



# Victim Awareness Course

A simple, meaningful, effective out-of-court disposal option

**“We will overhaul the system of police cautions and ensure that offenders always have conditions... attached to the punishment.”** (Government Manifesto Commitment 2015–2020)

Our established and effective Victim Awareness Courses are delivered as an out-of-court disposal option for low-level offenders across England and Wales.

VS offers you a simple and effective solution with proven results.

**Offenders pay £60 to attend the course. We do not charge police forces for this service.**

[victimsupport.org.uk](http://victimsupport.org.uk)

All profits support our charitable work

# What is the Victim Awareness Course?

A short course that aims to reduce re-offending by helping people to understand and emphasise the impact of their behaviour, improve attitudes towards crime and identify alternative choices for the future.

## Simple

### We monitor compliance, saving police time

Police simply send referral details securely and **we will:**

- Make contact and drive attendance
- Take payment by phone, online, or through PayPoint, with the option to pay in three instalments<sup>1</sup>
- Deliver the course at locations across England and Wales
- Quickly inform police of attendance.

If someone fails to attend or participate, police may prosecute for the original offence.

<sup>1</sup> Booking facilities are delivered by our partners, AA Drivetech. AA DriveTech have over 18 years' experience in delivering and administering offender diversionary courses. 84% of AA DriveTech customers score their booking facilities as either good or excellent.

# Meaningful

## We put the victim's voice at the heart of the system

With over 40 years' experience as the leading independent victims' charity, we know the impact that crime has on people's lives. We share that expertise through our courses.

We reinvest any money not used to deliver the courses to help us support even more victims move beyond crime.

# Effective

## We improve attitudes and thinking towards crime

Our course is based on evidence about what works to reduce re-offending. An independent evaluation by Portsmouth University<sup>2</sup> showed:

- **70%** said they would "definitely behave differently as a result of attending the course"
- **86%** said it helped them think about how the victim might feel as a result of their behaviour.

**"It was good, friendly and delivered in a way that made you understand your actions."**

Course attendee

<sup>2</sup> Portsmouth University (2013) *An Evaluation of the Victim Awareness Course Pilot in Hampshire*. Available at [www.victimsupport.org.uk/vac](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk/vac)

Contact us for more information  
or to discuss implementing the course  
in your area:

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Published by VS  
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56-60 Hallam Street, London W1W 6JL  
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Designed and produced under VS Trading, the wholly  
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