



SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Project Case Study: Provision of Services for Victims and Survivors

THEME:

Victims and Survivors

FUNDING(ERDF+MATCH):

£14,944,279.57

MATCH FUNDERS:

The Executive Office NI and the Department of Rural and Community Development, Ireland

LEAD PARTNER:

Victims and Survivors Service

Start Date: 01/11/2016

End Date: 31/12/2022

The project aims to support the health and wellbeing of approximately 17,650 victims and survivors of the troubles / conflict, on a cross-border basis. It's being delivered in partnership with the community, voluntary and statutory sectors.

Over the lifetime of the project 6,300 individuals will benefit from advocacy support in the area of truth, justice and acknowledgment and 11,500 will be able to better access health and wellbeing support and services through a caseworker network. This will be underpinned by a resilience programme for the delivery of 1,000 resilience interventions.

James* was seriously physically injured and has had multiple operations over the years to relieve pain and help mobility. James has also been diagnosed with PTSD and experiences mood swings, hypervigilance and anger and finds it difficult to establish trust. James explains:

"I was developing a 'couldn't care less' attitude about life.

I went to talk to a Health and Wellbeing Caseworker. We talked about my keen interest in fishing and the possibility of starting a fishing group for victims and survivors.

Through the Volunteering programme, I was able to purchase some equipment to set this up.

I'm proud of myself and feel I'm making a difference to not only the organisation but to the community.

I'm more relaxed and in control of my emotional wellbeing by giving to others. Organising and managing the fishing group has given me a purpose and something else to focus on"

Health and Wellbeing Caseworker Network (*name is anonymous)



<https://victimsservice.org/>





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The types of beneficiaries supported through the project are:

- those who have been injured (physically or psychologically);
- those who care for people who have been injured in this way;
- those who have been bereaved.

Health and Well-being Case Study

Like many victims and survivors John* suffered both physically and psychological as a result of his experiences during the troubles/conflict. Suffering from depression and anxiety John's conditions worsened as he got older, increasingly finding it difficult to complete everyday activities, including domestic tasks and socialising with others. Attending the social support activities offered through the programme John discovered that he could be assigned a health and wellbeing caseworker. The caseworker was able to establish John's needs and referred him to support for disability aids that would assist him with his managing his physical injury within his home, as well as support to increase his literacy and numeracy skills on a 1:1 based within his own home.

"All the support has been excellent and I finally feel like I am starting to fit in. I have really loved the 1:1 Numeracy and Literacy support. I was afraid of going to the hospital as I couldn't read and understand what was on the iPad to check-in for my appointment. So I had to pretend that it wasn't working and ask someone to help me. I have also started reading the highway code as I never really understood what all the signs meant and was too embarrassed to ask anyone. I now have the confidence to go to the library and not be afraid that they would ask me to complete a form which I couldn't read."

Health and Wellbeing Participant (*name is anonymous)

Key Project Outputs:

- Individuals in receipt of advocacy support: 6,300
- Individuals in receipt of assessment/casework support/resilience support: 11,500.