



Providing support for victims of crime across Berkshire,  
Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire

[www.victims-first.org.uk](http://www.victims-first.org.uk) 0300 1234 148

## Victims First Connect

To improve routes into services for victims of crime, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner is developing a scheme called Victims First Connect. Victims First Connect aims to create a localised link in the community between people requiring support after being impacted by a crime and [Victims First's](#) services. It will allow someone in need of support to access a point in their community to find out more about the services available to victims of crime, receive crime prevention/safety advice, report a hate crime and/or have someone process a referral for support on their behalf.

Victims First provides free emotional and practical support to any victim, witness or family members of victims across the Thames Valley. Support is available regardless of when the crime took place or whether or not it has been reported to the police. Support includes telephone and face to face support, advocacy and if necessary referral into a Victims First specialist services such as domestic abuse and sexual violence services, young victims service and specialist counselling service.

Victims First Connect is structured into three different tiers which will all provide different levels of information and/or immediate support. Involvement can range from having leaflets, posters or digital content for screens available in the GP practice to providing GPs with training about the services available to help them in supporting patients who may be struggling to cope following a crime or abuse. The training will enable GPs to talk the patient through the available support and if necessary, instigate a referral to Victims First on their behalf. Further information about the programme and its structure can be found at <https://www.victims-first.org.uk/what-we-do/victims-first-connect/>

If you are interested in finding out more about Victims First Connect and how you can get involved please email [victimsfirstcomms@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:victimsfirstcomms@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk) or call Sarah Stokes at the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner on 01865 541954

Leaflets and posters can be requested online at [VF Materials Order Form](#)

*March 2020*

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