

**NATIONAL PROBATION SERVICE
HAMPSHIRE AREA**

R A C E E Q U A L I T Y S C H E M E

IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM

1. Function/Policy Name: Delivery of Victim Contact Work

2. Aims and Approach of Function/Policy:

The Victim Contact Unit (VCU) offers contact to all victims of violent or sexual offences where the offender receives a custodial sentence of 1 year or more. The VCU contacts the victim soon after the offender has been sentenced. Further contact may also be offered when the offender is being considered for release. The Victim Contact Officer's role is to inform the victim of the sentence the offender has received, when they are likely to be released and where and under what conditions they will be released. There is no obligation for a victim to meet with the Victim Contact Officer, but everybody is sent a letter and information leaflet, offering them contact.

3. What data is Available & Does it Suggest Differential Impact Between Racial/Ethnic groups?

There is currently no monitoring data in Hampshire, although systems have now been established, through which to evaluate whether there is any differences between ethnic groups in take up of contact. The HMIP Thematic Inspection (2003) made the following recommendations based on their findings of areas of work that needed to be developed:

- Ensure that all victims have equal access to the contact service and that the specific needs of those from minority groups are given appropriate consideration by taking action and progress the collection of REM data on victims, using it to inform service delivery.
- Develop skills and guidance for working with victims of hate crime – including monitoring and prevalence
- Consultation with minority groups to improve Service delivery
- Choice of VCO of the same sex to female victims of sexual offences

- Develop work with child victims

The VCU in Hampshire is at the beginning of the process of ensuring equitable uptake and service delivery for BME victims.

4. What changes are needed to remove any adverse impact (either approach or implementation considerations)?

5. What consultation has been undertaken and what are the results of this?

6. Decisions taken on the basis of the impact assessment and measures to implement.

7. Monitoring arrangements and review process

8. How results will be published

.

Signature of Policy Lead

Position

Date