

Visit by Cllr Richard Dickson to Victim Support, Bedworth, April 2, 2024

The meeting took place between 10am and 10.50am. The candidate met with Victim Support staff in the Prevention Hub.

The following questions were answered:

1. Do you cover the whole of Warwickshire?

Victim Support explained that they did and also had a base at the Leamington Justice Centre.

2. Where do your referrals come from?

Victim Support advised that, while working closely with Warwickshire Police, they are independent of the police and that victims did not have to report to the police to get support. Where victims are referred by the police no further communication takes place with the police about the victim, unless explicit consent had been given by the victim.

In cases where victims do not wish to take up Victim Support's offer, they the victim has a copy of the Victim's Code, which sets out their rights.

3. What services do you offer?

Victim Support advised that it has a children's team, an RJ team and an adult team. They provided information on the support given by the respective teams.

4. Cllr Dickson referenced a recent rape trial he had witnessed at court recently and expressed amazement that it had taken four years to come to trial.

5. How do you report to the OPCC?

Victim Support explained that a quarterly report was provided to the OPCC containing stats, case studies and narrative about our activities over the quarter.

6. What happens to victims who are a victim of crime in Warwickshire but lived in another area and visa-versa?

Victim Support explained the respective referral mechanisms that ensure no victim is left unsupported.

There was also further discussion prompted by Cllr Dickson on the length of time cases take to come to court, following on from a recent visit by the councillor to a rape trial which had taken four years to get to court. Victim Support explained that a large part of the waiting list had been due to Covid and the period when courts were not able to sit.