

||| THE ARMED FORCES
COVENANT FUND TRUST

Welcome to today's webinar, which will explore

**The peer support,
safe spaces and
essential collaboration
at the heart of the**

*Veterans' Places, Pathways
and People Programme*

We'll begin shortly...

VETERANS' PLACES, PATHWAYS, PEOPLE PROGRAMME



Scotland

NHS Lothian
The Scottish Veterans Wellbeing Alliance



Northern Ireland

Tanvalley & Anaghlonge Project
Northern Ireland's Vital Veterans Network



North East

Sporting Force
VPPP North East & Yorkshire



North west

Broughton House
NW Armed Forces Wellbeing Network



Midlands

DMWS 'Joining the Dots'
Midlands Veterans Wellbeing Alliance



Wales

Adferiad Recovery
V4P Wales



East of England

The Bridge for Heroes
Project Sunrise



London

Poppy Factory
Better Together: London Veterans' Partnership



South East

Veterans Outreach Support
Partnership in Mind



South West

Invictus Games Foundation
Brighter Future for Veterans



Cobseo
**The Confederation
of Service Charities**

VPPP Webinar

26th June 2023

Rachel Price

Cobseo Strategic Lead

Programme & Cluster Manager

 **THE ARMED FORCES
COVENANT FUND TRUST**

The Confederation of Service Charities



Membership Organisation



Co-operation, Collaboration, Communication



Cluster System



Veterans' Places, Pathways and People programme

Strategic Lead Group
Cobseo, ASDIC, SSAFA and Combat Stress



Cobseo
**The Confederation
of Service Charities**

Sector Specialist Support

Social Prescribing Toolkit

Communication Training

Veterans Mental Health Awareness Standard

 THE ARMED FORCES
COVENANT FUND TRUST

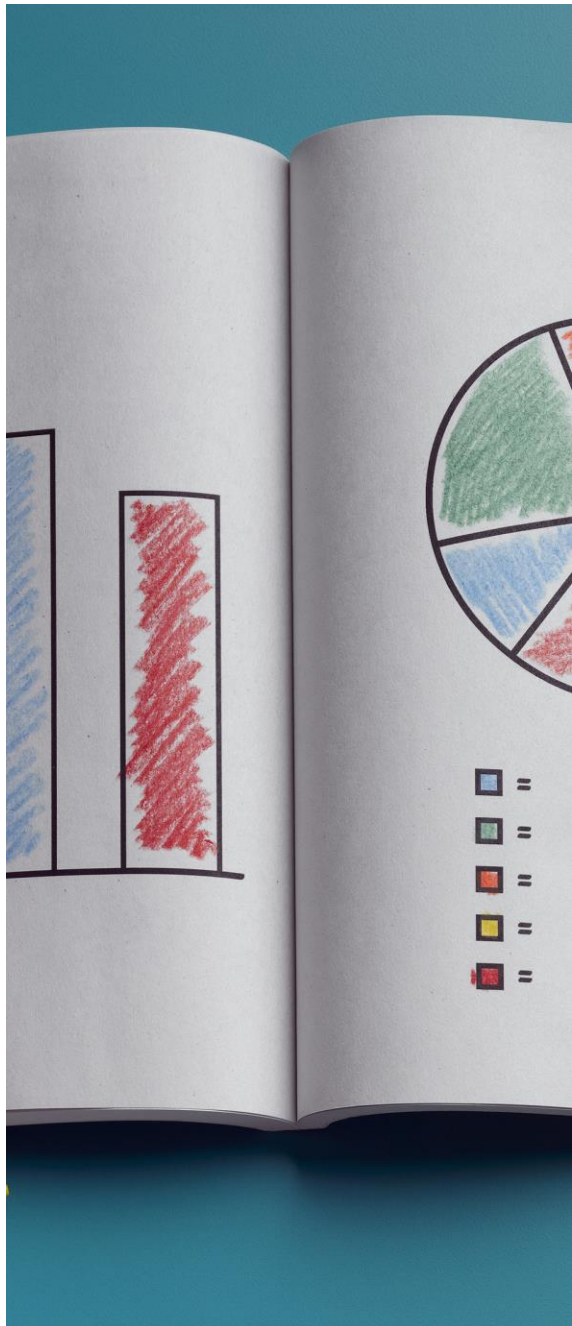


Veterans Mental Health Awareness Standard

2023-2025

Veterans Mental Health Awareness Standard (VMHAS)

- Not an Accreditation
 - Self-Assessment
 - Reflective Approach
- Safe Non-Clinical Support
- Self-Assessment Tool & Aide Memoire
 - Share Best Practice



VMHAS Evaluation Survey



91% positive impact



Increased confidence



37% improvement in referral pathways



92% access to VMHAS beneficial



90% agree Armed Forces Community to access VMHAS



92% very satisfied with feedback and support received



Improved safe non-clinical support to Veterans with mental health needs.



60% of the VPPP programme with the VMHAS Logo

Summary



Cobseo
Membership
Organisation



Co-operation,
Collaboration,
Communication



AFCFT VPPP
Strategic Lead
Programme



Sector Specialist
Support



Veterans Mental
Health Awareness
Standard



Cobseo
**The Confederation
of Service Charities**

Rachel Price
Programme and Cluster Manager

r.price@cobseo.org.uk 07900 615346



**THE ARMED FORCES
COVENANT FUND TRUST**



**COMBAT
STRESS
LEARNING**

“A brilliant way to learn and share best practice”

The learning community created with
Veterans Places, Pathways and People programme funding

26th June 2023

Dr Jessica Bolton

Head Of Maximising Clinical Effectiveness
& Specialist External Training

Professor Catherine Kinane

Medical Director

Funded
Online Training
Courses
&
Live
Collaborative
Learning
Sessions



Domestic Abuse



Leading Safer Services



Military Awareness & Sensitivity



Women Veterans & Gender Sensitive Services



Suicide Prevention



Trauma Informed Organisations



Safeguarding for all and for Leaders



Transitions: warm handovers



Veterans Mental Health Awareness Standard – with
COBSEO

How we do it differently

- *Online learning resources are comprehensive and accessible to all; but separated into bite sized steps of 15 minutes each.*
- *Course content is adjusted through feedback from learners & co-created through co-production*
- *Live collaborative sessions – contain short presentations and facilitated discussions where diverse voices are valued & cross-sector expertise is shared.*

“Open conversations in a safe encouraging environment is very important. Sharing best practice - what works and what is safe.”

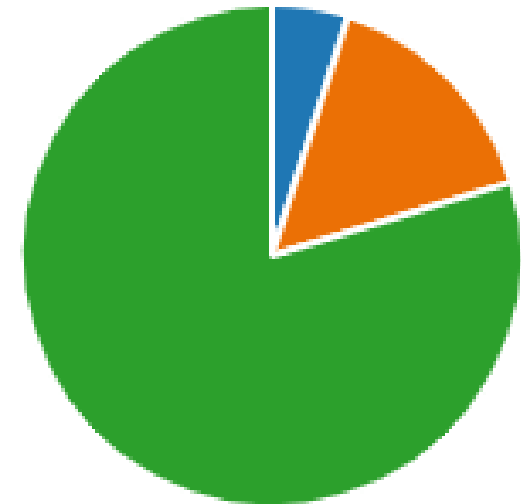
83 organisations are part of our VPPP learning community

THE WARRIOR PROGRAMME Company The Ripple Pond STEPWAY Communities
Defence Medical Welfare Service Fares4free The Bridge
Mission Motorsport **The Poppy Factory** Wounded
SPORTING FORCE
Sporting Force Pride SSAFA DMWS Fares4Free Stepway
Waterloo Brooke House

300 individuals

Registered on the platform & attending live sessions

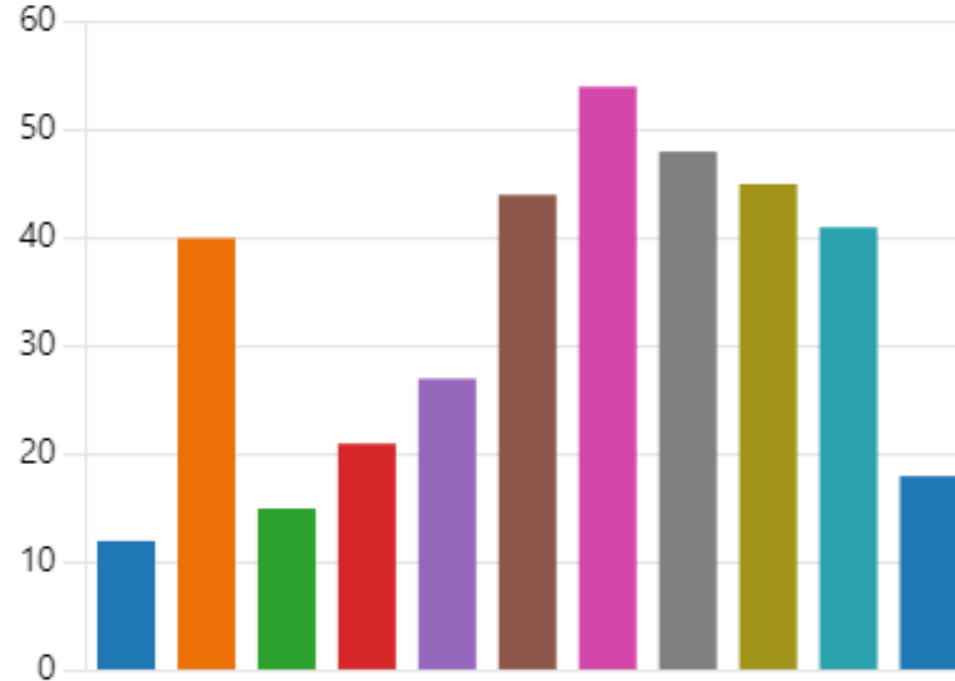
● Strategic Lead	18
● Portfolio Lead	56
● Project	291



9. Which Portfolio are you a part of?

[More Details](#)

Strategic	12
Scotland	40
Northern Ireland	15
North West	21
North East	27
Wales	44
Midlands	54
East of England	48
London	45
South East	41
South West	18



Accessible training and a legacy

- Our 130+ engaged platform users have done, on average, 10 hours each of training courses on the platform.
- This training, unlike webinars, is available 24/7, is shaped by their feedback and remains available as part of the legacy.
- Almost 100 live session participants have attended between 1 and 6 hours of live collaborative learning each.
- The live collaborative sessions enables impactful learning experiences and ensures that future content created for the platform is meaningful, relevant and where possible – co-produced.

Feedback from Collaborative Learning Sessions

“This is just a brilliant way to learn and then share best practice alongside others who are providing similar support. Thank you”

“Liked the course content and the delivery of a very testing and emotional subject. Certainly, looking forward to the next instalment.”

“This is a very emotive subject, when it’s covered in the way it was today – open, supportive and in a collaborative manner - its very helpful.”

“Incredibly interesting, will inform how we deliver our services and reiterates the need to treat everyone as a whole person.”

Trauma Informed & Evidence Based

Trauma informed so we embed the following in our learning experiences:

Collaboration

Empowerment

Trust

Safety

Choice

Cultural Consideration

Our vision is for all former
servicemen and women with
complex mental health problems
to live full and meaningful lives

With past Positive Pathways Programme Funding delivering evidence based
and trauma informed training materials and soon to be shared via the
platform for future generations.

Providing legacy for past and current AFCFT funding.



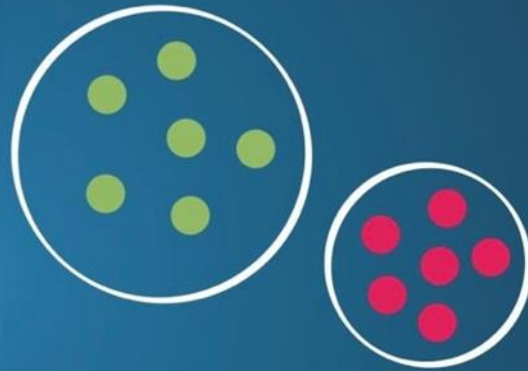
Veterans with Dogs shared their organisation's journey:

Helping veterans adjust, from exclusion and separation,
to integration & inclusion.

EXCLUSION



SEPARATION



INTEGRATION



INCLUSION



During the last 6 months of the VPPP programme

We aim to:

- *Create more opportunity for live connections, including collaborative online sessions and an in-person event*
 - *Share more powerful learning journeys from VPPP projects and portfolio leads*
 - *Enable those within VPPP projects to access Combat Stress Learning*
 - *Help individuals and organisations overcome barriers to engagement*
 - *Support diverse voices to share ideas and best practice*



Huge thanks to the AFCFT

Their vision to create a collaborative programme



**Inspired our vision to create Combat Stress Learning
a collaborative learning community**

**Delivering on our sector wide commitment to provide safer places,
pathways and people for our veterans**



Veterans' Places, Pathways & People Programme Midlands

Michelle Woolman-Lane, Veteran Network Programme Manager



**Veterans' Places,
Pathways and People
programme**

**THE PORTFOLIO
LEAD
VIEW**

Part of the Veterans' Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund
**VETERANS' PLACES,
PATHWAYS & PEOPLE
PROGRAMME**

A programme to create better, sustainable support for veterans in the communities where they live

Core Principles

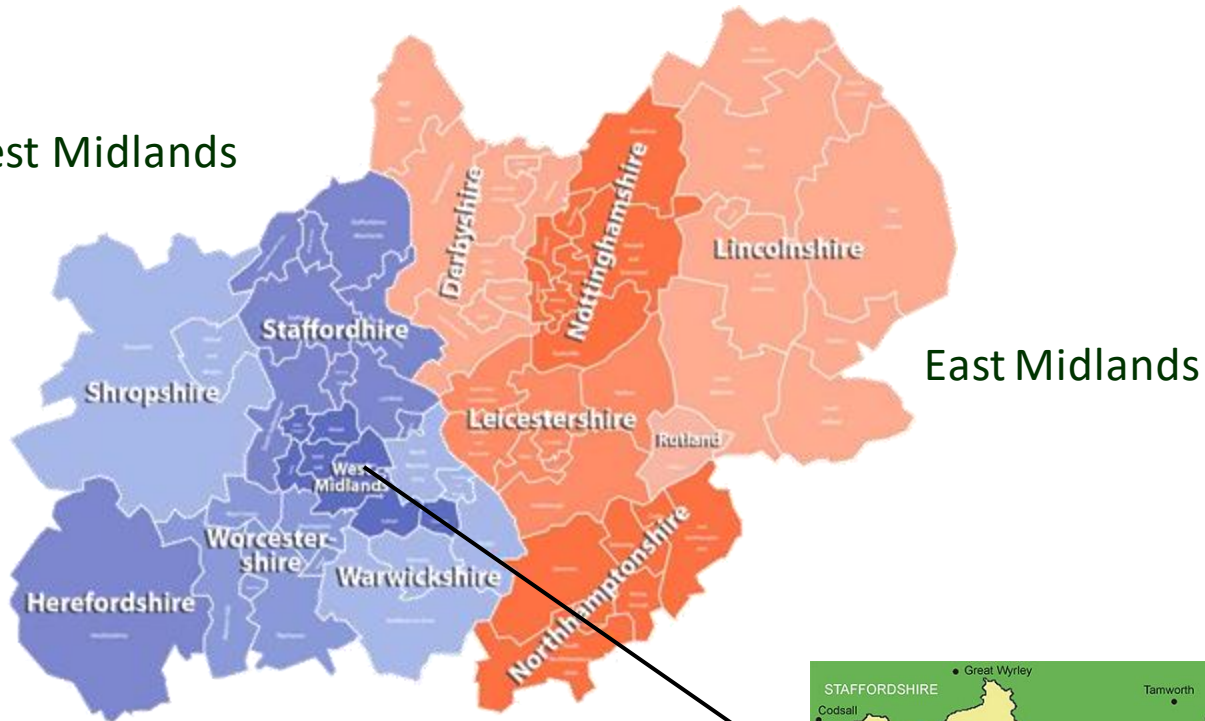
- Support Veterans MH Needs
- National / Regional
- Joined Up & Sustainable provision:
 - Places of safety
 - Pathways of support
 - People; access to training, work closely

- *Increased and improved support and access to mental health services and activities for veterans*
- *Improved cross-sector support for veterans at a higher risk of suicide or self-harm*
- *Reduced loneliness and isolation amongst veterans*
- *Improved referrals into and out of other agencies (community, charity, statutory)*

Expected Outcomes

Regional Knowledge & Understanding

West Midlands

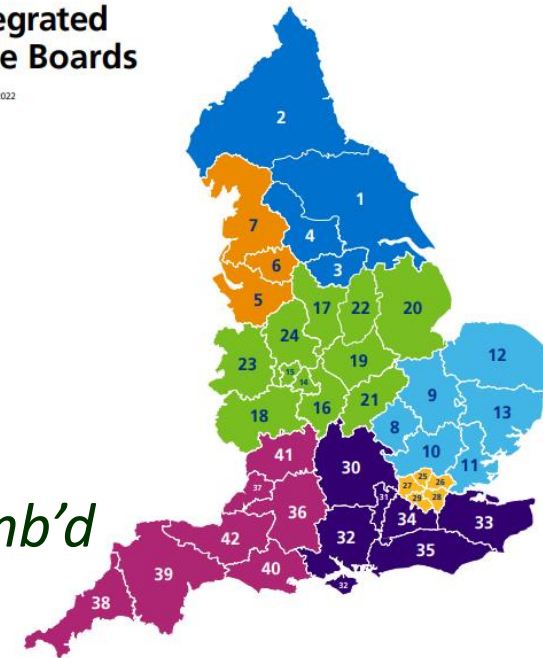
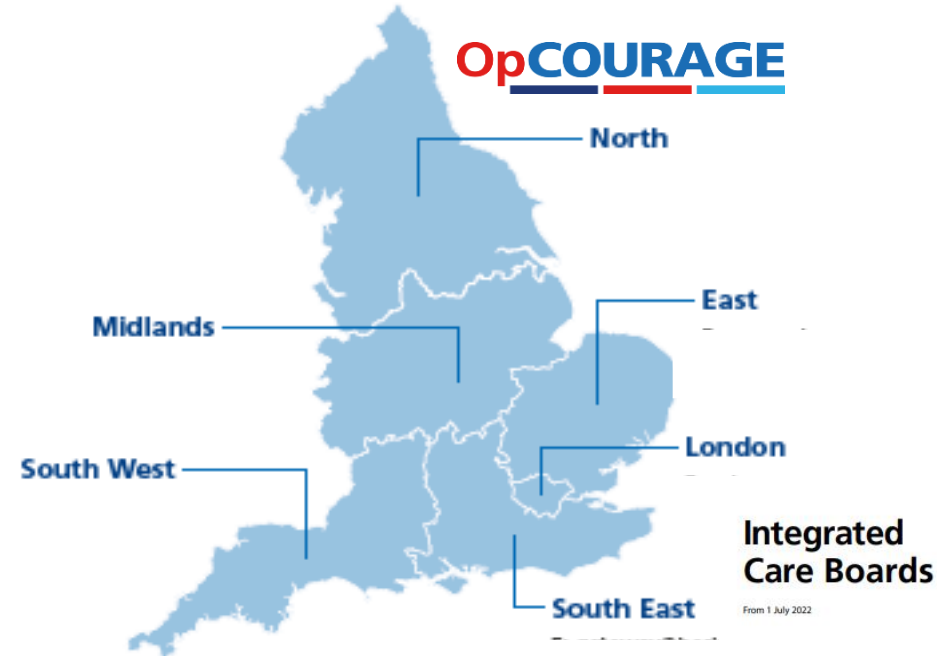
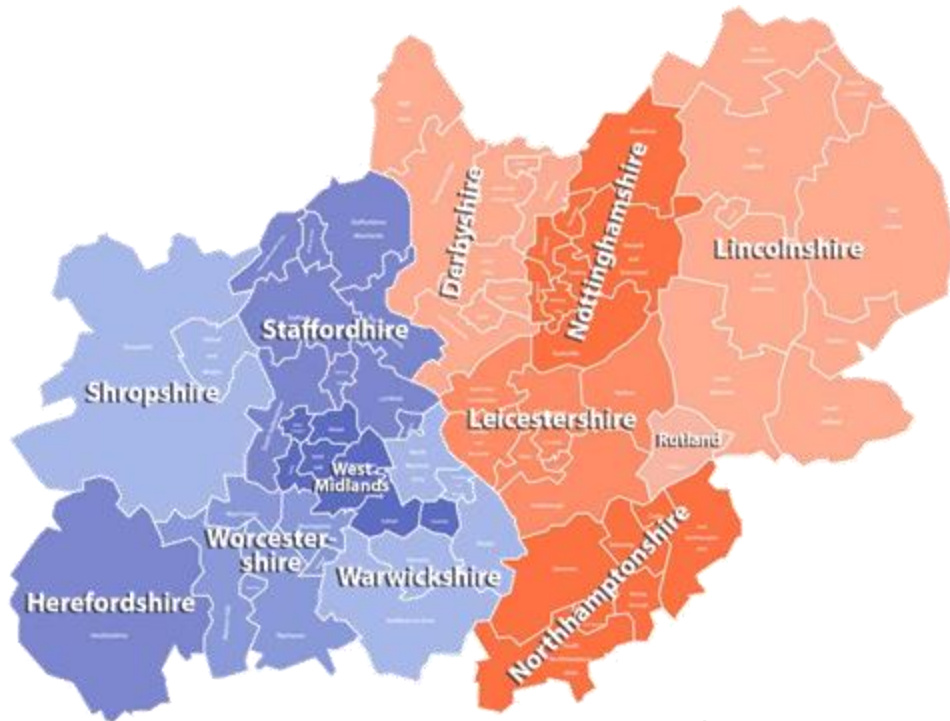


- Derbyshire
- Herefordshire
- Leicestershire
- Lincolnshire
- Northamptonshire
- Nottinghamshire
- Rutland
- Shropshire
- Staffordshire
- Warwickshire
- West Midlands
- Worcestershire



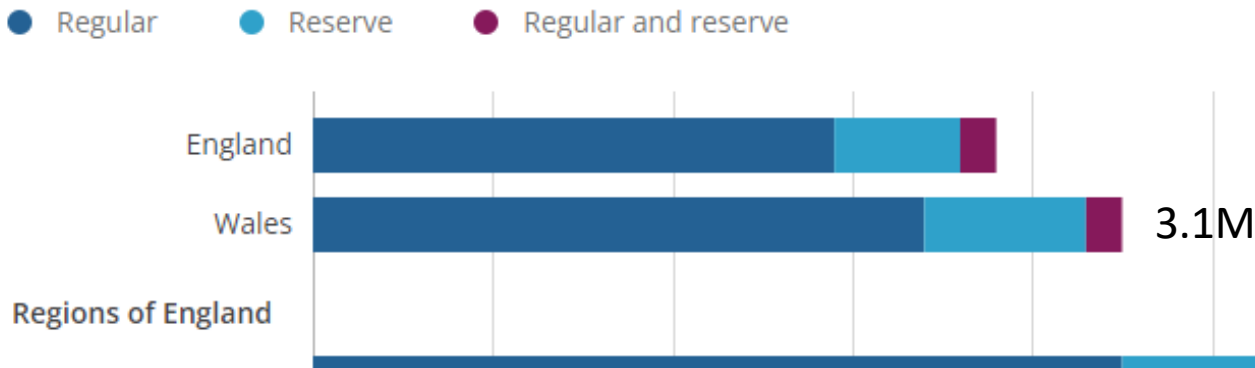
West Midlands/ Birmingham

Regional Knowledge & Understanding



- **11 Integrated Care Boards**
- *12 counties; 11,400 sq. miles*
- **75 Local Authorities**
- *rurality & large city populations*
- *12x Unitary, 7x County; 48x Districts, 7x Metropolitan, 1x Comb'd*
- *population 10.8M*
- **6 DWP Districts**
- *343,354 Veterans*
- **16 Civil Military Partnership Boards**

Percentage of the population aged 16 years and over who had previously served in the UK armed forces, 2021, England, Wales and regions of England

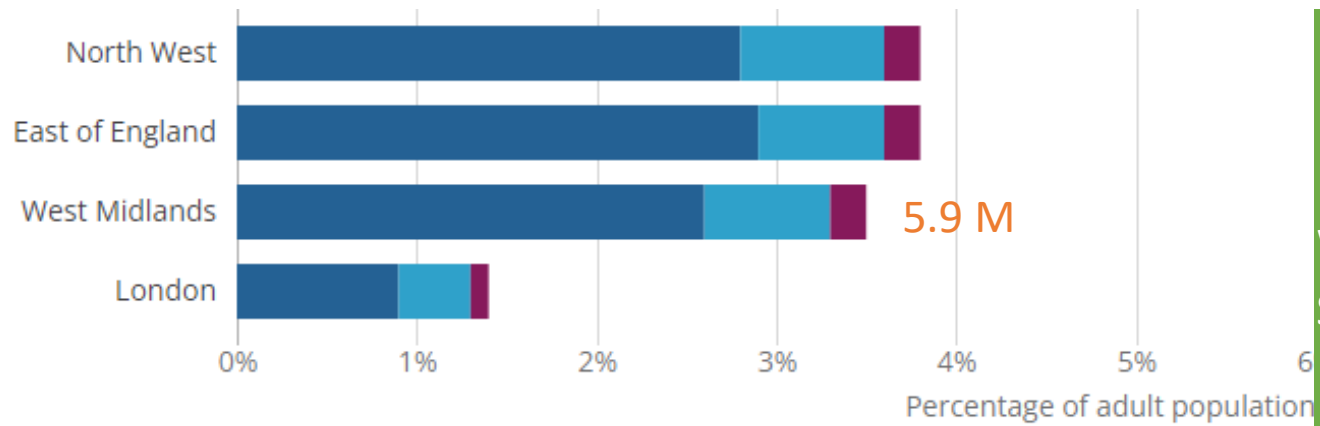


Select an area



County Totals	Previously served in regular UK armed forces (number)	Has previously served in any UK armed forces (number)
West Midlands	40858	56770

Research (KCMHR) veteran PTSD rates 4 - 6% ~14,000

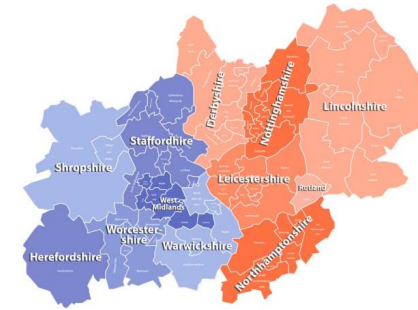


	38216	
	18795	
	2381	
	59496	
	36823	
	33936	

Leicestershire	20952	27543
Northamptonshire	19698	15578
Herefordshire	7514	9641
Worcestershire	16141	21262
Shropshire	17772	22913

	272423	343354
--	--------	---------------

Midlands Funded Partners



Combat Stress

Mission Motorsport

Warrior Programme

Loughborough Wellbeing Centre - LLR

TS Veterans Support Centre – Staffs

Veteran Community Network - Northants

Fighting With Pride

The Poppy Factory

Waterloo Uncovered

Stepway

YSS



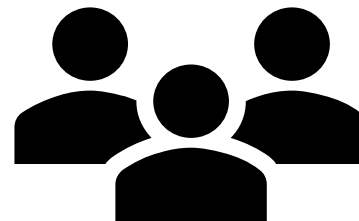
5 +3



133/284

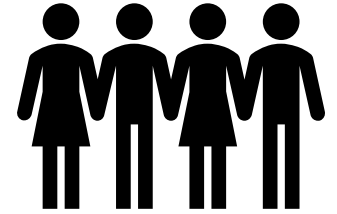


50+



2,000+
Q5 = 1986

Funded Partner Engagement



- Strong Governance; Initial monthly 1:1's, quarterly Steering Group meetings
- Understand each other's provision and areas of expertise
- Develop strong, supportive working relationships; peer to peer support
- Sharing information, data, knowledge, organisational learnings, connections
- Person centred support; no 'wrong front door' / warm handovers / joint working



Working in Collaboration



'Army veteran, late 30's, medically discharged with physical disabilities. Upon leaving found themselves in an abusive relationship; they went on to have a child and soon after the relationship broke down; they gained full custody. However, their mental health deteriorated, and they became a recluse for two years, barely leaving the house. No family support, had suicidal thoughts and could not see a future.'



university studying child development and counselling, planning to become a qualified Counsellor



funded travelling expenses for 1 year; University 100hrs volunteer observations



go-karting competition, disabilities accommodated, 'feeling normal again'



pensions, benefits, including PIP, disability car for travel

7 Steps Programme



STEPWAY
Supporting all Veterans in civilian life



THE POPPY FACTORY



... not yet ready for employment...

Pathways



Op NOVA



Op COURAGE

healthwatch



England



NHS University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust



VS VICTIM SUPPORT



West Mercia POLICE

LGBT foundation

Nacro WE CHANGE LIVES

UN University of Northampton



Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust

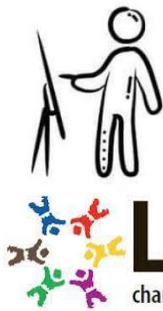


NOTTS LGBT+ NETWORK



VETERAN SUPPORT NETWORK Arts and Minds

worcestershire county council



Landau changing lives creating futures

Herefordshire Council Health Education England



NHS The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust

THE WORD ASSOCIATION CIC



TURNING POINT inspired by possibility



NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust

NHS Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust

Department for Work & Pensions

SHROPSHIRE HomePoint

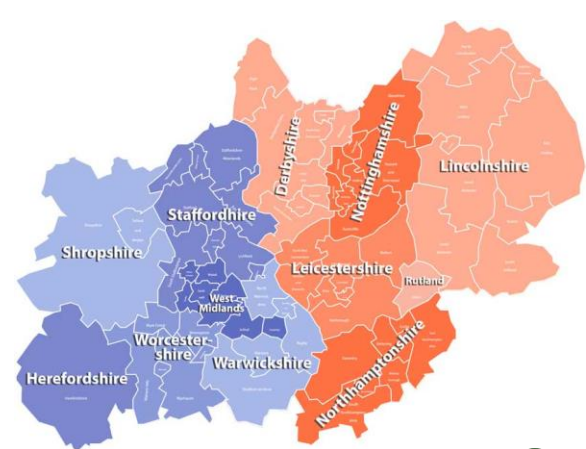
NHS Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

crasac Coventry Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre

Bristol Hate Crime & Discrimination Services

L3HARRIS™

NHS Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust



Targeted Wider Engagement Community, Charity, Statutory

Governance; Programme Board

- VAPC's (Veterans Advisory & Pensions Committees)
- NHS England
- VCHA (Veterans Covenant Healthcare Alliance)
- DTS / VWS (Defence Transition Services & Veterans Welfare Service)
- COBSEO (The Confederation of Service Charities)

Need

- Justice System
- Substance Misuse

Organisations

- **CMPB's (Civil Military Partnership Boards)**
- ICB's (Integrated Care Boards)

A Decade of the Covenant

A review of delivery and impact of ten years of the Armed Forces Covenant

Working in Collaboration

Statutory Guidance on the Armed Forces Covenant Duty

Covering the United Kingdom

Issued under section 343A(1) of the Armed Forces Act 2006

November 2022

GUIDANCE

Collaboration

- A Covenant Forum or co-ordinating group that meets at least twice a year. It includes the following: military representatives; military charities; public sector representatives, including the NHS, via the Integrated Care System; effective council members (senior elected cabinet); and the lead officer. E review its membership, agenda meeting every three or four years.
- In some places (for example where are combined authorities) council partners may wish to establish collaboration at a sub-regional level. This should include: joint forums and action packages and joint training with the local public sector, application of the Covenant fund, and a shared website.
- Generally, collaboration should be established in local authority areas with a low Armed Forces presence to ensure effective co-ordination of action in local authority areas.

Armed Forces charities

- Participate in the local partnership arrangements recommended in the updated core infrastructure.
- Act as a critical friend, holding councils and other service providers accountable locally for the delivery of the Covenant.
- Help to promote awareness of the Covenant and the action being taken to deliver it within their beneficiaries and more widely.

Table 8 Covenant core infrastructure

Core infrastructure to deliver

Individuals

- An elected member Chair
- An officer point of contact acting across a cluster of
- An officer Armed Forces lead departments as a liaison point of contact.

Communication

- A webpage or presence to the Covenant with key information members of the AFC. This through use of web analytic refinement of content, and to highlight events and support
- Clear and accessible public members of the AFC can see and partners.
- A route through which communication
- Training. This should include the Covenant in induction for staff and more detailed training tailored to scenarios they are cohorts within the AFC. Training as that developed by the Coventry Warwickshire Armed Forces are available for use at no cost
- A vehicle for reporting local achievements such as an annual newsletter or forum minutes bring partnership action together and be linked to the local recommendations for pilot areas adopted, the annual reporting channel for reporting on this





Ministry of Defence

ARMED FORCES COVENANT

Statutory Guidance on the Armed Forces Covenant Duty
Covering the United Kingdom

Issued under section 343AE(1) of the Armed Forces Act 2006
November 2022

GUIDANCE



Summary

Approach - *National / Regional VPPP is working*

Finding

- *Opportunities for coordinated regional support*
- *VPPP has been welcomed; sharing understanding of local need & provision*
- *Collaboration driving person centred support*

Next steps

- *Continue targeted engagement*
- *Utilise existing forums for community support*
- *Mirror LA engagement with ICBs*



Joining the Dots

Midlands Veterans Wellbeing Alliance

Engagement

THE ARMED FORCES
COVENANT FUND TRUST

Part of the Veterans' Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund

VETERANS' PLACES, PATHWAYS & PEOPLE PROGRAMME



By Veterans, For Veterans

A programme to create better, sustainable support for
veterans in the communities where they live

Michelle Woolman-Lane

Veteran Network Programme Manager

Tel: 07789 886716

Email: mwoolman-lane@dmws.org.uk

Beverley Young

Tel: 07377722644

Email: byoung@dmws.org.uk

DMWS | The Old Stables | Redenham Park | Andover | Hants SP11 9AQ

vpppmidlands@dmws.org.uk

How will veterans benefit?

SUPPORT & ACCESS

Veterans will be enabled to identify safe places in their community to access peer support and mental health & wellbeing services.

NHS REFERRAL

Through a national network of partners, veterans can be referred seamlessly into and out of NHS and other statutory services

MENTAL HEALTH CARE & SUICIDE RISK

Veterans at higher risk of suicide or poor mental health will receive better and more joined up cross sector support

LOCAL CARE PATHWAYS

Veteran led projects will be embed in local care pathways and social prescription, with access to the national network of VPPP



Joining the Dots

Midlands Veterans Wellbeing Alliance

The National Veterans Places Pathways and People programme will work regionally to develop better, more joined up lasting support for local veterans with mental health needs.

Defence Medical Welfare Service have developed a portfolio of 11 partners to take a coordinated approach across the Midlands ensuring:

- Veterans have safe, welcoming places to go in their local area.
- Veterans can be supported to access mental health support and treatment pathways that meet their needs.

- That the people who support veterans (staff and volunteers) can access good quality training and have improved access to connect veterans into wider pathways.

For more information, please contact vppmidlands@dmws.org.uk



**THE ARMED FORCES
COVENANT FUND TRUST**

Defence Medical Welfare Service is a registered charity in England and Wales (1087210) and in Scotland (SC045460)

Defence Medical Welfare Service is the project lead for the Midlands VPPP programme bringing organisations together to better support veteran wellbeing. <https://dmws.org.uk/>

Combat Stress use their expertise in mental health and governance to encourage and support the development of safe pathways and safe places. <https://combatstress.org.uk/>

The Warrior Programme empowers individuals to manage their emotions, develop resilience, focus and motivation, whilst building mental strength for veterans and their families. <https://www.warriorprogramme.org.uk/>

Tri Services & Veterans Support Centre is a Staffordshire based centre offering veteran support and a specialist Respite and Retreat Centre with a range of outdoor activities. www.veteransupportcentre.org.uk/

Fighting with Pride support LGBT+ Veterans, serving personnel and their families, particularly those who were affected by the 'gay ban' by working with veterans to help them resolve the challenges they face in their lives beyond military service. <https://www.fightingwithpride.org.uk/>

Stepway is a Worcs & WestMids based charity supporting all veterans, providing a 7-step program through drop-in centres and community projects. <https://www.stepway.org/>

Veterans Community Network offers peer mentor support to veterans to engage with treatment and support throughout Northamptonshire. <https://vcn.org.uk/>

Mission Motorsport is the Forces motor sport charity supporting veterans through their Race - Retrain - Recover programmes. <https://www.missionmotorsport.org/>

The Poppy Factory provides one-to-one support to veterans with health conditions on their journey into employment, helping them overcome any barriers. <https://www.poppysfactory.org/>

Waterloo Uncovered combines world-class archaeology with veteran care and recovery, by offering opportunities from education and employment to friendship and a rediscovered sense of belonging. <https://waterloouncovered.com/>

Loughborough Wellbeing Centre provides Veterans Wellbeing Hubs; offering a safe and welcoming space for veterans to meet others and take part in a range of activities. <https://www.thewellbeingcafe.org/>

YSS is a WestMercia based service is for veterans who are currently in or are at risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system, developing 1:1 support plans to reduce the likelihood of offending/reoffending. <https://www.yss.org.uk/>



thewarriorprogramme




Working in Collaboration

'Army veteran, late 30's, medically discharged with physical disabilities. Upon leaving found themselves in an abusive relationship; they went on to have a child and soon after the relationship broke down; they gained full custody. However, their mental health deteriorated, and they became a recluse for two years, barely leaving the house. No family support, had suicidal thoughts and could not see a future.'

VPPP Journey

- XX approached **The Poppy Factory** together they decided XX was not ready to engage in a job search and referred them to **STEPWAY**.
- XX enrolled onto the **STEPWAY** 7-step civilian skills program; gaining awareness of their mental health and how to maintain healthy relationships with people close to them. XX's confidence improved and they expressed an interest to study psychology at university.
- XX had financial concerns about returning to education and the impact on army pension and disability benefits; **The Poppy Factory** helped with all pensions, benefits, including PIP enabling a disability car for travel.
- **Mission Motorsport** hosted a go-karting competition; with newfound confidence XX went along participating in something they did not think was open to them; **Mission Motorsport** accommodated for all disabilities. XX expressed delight at 'feeling normal again'.
- XX approached **STEPWAY** to volunteer for the charity based at home and once a month the charity funded travel expenses, to join workshops.
- At present XX is at university studying child development and counselling, planning to become a qualified Counsellor. Home life is settled, all benefits are in place, and XX has even reconnected with family members.
- XX wished to complete their University 100hrs volunteer observations at **STEPWAY** however this posed a problem with travel expenses. **STEPWAY** encouraged XX to request funding from **SSAFA** who agreed and covered travelling expenses for one year. XX has travelled across the West Midlands twice a week as a volunteer caseworker: helping other veterans who are treading the same path.



**Veterans' Places,
Pathways and People
programme**

North West





Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust - Commissioners

North West Armed
Forces Network

Strategic Leads

ASDIC, Cobseo,
Combat Stress, SSAFA

Portfolio Lead (North West) – Broughton House
Supported by Armed Forces Community HQ

Steering Group – Portfolio Governance

Monitoring, Evaluation & Efficacy Lead – University of Chester

Places (of exemplar practice)

- ❑ **Armed Forces Community HQ** – Greater Manchester (Leading on Mutual Aid & Workforce Development)
- ❑ **Veterans HQ Liverpool** – Cheshire & Merseyside (Leading on Veterans & the Justice System)
- ❑ **Veterans in Communities** – Lancashire & S/Cumbria (Leading on Social Prescribing/Tackling Loneliness)

Pathways (connecting existing and emerging commissioned and non commissioned services to the Armed Forces community)

- ❑ **Cheshire Armed Forces Covenant Partnership**
- ❑ **Cumbria CVS** (Forces Link)
- ❑ **Greater Manchester Combined Authority**
- ❑ **Lancashire Hub** (Non Clinical)
- ❑ **Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Trust** (Primary & Secondary Care)

People (development of toolkits and resources)

- ❑ **Advocacy Focus** (Advocating for Veterans)
- ❑ **Armed Forces Support Hub** (Community Clinical Provision)
- ❑ **Burnley FC in the Community** (Veterans & Sports Club Lead)
- ❑ **CMVES** (Education to Empower Wellbeing)
- ❑ **Fighting With Pride** (LGBT+)
- ❑ **Tom Harrison House** (Substance Misuse and Dual Diagnosis)
- ❑ **Walking With The Wounded** (Volunteer Regional Ambassadors)



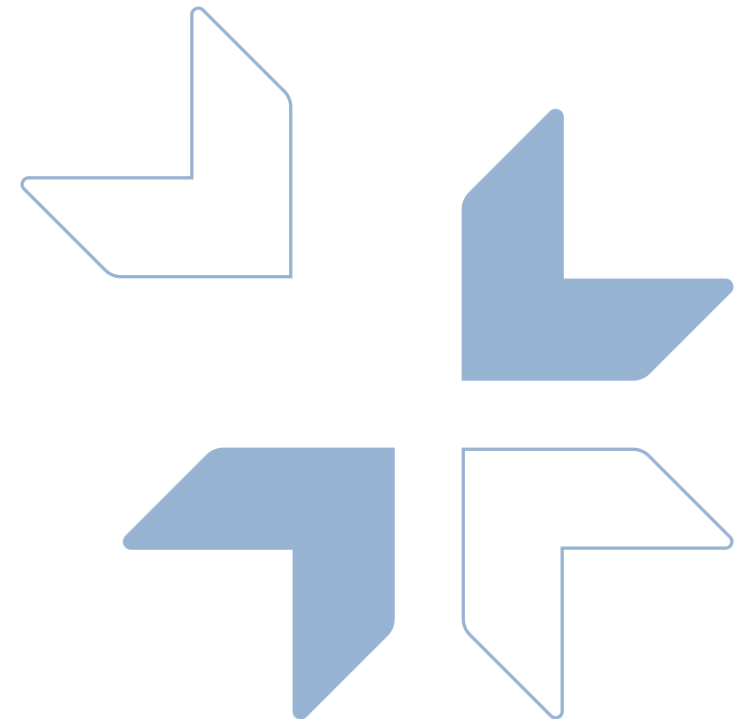
Forces Wellbeing Collective

Better > Stronger > Together

Mission

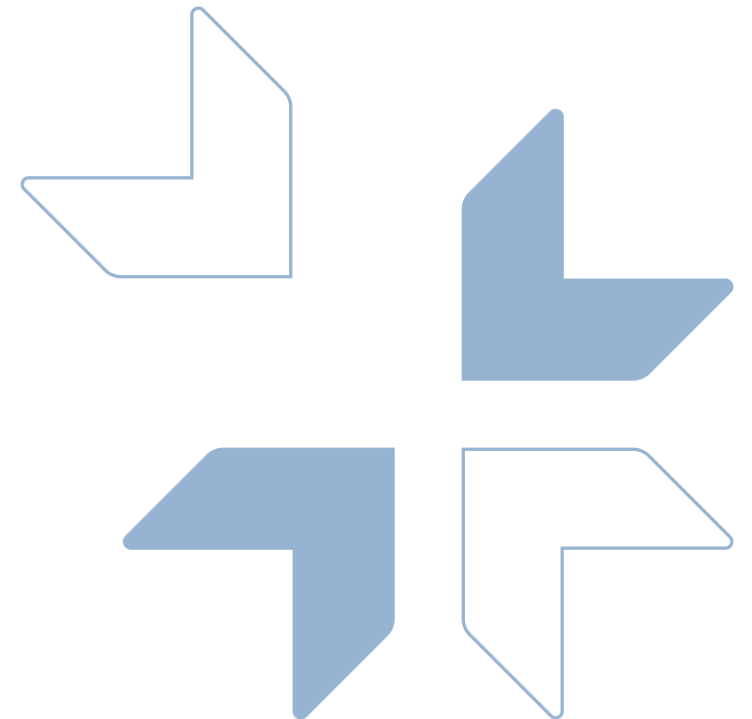
“... to level up provision and pathways within the region so that all Service personnel, their families and carers receive the same experience regardless of the provider.”

Together we strive for excellence through continuous improvement and to overcome challenges by sharing our collective knowledge, expertise, tools and resources.



Outcomes

- Specialist toolkits, resources and training
- Reducing the number of times a veteran has to 'tell their story' through better information sharing
- Increased referrals from GPs to mental health services
- An established governance and quality assurance framework
- Improved collaboration between organisations across sectors
- Effective safe referral pathways



Key themes and expertise



- Quality assurance
- Advocacy
- Substance misuse and addictions
- “Through the Gate” support
- Social prescribing
- Peer support and mutual aid
- Sports clubs
- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion
- Education
- Community Mental Health







Legacy

- Coordinated network
- Membership levels
- Digital platform
- The Northern voice





Forces Wellbeing Collective

Twitter: @ForcesWellbeing
LinkedIn: Forces-Wellbeing

Better > Stronger > Together

