

Victim Support MSSIG Meeting

DATE 19 January 2021
TIME 11:00 am
LOCATION Microsoft Teams
CHAIRS Kate Roberts, Tamara Barnett, Anna Sereni

PRESENT Kate Roberts, *Anti-Slavery International*, Anna Sereni, *Anti-Slavery International*, Tamara Barnett, *Human Trafficking Foundation*, Amber Cagney, *West Midlands Anti-Slavery*, Andrea Nicholson, *Nottingham Rights Lab*, Bronagh Andrew, *Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance*, Ann-Marie Douglas, *TSA*, Avril Sharp, *Kalayaan*, Debbie Ariyo, *AFRUCA*, Pamela Mawoza, *Ashiana Sheffield*, Cathy Sheehan, *NHS*, Victoria Marks, *ATLEU*, Tatiana Gren-Jardan, *Justice and Care*, Julia Tomas, *The Passage*, Sarah Chase, *Justice and Care*, Rebecca Johnson, *LGA*, Ellie Greenwood, *LGA*, Phill Clayton, *City Hearts*, Lynne Chitty, *Love146*, Kate Garbers, *Unseen UK (Consultant)*, Louise Gleich, *Justice and Care*, Lauren Saunders, *Unseen UK*, Beth Mullan-Feroze, *Anti-Slavery International*, Eliza Stachowska, *Hope for Justice*, Jennifer Harrison, *Hestia*, Kathryn Baldacchino, *British Red Cross*, Kimberley, Victoria Lewandoski, Phillipa Roberts, *Hope for Justice*, Rose Makilagi, *Black Country Womens Aid*, Joseph Slowey, *IOM*, Sophie Cartwright, *Jesuit Refugee Service UK*, Vicky Brotherton, *Nottingham Rights Lab*, Lara Bundock, *Snowdrop Project*, Damian Johnson, *MSU*, Luke Hughes, *MSU*, Nicola Simpson, *MSU*, Hannah Phillips, *MSU*, Ellie Gough, *MSU*, Jess Lynn, *MSU*, Kelly Scott, *MSU*, Jenny Spyridi, *MSU*, Amy Medrano, *SCA*

Actions

- MSU to consider consistency across all MSSIG sub-group Terms of Reference.
- MSU and Co-chairs to set up a meeting to discuss the groups terms of reference further and circulate to the group for comment.
- MSU to organise a workshop with the group on the Needs-based approach to support.

MINUTES

Terms of Reference

- The group agreed on the importance of reviewing the current Terms of Reference, in order to ensure robust representation and expertise across the sector.

- The group agreed that membership should ensure meaningful representation. This would include clarity as to what members can expect to be consulted on and the feedback they can expect.
- MSU noted the importance of having a clear membership list and established processes for new members to join the group, in order to be able to have candid discussions on policy development.

NRM Transformation Programme

- MSU provided an outline of the new team structure for the MSU Victims Policy team, with three sub-teams working respectively on Adult Victim Support, NRM Policy and Children and NRM Transformation Implementation.
- MSU set out the aims of the programme and noted that it will seek to deliver a series of changes over two core pillars; 'delivering timely and needs-based support for victims' and 'ensuring robust effective and meaningful decision-making'. In addition, MSU are currently exploring the best way of delivering the work to ensure clarity on the Government's legal obligations to victims.
- The group queried the recent change to the discretionary leave policy and flagged that at present the Recovery Needs Assessment does not acknowledge immigration status as a recovery need and the importance of considering support beyond the MSVCC.
 - **Inadmissibility** – the group flagged that the new rules on inadmissibility seem to hinder an individual's recovery. MSU noted that they are working with the relevant teams on this.
- The group discussed the processes for becoming a First Responder (FR) in the context of increasing numbers of reports of potential victims and their support organisations struggling to find a non-statutory FR with capacity to make NRM referrals. MSU noted that work is underway to consider next steps on this and are hoping to discuss this further with the group in due course.
- The group discussed the importance of taking a holistic approach to support and prevention within NRM Transformation.

Update on Needs-based approach to support

- MSU outlined the intention to ensure that support is tailored to an individual's recovery needs from the outset, to reflect the specific needs and recovery journey of each individual victim.
- The new proposals will seek to enhance the needs assessment process and incorporate findings from the survivor experience research to provide upfront certainty to victims. A key change to the system is that support will be tailored following a reasonable grounds decision.
- Since the last VS MSSIG meeting the transformation workstreams on 'embedding a needs-based approach' and 'MSVCC financial support' have been merged in order to ensure a holistic needs-based focus.

- MSU are looking at whether support workers have the right training to complete assessments effectively and are considering how trauma expertise for specific cases can be embedded into the process.
- **Reach-in** – As part of the launch of the new MSVCC reach-in services were introduced to maintain smooth and sustainable journey to recovery for survivors. The service is focused on addressing any transitional issues that individuals may encounter once they have exited the MSVCC.
- This service will be available for individuals that have exited MSVCC support with a conclusive grounds decision. Individuals can receive this support by self-presenting or can be referred into the service online or via TSA.
- **Journey Plans** – the group suggested it would be beneficial if caseworkers were trusted with journey plans as the support provider rather than requiring them to be approved. Piloting this initiative would be welcomed.