



Communication friendly resources soon to be available on IfJ website.



The Office of the **Police Crime and Victims' Commissioner-Durham (PCVC)** has funded the creation of some communication friendly resources for vulnerable witness. These include pdfs for:

a) **Giving evidence**

This explains and shows the process of giving evidence at 6 courts used by Durham witnesses.

These are Durham Crown Court, Newcastle Crown Court, Teesside Crown Court, Peterlee Magistrates' Court, Newton Aycliffe Magistrates' Court and Teesside Magistrates' Court.

These unique court pdfs include judiciary approved photos of the specific courts and easy to understand language. The content explains

- things like who works at a court
- pre-trial visits, special measures
- using the live link to answer questions, answering the court questions,
- what might happen to the defendant, sentencing and fitness to plead.

The resources have been deliberately created so **services nationally could also provide their own judiciary approved local court photos in future**, to be inserted into the pdf template by the graphic designer. (A nominal designer's fee would need funding by the commissioning service). This gives these Durham court pdf resources future national application to benefit all witnesses.

b) **'The Victim Personal Statement Resource Pack'**

This is a pdf which includes resources to assist professionals who need to gain a victim personal statement from a witness.

It includes visual resources to assist both adult witnesses with reasonable verbal and written communication skills, and also children, young people and vulnerable adults with a communication need.

The resources will be launched March 10th 2020 by Durham PCVC and Susan Stewart (author). Following this the pdfs will be hosted on www.intermediaries-for-justice.org for general free access (with a suggested charitable donation to IfJ).

The plan is also for IfJ members to be able to access all the court photos as they are expanded nationally by services, via their member section of the IfJ website.

Queries about the resources can be sent to: Susan Stewart (Registered Intermediary, Speech and Language Therapist) susanestewart@sky.com