

# VSS

**Mother and Baby Institutions,  
Magdalene Laundries  
and Workhouses**

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## **Information for victims and survivors**

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**Co-Design of Support and Services with  
Victims and Survivors of Mother and Baby  
Institutions, Magdalene Laundries and  
Workhouses in Northern Ireland**

## Background and Context

Following the publication of the [report](#) into Mother and Baby Institutions, Magdalene Laundries and Workhouses in January 2021, the NI Executive established a Truth Recovery Design Process. Further information can be found [here](#).

On the 21st June 2021, the Victims and Survivors Service (VSS) was asked by the Department of Health (DoH) to commence a co-design process to develop support and services with victims and survivors of Mother and Baby Institutions, Magdalene Laundries and Workhouses.

## How can I get involved?

To get involved in the co-design process, please contact us in one of the following ways:

Email us	<a href="mailto:codesign@vssni.org">codesign@vssni.org</a>
Call us	02890 311 678
Webchat	<a href="http://www.victimsservice.org">www.victimsservice.org</a>

You can also contact us if you are unsure and just want to find out some further information.

If you don't want to be actively engaged at this point but would like us to keep you up to date on our progress, please provide us with your contact details.

## What can I expect once I make contact?

One of [our team](#) will make contact with you to discuss the process and how you can help play an important role in this.

We can meet with you individually in a place that is convenient to you or via telephone or video call.

We also plan to arrange some information and group sessions over the months of July and August 2021.

## Our approach

VSS is passionate about co-designing services with victims and survivors to ensure specialist and dedicated support is developed and put in place.

We are committed to listening to the voices of victims and survivors to ensure the co-design process is survivor-led, accessible and responsive to the unique needs of each victim and survivor.

## Principles of the Co-Design Process

Any engagement with us will be voluntary and with your consent. You have the right to withdraw from the process at any time.

All engagement will be undertaken in the strictest confidence by the dedicated team in VSS and no individual's personal information will be included in any reports from the process.

We will treat any information you provide to us with sensitivity and care and in line with the VSS Data Protection Policy.

VSS is committed to ensuring that victims and survivors are cared for during this process. We will uphold our duty of care to you at all times. Emotional support will be available throughout the process.

## What do you mean by 'support and services'?

The co-design process will help us to understand what support and services you need. A future service delivery model unique to these needs will be designed and developed as part of this process.

This might include specialist and dedicated resources for the recovery and retrieval of information relating to your experience in a Mother and Baby Institution, Magdalene Laundry or Workhouse including adoption records or other health and personal records.

This might also include practical day-to-day support at an individual or group level such as:

### Health & Wellbeing



Caseworker



Complementary  
Therapies



Psychological  
Therapies



Pain  
Management

### Welfare



Welfare  
Support



Helping Engage  
with other  
agencies

### Social Support



Outreach



Befriending



Social Isolation

### Personal Development



Personal &  
Professional  
Development



Education &  
Training



Life Coaching

## What if I need support now?

We are available to provide interim emotional support to victims and survivors impacted by Mother and Baby Institutions, Magdalene Laundries and Workhouses.

This support is available in confidence, and in a safe and therapeutic way, with access to listening ear support and psychological therapies.

This is a temporary arrangement until permanent support services are in place.

## If you need support now, please contact us

Office Hours: 9am – 5pm, Monday – Friday

Contact: 028 9031 1678

Email: [codesign@vssni.org](mailto:codesign@vssni.org)

Webchat: [www.victimsservice.org](http://www.victimsservice.org)

