

Baroness Newlove visits the Road Victims Trust

A registered charity that supports persons affected by road death in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire paid host to a visit by the Victims Commissioner, Baroness Newlove and Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Olly Martins on Monday 14th September 2015.

The Road Victims Trust provides free emotional and practical support to all those affected by a road death across the 3 counties and is unique nationally in how it provides its services. Based in Kempston, Bedfordshire, the charity supported over 250 persons living across the 3 counties last year alone. Service level agreements with the 3 Police Forces allows for the best possible levels of victims care.

Baroness Newlove is the Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales and was appointed in March 2013. Her role is to promote the interests of victims and witnesses; encourage good practice in the treatment of victims and witnesses; and keep under review the operation of the Code of Practice for Victims.

The Baroness took time to talk with Staff and Volunteers at the charity and was hugely impressed by what she encountered. Speaking about the visit she said: "Victims of crime often need support, advice and someone to listen to them when they are at their most vulnerable. The work of the Road Victims Trust is very important in delivering the best possible victim care to those whose lives have been devastated by a road death, regardless of whether any criminal act occurred."

Chief Executive of the Trust, Mark Turner said "We were privileged to be visited by such a courageous and inspirational person who has such a deep understanding of what victims face. Every day in the UK 5 people will be killed on the roads yet there remains very little support for the families and friends left behind. The Trust are there to give hope and rebuild the lives of those affected".

Bedfordshire PCC, Olly Martins said "Those affected by crime and those affected by a death on the roads quite clearly have different needs but whatever the circumstances it's really important that people have access to specialised support. This is where the Road Victims Trust makes such a vital contribution and sadly, despite strenuous efforts from the police and road safety campaigners to impress road safety messages, road traffic collisions still happen.

The Trust's work is unrivalled and sees police officers from three counties working in partnership with the Trust to help those at their lowest possible ebb. That's why as PCCs the three of us from Beds, Cambs and Herts make a financial contribution to their vital work." To find out more about the work of the Road Victims Trust and how you can help please visit www.rvtrust.org.uk or e-mail markt@rvtrust.co.uk.

Mark Turner

Chief Executive