



## **BTP VICTIMS AND WITNESSES SUPPORT POLICY**

### **1. POLICY STATEMENT**

- 1.1 In pursuit of our vision to provide policing excellence for Britain's railways, the British Transport Police (BTP) will adhere to the Code of Practice Victims of Crime (the Code) to ensure all types of victims (including those that are vulnerable and/or intimidated) are afforded the highest level of care and support. We will undertake a victims-focused approach, investigating crimes whilst addressing the needs of victims and witnesses.
- 1.2 In order to achieve our vision the BTP will ensure:
- that victims and witnesses are kept informed on the progress of investigations in a timely manner,
  - provide information on referrals to support organisations with specialist support skills,
  - periodic internal audits and reviews will be carried out to ensure compliance with the Code,
  - all staff involved in Victim and Witness care have an understanding and respect for diversity,
  - work closely with Home Office Forces, all aspects of the railway industry, partner organisations and the wider communities that BTP serve.

### **2. OVERVIEW**

- 2.1 This policy is based on our: Strategic Plan 2005-2008, Policing Plan 2007-2008, Crime Strategy 2005-2008 and National Quality of Service Commitment for Police Forces in England and Wales.
- 2.2 This policy applies to all BTP Officers and Police Staff.
- 2.3 This policy applies to England, Wales and Scotland.



**3. APPLICABLE DATE, MONITORING AND REVIEW**

- 3.1 This policy is applicable from 15 October 2007.
- 3.2 This policy will be reviewed in 2 years.

**4. OWNERSHIP**

- 4.1 This policy is owned by the Detective Chief Superintendent of Crime.

**5. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS**

- 5.1 [Force Strategic Plan 2005-2008](#)
- 5.2 [Force Policing Plan 2006-2007](#)
- 5.3 Crime Strategy 2005-2008
- 5.4 [National Quality of Service Commitment for Police Forces in England and Wales](#)
- 5.5 [The Code of Practice for Victims of Crime](#)