

Appendix 1 – Consultation questions and responses.

Question 1.

Do you agree with the proposal to list Domestic Violence cases in Lancashire in one venue? If not, why not?

Response

Whilst we must acknowledge that the Domestic Violence court in Ormskirk is set to close in June anyway and thus our cases would have gone elsewhere, we have concerns over the distances victims will be expected to travel as cases will not even be heard a court in a neighbouring area (such as Leyland). As such we do not agree.

Question 2.

Please describe any particular impacts the document has not already considered that should be taken into account and why?

Response

Victims of Domestic Violence will clearly be vulnerable and it can be difficult to get them to engage in the court process, even when it is local to them. In addition, they may not have appropriate access to a vehicle. It is recognised that there are poor transport links between parts of West Lancashire (particularly Skelmersdale) and Preston. As such, it may be difficult for people to attend the relevant court hearings. This may deny victims to provide useful evidence of how the impact of the issue has affected them and therefore the Magistrates may not receive “the full picture”.

Question 3

Please indicate any viable alternatives for listing Domestic Violence cases which you would like to put forward with a brief explanation why you consider this to be more appropriate.

Response

Other cases which would have gone to Ormskirk magistrates courts are being split with Skelmersdale cases going to be heard in Wigan. This is an acknowledgement of the better transport links between Skelmersdale and Wigan. These improved transport links may result in a better attendance rate at court.

Question 4

Do you have any other observations or comments about any of the issues raised in this Consultation Paper

Response

Not at this time