

Consultation: Help Shape the Future of the Victim Navigator Programme

Closes: 20th February 2026 at 5pm

Introduction

The Victim Navigator Programme Accreditation Steering Group is creating a national standards framework to assure the quality of the Victim Navigator Programme. This framework will enable the successful accreditation and replication of the programme nationally, meaning more survivors of modern slavery can be supported to access care and justice.

We are now seeking your views on the standards via a three-month public consultation. Please read the attached document and share your views before 5pm on February 20th via:

[Victim Navigator Programme - Accreditation Consultation Form – Fill in form](#)

We also offer a plain-language, values-based version of this consultation. This form may be more suitable for survivors or those less familiar with the programme model. You can complete it instead of, or in addition to, the main consultation.

[Values Consultation Form – Victim Navigator Programme Accreditation – Fill in form](#)

Background

A Victim Navigator is a trained professional who provides guidance and support for individuals who have experienced the crime and trauma of modern slavery. The primary role of the Navigator is to help survivors of modern slavery to understand and access the resources and services available to them, acting as a trusted 'bridge' between survivors, law enforcement and support services. Navigators ensure survivors receive the emotional, legal, and practical assistance they need throughout their recovery process. This can include support to access the National Referral Mechanism, safe accommodation, food, daily living essentials, healthcare, employment and more. Navigators offer person-centred care and walk alongside survivors for as long as it takes to access justice and to rebuild their lives.

Uniquely, Victim Navigators work directly alongside law enforcement to help bring traffickers to justice. They co-locate with police and investigative teams across the UK, acting as a trusted presence to victims at critical moments. With expertise in trauma informed care and in justice, the Navigators provide specialist advice to investigators and have unique access to criminal cases, helping ensure survivors are supported and justice is pursued.

Over the past seven years, the Justice and Care run programme has helped thousands of survivors rebuild their lives—with over 90% choosing to engage

with police. This has led to multiple convictions and a growing recognition of the programme's impact. But we know there's more to do.

To learn more about the programme, please see the independent evaluation [here: https://justiceandcare.org/policies-and-reports/victim-navigator-pilot-final-evaluation/](https://justiceandcare.org/policies-and-reports/victim-navigator-pilot-final-evaluation/)

What next

To expand the reach of this award-winning model and enable other providers of the evidence-based Victim Navigator Programme, we are now working to establish a national standards framework that will ensure consistent, high-quality delivery across the UK—and eventually, around the world. The framework will include:

Step 1: An initial discussion with the accrediting body to explore potential suitability and readiness to deliver the programme

Step 2: An application form where the applicant organisation provides documented evidence of their suitability e.g. charity registration; annual accounts, safeguarding, data protection policies.

Step 3: An independent assessment against the national standards* (this consultation focuses on the actual standards, with the accreditation process to be agreed in 2026)
and

Step 4: A successful assessment leading to a national accreditation for the applicant organisation. This will symbolise their commitment to achieving fidelity with the Victim Navigator Programme in their operational footprint, and most importantly to achieving enhanced quality of care and justice for survivors of modern slavery.

*Since the summer of 2025, an Accreditation Steering Group of key stakeholders, including survivor representatives, has been co-creating the national standards framework to guide and quality assure the Victim Navigator Programme. This framework will support accreditation, replication, and integrity of the programme. We are now consulting on the draft standards.

We are now inviting your feedback

This consultation document outlines the six standards, and the essential criteria organisations must meet to deliver the programme effectively. The six standards cover values, HR practices, legal and ethical compliance, training, governance, trauma-informed care, independence, and survivor voice. Meeting these standards should ensure transparency, accountability, and respect for survivors.

Whether you're a survivor, service user, service provider, programme manager, HR professional, compliance officer, legal expert, or partner organisation, your insights are crucial. We want to hear your thoughts on:

- The role of the Victim Navigator
- The proposed standards, criteria and supporting evidence
- Early thinking on the upcoming accreditation process (to be co-designed in early 2026)

In parallel, we've also developed a NCFE Level 3 national training accreditation for individuals wanting to train and qualify as a Victim Navigator and we have trademarked the Victim Navigator support service to protect its integrity as it expands.

Share your feedback

If you have thoughts to share or need this document in an alternative format, please contact us at: **paula.murphy@justiceandcare.org**

You can send us a structured response online via: [Victim Navigator Programme - Accreditation Consultation Form – Fill in form](#)

If you know of survivors of modern slavery who would like support to engage with this process, please contact: **paula.murphy@justiceandcare.org**

This consultation process will run from 21 November 2025 – 20 February 2026.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for all the stakeholders who have contributed their time and expertise to date. We also thank you in advance for taking the time to consider this draft and for any thoughts you may proffer.

Close the loop

An update on learning from the consultation and on the updated accreditation framework will be sent to all those who provide contact details with their submission in March 2026. The feedback will also be published on the Justice and Care [website](#).

The Accreditation Steering Group

The VNPDAG includes representatives from key stakeholder groups including but not limited to:

- Survivor representatives
- Law enforcement agencies
- Victim support organisations
- Academics
- Government representatives
- Quality assurance professionals.

