

Advocacy Support Programme: Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Advocacy Support Programme was developed in consultation with the voluntary / community sector based on an identified need as part of VSS Peace IV project planning process. The overall objective of the project is to improve the health and wellbeing of victims and survivors through the development, implementation and co-ordination of a number of new and innovative initiatives.

The Advocacy Support Programme is one of these initiatives and contributes to VSS Strategic Outcome 1: **Improved Health & Wellbeing of Victims & Survivors**; and Strategic Outcome 4: **Victims and survivors, and their families, are supported to engage in legacy issues**. ‘Advocacy Support’ within this context is the provision of advocacy support to victims and survivors specifically within the areas of **Truth, Justice and Acknowledgement**.

The Programme targets hard to reach and marginalised individuals and communities which have suffered from the conflict/troubles.

“Victims and Survivors” has the meaning ascribed by the Victims and Survivors (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, as amended by the Commission for Victims and Survivors (Northern Ireland) Act 2008.

This inclusive definition encompasses all who have suffered as follows:

- (a) *someone who is or has been **physically or psychologically injured** as a result of or in consequence of a conflict-related incident;*
- (b) *someone who provides a substantial **amount of care** on a regular basis for an individual mentioned in paragraph (a); or*
- (c) *someone who has been **bereaved** as a result of or in consequence of a conflict-related incident.*

Under the Stormont House Agreement (2014), ‘*Victims and Survivors will be given access to advocate-counsellor assistance if they wish*’.

This project will develop and implement an advocacy support programme within the voluntary and community sector to ensure that victims and survivors have access to high quality practical support when engaging with on-going legacy inquests, enquiries and other historical institutions to be established under this agreement including the Independent Commission on Information Retrieval (ICIR), Historical Investigations Unit (HIU), and the Oral History Archive (OHA).

The advocacy support programme is an evolving process, not a single event that can be easily quantified. It is therefore more complex than a straightforward pre- and post-intervention measurement or 'score'.

Programme Monitoring and Evaluation will have a dual focus:

A. Quantitative

Beneficiaries

- i. Number
- ii. Demographics

B. Qualitative

Case Studies

Quantitative data will be recorded and reported on a monthly basis, with qualitative case studies compiled on a quarterly basis.

2. BENEFICIARY DATA

Beneficiary data is collated and monthly returns submitted to the VSS programmes team.

The following data is captured:

- Unique reference number
- Organisation
- Service description
- Date Registered
- Start date of service
- Anticipated end date
- Mother's maiden name
- Date of Birth
- Gender
- Relationship status
- Employment status
- Post Code area
- Primary identification with Victims and Survivors (NI Order)
- Year of incident
- Date completed

How is this Collated?

See below Monitoring Tool 1A or equivalent in your own organisation.

ME1314/1a

Victim Support Programme

**REVISED Monitoring Tool 1: Adult Service User Registration Form
(Form ME1314/1a)**

<i>For use by the FUNDED ORGANISATION OFFICE only:</i>	
Organisation	
VSS Unique Reference Code	
Service accessed (description)	
Service Code as per Workplan	
Date registered	
Proposed start date of service	
If applicable - Recommended number of sessions	
Anticipated end date	

Guidance note:

The Victims and Survivors Service (VSS) asks all those who use the services that we fund to provide brief and anonymous registration details. These details help us in three important ways:

1. to find out **how many people need services**;
2. to understand **where those services are required**; and
3. to understand **why people access these services** (i.e. the needs that they have).

All of **this information helps VSS to constantly work on delivering relevant and high quality services** to victims and survivors, using the funding allocated by OFMDFM. The information that you provide on this form will **ONLY** be used to monitor the information outlined above.

Please complete the following:

Your mother's maiden name:
(if you wish, you can choose to only note the LAST
4 LETTERS of your mother's maiden name)

Your date of birth:

Your M
gender:

F

Trans.

Relationship status (select one):

Single	<input type="checkbox"/>	Divorced	<input type="checkbox"/>
Married	<input type="checkbox"/>	Widowed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not indicated	<input type="checkbox"/>
Co-habiting	<input type="checkbox"/>	Separated	<input type="checkbox"/>

Employment status (select one):

Employed full time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Retired	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employed part time	<input type="checkbox"/>	In training	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unemployed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unable to work due to injury/poor health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

The first part of your post code:

BT

Who referred/signposted you to this group?

I chose to come here myself	<input type="checkbox"/>
The VSS referred me here	<input type="checkbox"/>
Another group	<input type="checkbox"/>

What is your primary identification with the Victims and Survivors (NI) Order (2006)? **(please select one only)**

Bereaved	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physically injured	<input type="checkbox"/>
Psychologically injured	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carer	<input type="checkbox"/>

Year of incident (s) (if multiple, just state 'multiple')

Have you already had an Individual Needs Review at the VSS?

Y

N

In the past, did you ever avail of assistance from the NI Memorial Fund?

Y

N

3. CASE STUDIES

The following template should be use to record individual case studies.

Individual Case Study Advocacy Support Services

Organisation Name	
Ref No	
Workplan Area	Advocacy Support Services

Background

Please provide some background information on the individual. How did the individual hear about your organisation? What were their needs and how were these needs identified?

Support provided

What specific support did your organisation provide to the individual? Were any other services accessed within your organisation or did you make any referrals to other organisations for additional support. Please include any referral to HWB Caseworker or Advocacy support worker.

Outcome –

What has been the outcome for the client?

The table below outlines potential indicators used by VSS to demonstrate the improved health and wellbeing of victims and survivors. **Please refer to your Monitoring and Evaluation Plan. All business plans approved by VSS included one or more of these indicators for the individuals they support through Transgenerational and Young People activities.**

Which of the indicators listed below was achieved in this case study?

Indicator	Achieved Yes/No & supporting evidence
1. Renewed relationships and trust within families and communities	
2. Improved mental health and social networks	
3. Agreed narrative with families and agencies around the incident	
4. Increased confidence and reduced isolation due to being acknowledged and supported	

Please provide a narrative which includes information on the individual's experience and how they feel that the support provided has helped them, where possible include quotes.

4. CONCLUSION

'Dealing with the legacy of the past' in relation to the 'Conflict' in Northern Ireland is an extremely sensitive process. The monitoring and evaluation of the Advocacy Support Programme must be developed taking this into consideration.

The Stormont House Agreement bill (2014), which would bring the proposed next steps into law, has not yet been passed. The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) launched their public consultation on proposals for 'Addressing the Legacy of Northern Ireland's Past' in May 2018. On the 5th July 2019 NIO launched and published a paper outlining themes and patterns emerging from this public consultation process but there is still no clarity on how these proposals will be taken forward.

Any proposals will be subject to negotiation and agreement between the Political Parties and the NIO.

This is a live document that we will continue to update as related processes develop and evolve.

The Monitoring & Evaluation Framework will be also complemented and informed by:

1. Advocacy Support Working Group
2. Mid Term Evaluation PEACE IV (2019/2020)
3. Post Project Evaluation Peace IV (2022/23)
4. CVS Research AS