

# Supporting Witnesses

Carolyn Hodrien

Locality Director – Victim Support England and  
Wales

# Who are we?



240,573 witnesses  
supported

find the strength

- 75,763 referrals

- 26,061 vulnerable  
and intimidated

- 41,472 pre trial  
visits

- 7,036 defence  
witnesses

## Matthew's story

"I was really nervous about coming to court today but the Witness Service volunteer was really friendly and helped me a lot".

# Underpinning Principles

- Interests of the child/young person are paramount
- Witness lead – focusing on witness needs
- Flexible support within an agreed framework
- In conjunction with parents/carers and CJS agencies



# Service Delivery

- Initial visit
- Preparation
- PTV
- Trial
- Post-trial

# Volunteer Supporters

- Representative of community
- Enhanced CRB
- WS and YWS training
- Observed practice
- Accreditation
- Refresher training



## What did the young witnesses say ?

- ❖ My volunteer was very helpful and she made the whole experience easier for me
- ❖ He made me feel less nervous and at ease
- ❖ Thank you for giving me confidence and support
- ❖ Without the Young Witness Service I would have been very nervous
- ❖ If I didn't have it I don't think I would of (stet) stood up in court
- ❖ It still makes me nervous but not as much as I was