GRASS

- Intimidation occurs in nearly one in ten reported crimes

- Only one third of intimidated witnesses report the intimidation to the police

- Witnesses who report crime are more likely to be intimidated than those who do not report

Tackling Intimidation on Merseyside

Background

OCJR Publications-

- Working with intimidated witnesses
- Action dispels fear
- Intimidation scorecard

WAVES

WITNESS AND VICTIM ENCOURAGEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

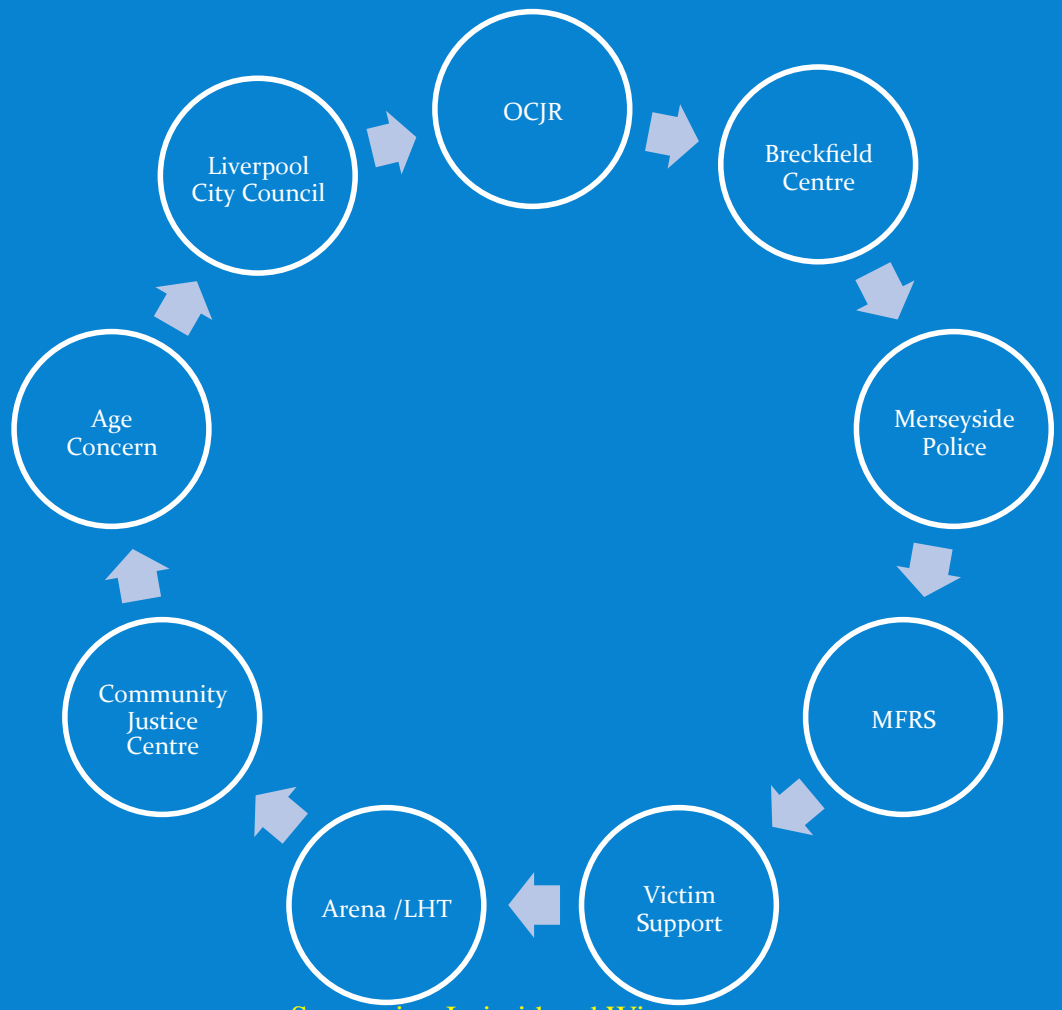
Aims

- ‘Identification of intimidated witnesses
- Facilitate relevant support services
- Support witnesses on their journey through the criminal justice process

Outcomes

- Reduction in witness intimidation
- Increase in convictions
- Reduction in crime

Partners



Supporting Intimidated Witnesses

Crime Types

- Anti-social behaviour
- Assaults
- Domestic violence
- Drugs offences
- Gang crimes
- Criminal damage

Outcomes

- Police operations including arrests
- Advice
- Diversionary activities developed
- Community meetings
- Evidence gathering
- School projects developed

Evaluation

'Making WAVES has helped to deliver a much improved witness referral system, which will ultimately improve the support networks available to a witness'

'Findings from this evaluation show that a project such as making WAVES is able to address witness intimidation, encouraging the reporting of crime and intimidation, and improving the quality of support provided to witnesses'

The Future

- New Witness Protection Policy
- WAVES Everton
- WAVES Alt Valley
- WAVES Merseyside?