



VICTIM SUPPORT & WITNESS SERVICE

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Victim support Jersey is an independent charity for people affected by crime. We offer a free and confidential service, regardless of whether or not a crime has been reported.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Derek Gray	Chairman
Brian Heath	Vice-Chairman
Pauline Beddoe	Volunteers' Representative
Sally Le Brocq	Member
Elizabeth Le Guillou	Police Representative
Gill Hutchinson	Community & Constitutional Affairs Representative
Beverly Baron	Secretary
Tony Staples	Treasurer
Barbara Machon	Interim Manager

Volunteers 13

Patron The Bailiff of Jersey, Mr William Bailhache

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Derek Gray

The start of 2015 saw a change in our patron. The retirement of Sir Michael Birt as Bailiff also saw his retirement as our Patron and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sir Michael for his support and wish him well in his retirement. I am very pleased to report that our new Bailiff, Mr William Bailhache, agreed to become our Patron in Sir Michael's place. The support of the Bailiff acknowledges our role within the legal system.

In concluding I cannot fail to acknowledge the hard work undertaken by our interim manager, Barbara, her assistant Rui and all our volunteers.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Interim – Barbara Machon

Recent police figures revealed that the overall crime rate has dropped by a third since 2011. This is good news indeed and is reflected by an overall reduction in referrals to our service by 20% during 2015. Victim Support Jersey (VSJ) however continues to provide the important service it always has done to anyone who may need it, supporting victims and others affected by crime and providing a Witness Service. A breakdown of numbers in the different areas are covered in more detail below.

We are pleased to report that the issue of how the payment of Compensation Orders are made to victims is now under review by the Criminal Justice Strategy Board. Currently, if an offender cannot pay a Compensation Order in full the funds are collected by the Viscounts and paid in instalments to the victim. This then becomes a form of secondary victimisation; it is hoped that a way of reimbursing the victim in full then recovering the costs from the offender will be found.

We have been contributing to a number of initiatives this year which will hopefully improve outcomes for victims of domestic abuse. These include an Island wide Domestic Abuse Strategy being developed under the Safeguarding Partnership Board. We also welcome the Domestic Violence Legislation Project which is focussing on the revision of the laws in this area.

In July 2015 we hosted the annual Victim Support Inter-Island meeting from which we have benefitted in working more closely with our colleagues from the Isle of Man and Guernsey, sharing resources and ideas in different areas, including fund raising.

With regard to funding, VSJ relies on an annual grant from the States of Jersey along with the generous support received from several of the parishes, private organisations and individuals to whom we remain indebted to for enabling our charity to continue its work. We would like to mention in particular Roberts Garages who very generously awarded us a grant from their Community Fund in order to cover the training costs of our next intake of volunteers.

Numbers: Overall total referrals have decreased by 20% compared to 2014:

All referrals	2013	2014	2015
Victim Support	252	238	174
Witness Service	33	49	51
Victim Notification	35	76	67
Total no. of referrals	320	363	291

Much of the work is done over the telephone, either directly or on behalf of victims, however 125 face to face meetings with victims were also held, 52 of which involved pre-trial visits or support given at trials.

Victim Support (VS)

VS provides emotional support, practical help and information to victims, their families and others affected by crime. We received a total of 174 VS referrals in 2015, a drop of 27% on the previous year. One of the main reductions has been in the area of female victims of domestic abuse, which may reflect referrals now going to other specialist local agencies in this field. There have been increases however in the categories of harassment and sexual abuse/assaults, which include historical cases.

The majority of referrals (84%) came from the police, the remainder being self-referrals and those from other agencies.

Victim Support Referrals	2012	2013	2014	2015
Arson	1	0	0	0
Attempted murder	0	1	0	0
Burglary/Break & Entry	17	3	11	7
Common assault	32	42	29	28
Domestic Abuse (male)	3	23	31	21
Domestic Abuse (female)	10	26	26	8
Fraud	4	5	18	7
Grave & Criminal Assault	29	32	20	17
Harassment	15	5	5	12
Historical Sexual Abuse/Assault	7	13	6	9
Homicide	1	0	3	1
Malicious Damage	9	14	13	7
Motoring related (new category 2014)	n/a	n/a	9	2
Other	21	25	26	19
Other Sexual Assault/offences	8	11	7	13
Rape	7	7	5	5
Robbery	1	6	3	2
Theft	34	39	27	16
Total no. of referrals	199	252	239	174

The time our volunteers spend providing support to someone who has been affected by crime can vary from a single phone call to several face-to-face meetings. For example, one volunteer has met with her client on 25 separate occasions due to the on-going impact of the crime.

Witness Service (WS)

We continue to work in partnership with the Witness Care Unit at Police Head Quarters in providing a Witness Service to victims and witnesses. Referrals were up slightly (4%) compared to 2014, with a total of 51 individuals receiving volunteer support. This may involve accompanying the witness to either the Magistrate's or Royal Court for a pre-trial familiarisation visit plus support before, during and after the trial as required. WS is available for both prosecution and defence witnesses, although take up for the latter remains minimal despite efforts to engage with defence advocates. We can also provide support in the Civil Courts in some circumstances and this has been provided in two cases during 2015. Support for islanders giving evidence in the UK courts can also be arranged with our counterparts in the relevant jurisdiction.

Victim Notification Scheme

The number of referrals under the scheme dropped from 76 to 67 in 2015 (11%). The scheme is run in conjunction with the Witness Care Unit and was set up to ensure that no victim, who has opted in to the scheme, encounters their perpetrator in the community whilst they believe they are still in prison. The victim is kept informed of the month when the perpetrator is due for release or for temporary leave in the community. Any concerns they may have in relation to their safety are fed back to the Prison Panel considering the offender's application, as well as the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements forum who seek to manage any risks posed by the perpetrator. The scheme extends to those offenders serving their time in the UK who are approaching their release date and where the victim resides in Jersey.

Volunteers and staff

Elizabeth Le Guillou, the new joint manager of the Criminal Justice Department at the Police, replaced Dr Helen Miles as our Police representative on the Management Team. We would like to thank Helen for her valued contributions during her time with us. We may still see Helen on occasion however, as a representative of Community and Constitutional Affairs (formerly Home Affairs) when Gill Hutchison is unavailable.

All our volunteers are accredited to the standard set by Victim Support Northern Ireland. Two volunteers left us this year due to other commitments and we are very grateful to the years of service they have given. We currently have 13 volunteers, without whom we could not function. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to each of them for their continued commitment to Victim Support.

I would also like to thank my colleague, Rui Soares Manager's Assistant, and the Management Committee for all their help and assistance during 2015.

VICTIM SERVICES REVIEW*Brian Heath Vice-Chairman*

The vision of providing seamless services to victims and witnesses of crime progressed during 2015 with the support of the key agencies involved. However the lack of any additional resources has made the journey a slower one than anticipated. We are working with the Department of Constitutional and Community Affairs (formerly Home Affairs) to develop a sustainable funding model for the Service. It is planned to co-locate The Witness Care Unit, Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) Service to the Magistrate's Court building in 2016 where Victim Support is already located. This should facilitate closer joint working for the benefit of witnesses and victims of crime.

TREASURER'S REPORT 2015*Tony Staples*

The financial results for 2015 are broadly similar to those for the previous year with a reduced deficit of £653 compared with £1,827 for 2014.

Income for the year amounted to £36,735 compared with £35,935 for 2014 as a result of an increase in donations. We continue to receive donations from a number of different sources and we would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have contributed for their valuable support.

Expenditure for the year was £37,388, marginally reduced from the 2014 figure of £37,762.

DONATIONS - VSJ was very grateful to receive donations from the following:

Alex Picot Group
Anonymous donation
Roberts Garages
The E.V.A. Rouse Settlement
Parish of Trinity
Parish of St Brelade
Parish of St Clement
Parish of St Helier
Parish of St Lawrence
Parish of St Saviour

Victim Support Jersey - Accounts

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2015

Income	2015	2014
Grants received	30,000	30,000
Donations	6,700	5,900
Bank Interest	35	35
	36,735	35,935
Expenditure		
Victim Support review	0	-1,500
Wages & Social Security	-35,124	-30,695
Other staff costs	-418	-289
Car parking	-0	-124
Telephone	-20	-83
Postage	-44	-62
Stationery & Printing	-285	-602
Insurance	-210	-193
Conference costs	-668	-531
Training Costs	-30	-2,392
Advertising	-224	0
Software & System Support	-260	-965
Sundry Expenses	<u>-105</u>	<u>-326</u>
	- 37,388	- 37,762
(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	<u>- 653</u>	<u>-1,827</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2015

CURRENT ASSETS	2015	2014
Cash at Bank	<u>59,013</u>	<u>59,668</u>
	59,013	59,668
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors	<u>531</u>	<u>533</u>
	<u>58,482</u>	<u>59,135</u>
Representing:		
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT		
Balance brought forward	59,135	60,962
(Deficit) for the year	<u>-653</u>	<u>-1,827</u>
Balance carried forward	<u>58,482</u>	<u>59,135</u>