

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

To: Leisure & Development Committee

The Victim Charter ‘A Charter for Victims of crime’

8th December 2015

For Information

Report to Committee

Linkage to Interim Corporate Plan	
Strategic Themes	Cohesive Community
Lead Officer	Julie Welsh – Head of Community and Culture
Cost: (If applicable)	N/A

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information on the Victims Charter.

Background

A range of changes have been introduced in Northern Ireland in recent years to improve the services provided to victims and witnesses of crime. In January 2015 a Victim Charter was published that sets out the entitlements of victims, the services that are to be provided and the standard of services that victims can expect to receive as they move through the criminal justice process as well as the obligations on service providers to deliver information, services and support. It follows a victim’s journey through the process from first reporting an incident to its conclusion.

The Victim Charter has been placed on a statutory footing as of the 13th November 2015. The Victim Charter is being largely used to transpose the EU Directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime that came into effect on the 16 November 2015.

To ensure accessibility, a Summary Charter, Easy Read version, Young Person’s guide and a revised victim information leaflet have been prepared. The Summary Charter and information leaflet are available in a number of languages.

All of the documents above can be found at the following link:

<https://www.dojni.gov.uk/publications/victim-charter>

A number of other victim related documents can also be found at:

<https://www.dojni.gov.uk/topics/justice-and-law/victims-crime>