

# **Victim Support**

## **Catering to Victims' Needs: The National Homicide Service**

## Background

High profile cases brought victims into the spotlight

Families of the deceased did not always get the right support

Introduction a National Homicide Service began in 2010

## The Team

35 new members of staff

5 regions

1 x Team Leader, 5 x Case Workers, 1 x Support Worker

Single Point Of Contact into the service for police, & bereaved

## The Homicide Service

- ✓ Current structure in place from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010.
- ✓ Working with those who are 'significantly' bereaved to provide emotional and practical support.
- ✓ Budget to commission services.
- ✓ Agreements with other specialist organisations for inter-agency work e.g. Missing Abroad, Assist Trauma Care, Winston's Wish

## Homicide Service Hours of Operation

Service will operate from 8am until 8pm  
Monday to Friday  
&  
12 - 4pm on  
Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holidays

## Service Model

- ✓ Notification within **24 hours** of the investigation commencing.

**Homicide.referrals@victimsupport.cjsm.net**

- ✓ Homicide case worker will contact FLO and introduce themselves and through discussion, suggest ways in which we can support the family at that time and in the future.
- ✓ If a bereaved person gives consent, the case worker will be introduced to carry out a needs assessment and commence support.

## What can we do? – emotional support

- ✓ Psycho social support – VS
- ✓ Trauma therapy – commissioned services
- ✓ Peer support
- ✓ Bereavement counselling

## What can we do? – practical support

- ✓ Legal Advice Helpline ( finances, probate, child custody)
- ✓ Form filling/letter writing/phone calls
- ✓ Department of Work & Pensions
- ✓ Criminal Injuries Compensation
- ✓ Post trial needs assessment
- ✓ Liaison with Probation – Victim Liaison Officers



## Commissioned services

- ✓ Transport and travel
- ✓ Accommodation costs (in some circumstances)
- ✓ Urgent financial support
- ✓ Child and other carer costs
- ✓ Domestic Cleaning
- ✓ Trauma and PTSD counselling
- ✓ Home Security and repairs

# National Statistics

1 March 2010 – 31 March 2013

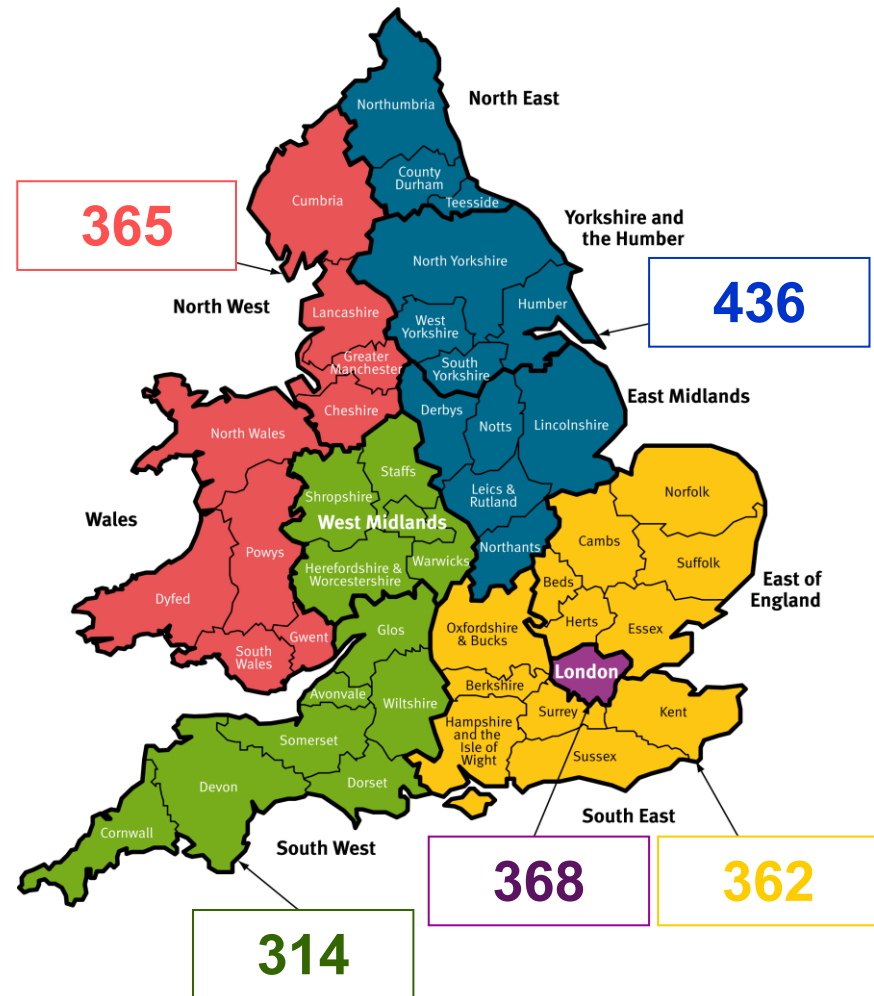
Notifications – 1845

Referrals – 1584

(*consent rate = 86%*)

Bereaved people supported – 3901

Actively supporting - 2220



## Trevor and Sheila's story

In February 2006, Trevor and Sheila's daughter, Carly, was attacked and knocked unconscious by her boyfriend during a row. She never regained consciousness and died in hospital six days later.

The police uncovered the boyfriend's involvement and he was eventually convicted of manslaughter.

Sheila said: "I went to Victim Support after it happened and had over 12 solid months of counselling. I can't thank Victim Support enough. It was vital for me. If I had not had counselling I would not be here now; I just wanted to die. The counsellor got me through it. It's not everyone's cup of tea, but for some people it's lifesaving.

"Counselling just helped me so much and I want everyone to have the opportunity to have it and not have to fight for it. If it's available to people in prison, it should be available to victims of crime. We set up the Carly Fund to raise money for counselling services. We've had a lot of help from some Victim Support staff with it. It means Carly didn't die in vain. She'll always be remembered and even though she's not here in body she's helping people."

## Neville's Story

### Video

Neville Lawrence was a witness at the 2011 court case involving the murder of his son Stephen Lawrence, of which two men were found guilty.

Following the case, Neville spoke about his experience of the Witness Service and the support he received during the trial.

# Questions?