

MERGERS CREATE NEW NATIONAL VICTIM'S CHARITY

Date: 14 July 2008

July 2008 marks a significant milestone in the 35 year history of Victim Support, when it becomes a single national¹ charity.

The organisation has completed the merger of a national federation of 77 charities into a single entity in just over six months.

The change will make Victim Support significantly more efficient and crucially, speed up decision making to help keep abreast of new issues and opportunities. One immediate outcome of the mergers is a project to enhance the charity's services for victims. This will increase response times and help the organisation prioritise support for those most in need.

The major restructuring could not have been achieved without the hard work of the army of volunteers and staff who provide the service at the sharp end of the organisation.

Commenting on the restructuring, Chief Executive Gillian Guy said: *"The fact that we've gone from a proposal to a full merger in just over 18 months is a remarkable achievement and a testament to all those involved, especially the people on the front line of the organisation. We've laid very sound foundations and now there are big challenges ahead - we must now build on our new strength and focus with renewed energy on our mission, transforming the lives of victims and witnesses for the better."*

The restructuring has also seen the new slim-line national centre move to smaller premises in Central London.

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Notes to Editors follow

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1. England and Wales
2. Victim Support is the independent national charity for people affected by crime. Staff and volunteers offer free and confidential information and support for victims of any crime, whether or not it has been reported and regardless of when it happened. Victim Support works to increase awareness of the effects of crime and to achieve greater recognition of victims' and witnesses' rights. The organisation operates via a network of affiliated local charities, the Witness Service and Victim Supportline (0845 30 30 900). For further information see www.victimsupport.org

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