have other communication impairments or difficulties, we will provide an interpreter and will ensure you feel comfortable that you fully understand the support available to you.

Support may include:

- Emotional Support
- Information and Advice
- Access to Specialist Support
- Restorative Justice
- Mental Health Support
- Crime Prevention measures
- Advocacy
- Access to Hardship Fund

Whether or not the crime has been reported to the Police, and regardless of when it happened, we are here for you.



KEEP ON REFERRING:

Anybody can self-refer by simply calling our Freephone number 0800 953 95 95 or emailing us at support@victimfirst.pnn.gov.uk

Police colleagues can refer to us via the Victim and Witness Contact Management report page on Niche (VCOP)

Other professionals can refer a service user to Victim First via the website or by contacting us directly on 0800 953 95 95 or emailing office@victimfirst.pnn.gov.uk



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