Armed Forces Resource Directory

Developing people for health and healthcare

www.hee.nhs.uk
This resource pack has been developed to assist NHS organisations across the North West, and more widely to support our Armed Forces Community. If members of the Network are aware of an organisation they think we should include please email info.nw@hee.nhs.uk so we can consider them for inclusion.
• Many NHS organisations have a responsibility to support our armed forces within their mandate i.e. Health Education England, NHS England, NHS Employers.

• **Health Education England (HEE) has a mandate** to support both veterans and reservists armed forces.

• Sections 4.9 and 4.10 talk about 'Supporting the Armed Forces Community'
Who are Veterans?
Anyone who has served more than 1 day in the forces

It includes: Army, Royal Navy, Royal Airforce, Royal Marines, Merchant Navy

Men or women

Aged 16 to 106+

All ranks

Not all are combat veterans
An estimated 2.56 million UK Armed Forces veterans were residing in households across GB in 2015 (Annual Population Survey, MoD, 2015: 1)

285,000 of those reside in the North West (around 11.1%) totalling 5.0% of the North West total population (Annual Population Survey, MoD, 2015: 7)
Who are Reservists?
- They have paid employment elsewhere/ a day job
- Men or women
- Ages from 18-60
- All ranks
- Variety of roles – clinical, non clinical, drivers, cooks, logistics, communications etc.
- They have a unit they belong to i.e. 207 (Manchester) Field Hospital
- These are based around England
- This is paid additional work
- They receive free additional training in their specialty, leadership and how to work as a team which is very useful to their main employer
What’s in this resource?

Under each heading in this resource you’ll find a snapshot of the evidence base and links to reports to support your work

• Housing and Homelessness
• Employment and Education
• Health
• Leisure
• Finance
• Welfare and Social Inclusion
Housing and Homelessness
Housing and Homelessness

Housing: Evidence Summary

- The British Legion conducted a household survey of veterans in 2014. They found that fewer than one in ten (10%) of disabled veterans have experienced housing difficulties in the past year. (British Legion, 2014)
- The principal responsibility for providing housing, information, and advice to military personnel lies with the armed forces up to the point of discharge. Those services are delivered through the Joint Service Housing Advice Office (JSHAO). (House of Commons Library, 2014)
- Each year the Ministry of Defence conducts a population survey of UK armed forces veterans. In 2013 they found that there were an estimated 2.56 million UK Armed Forces veterans residing in households across Great Britain in 2013. (Ministry of Defence, 2013)
- They also found that the majority of UK Armed Forces veterans residing in Great Britain were estimated to either have owned their own property or had a mortgage (72.9%) which was the same as non-veterans (71.5%), (Annual Population Survey, ONS, 2013)
- In 2014 the University of York and the Centre for Housing Policy conducted research looking at the Housing support needs of single veterans. They identified 15 providers of dedicated accommodation-based services for single veterans across Great Britain, providing a total of 946 bed spaces. (University of York and Centre for Housing Policy, 2014)
- Surveys conducted by the Career Transition Partnership between September 2013 and July 2013 found 12% of Service Leavers, leaving at six months post-discharge, that “staying suitable housing” had been one of the three things they found most difficult during their transition. (Counselling Services, 2014)

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Homelessness: Evidence Summary

- Research has shown serving personnel are concerned about homelessness when they leave the Forces. Of those undergoing Career Transition Partnership resettlement programmes, 7% of officers and 21% of other ranks had sought advice before leaving on “What to do if you are made homeless.” (British Legion, 2014)
- Based on available research the percentage of the homeless population that are veterans is estimated to be between 3% and 8%. (Housing Network, CRAG, 2016)
- The Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN) conduct an Annual Report into the homeless population of London – they found 452 people went rough sleeping in 2016/17 had experience of serving in the armed forces. This compared to previous years. (CHAIN, 2017)
- “Time spent in an institution, such as care or prison, can increase the risk of someone becoming homeless. There are large numbers of care leavers and ex-offenders in the homeless population and fewer numbers who have spent time in the Armed Forces.” (Crisis UK, 2018)
- In 2008 and 2009 the University of York found that “a military background influences – and often quite profoundly – how ex-service personnel experience homelessness . . . they are less inclined to seek or accept help (and are) more susceptible to sustained or repeat homelessness.” (University of York, 2008)
- In 2014 the University of York and Centre for Housing Policy re-visited their study and still concluded veterans have been found to be over-represented in the most severe and enduring types of homelessness. “Compared with general homeless population veterans are more likely to sleep rough and be homeless for longer.” (University of York & Centre for Housing Policy, 2014)

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Housing and Homelessness

- Haig Housing

- Joint Service Housing Advice Office (JSHAO)
Housing and Homelessness

- Helena Partnership – Housing Association
  - [http://www.sthelensgateway.info/organisations/helena-partnerships](http://www.sthelensgateway.info/organisations/helena-partnerships)

- Veterans Gateway - Housing
  - [https://support.veteransgateway.org.uk/app/self_help/#rn_AnswersList](https://support.veteransgateway.org.uk/app/self_help/#rn_AnswersList)
This flagship engagement tool is the Home Fire Safety Check (HFSC). This is a simple risk assessment of a person’s home and if required the installation of smoke detectors, if during the HFSC the service finds additional needs we can support the individual or family by referring to key agencies, our service for those aged over 65 is being extended into a Safe & Well visit which covers aspects of health. This service is open to veterans. For a free Home Fire Safety Check call 0800 731 5958
Employment and Education
Employment and Education

Employment: Evidence Summary

- There are between 100,000 and 1,116,000 working-age veterans currently living in the UK (The British Legion, 2014: 8).
- Around 16,000 men and women leave the UK's armed forces each year. The majority of veterans transition successfully into employment after leaving the armed forces, but many veterans and reservists continue to be stigmatised and employers fail to recognise the transferrable skills they’ve acquired (Defence, 2016: 6).
- Changes in the nature of work – driven by continuing advances in technologies such as robotics, big data and artificial intelligence – are making these transferrable skills critically important to the UK’s economy (Defence, 2016: 8). Many of the skills that veteran personnel are in areas where organisations are experiencing gaps (Defence, 2016: 9).
- The industries on which service leavers have traditionally relied to find employment are changing and service leavers will need to demonstrate more than ever that they have the right skills set (Defence, 2016: 9).
- 73% of organisations with active employability programme felt they had recommended employees to service leavers (Shaw, 2016: 4).
- Working-age veterans in the UK are nearly twice as likely to be unemployed as their civilian contemporaries (The British Legion, 2014: 6).
- “Around 700,000 members of the working-age service community are not in work” (The British Legion, 2014: 43).
- 95% of UK Service personnel who accessed Career Transition Partnerships (CTPs) services as they left the Armed Forces in 2014/15 were employed up to 6 months after leaving service” however Lord Ashcroft’s review found that for all Service Leavers the outcomes are not as good, with only 52% in work six months after leaving the Forces (The British Legion, 2016: 7; Lord Ashcroft, 2014: 36).
- Female veterans “when compared to their male veteran counterparts were significantly less likely to be in employment and significantly more likely not to be economically active” yet a Forces in Mind Trust (FMT) qualitative study found that “female service leavers clearly appreciated the importance to employers that they have gained skills, set work and succeed in traditionally male-dominated fields” (The British Legion, 2016: 9).

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Education: Evidence Summary

- The 2016 Annual Population Survey found that 79.2% of working age UK Armed Forces veterans residing in Great Britain held a qualification (MIND, 2015: 36).
- The working age non-veteran population were significantly more likely to have continued onto a degree or equivalent (28.3%) compared to the veteran population (19.4%) (MIND, 2015: 36).
- The ‘Public Rundstedt Further and Higher Education Scheme for Service Leavers’ is available to UK-based personnel who have completed at least four years Service and who left on or after 1 July 2006 but as of 2014 ‘only a quarter of registered personnel in all Services took advantage of their ELC entitlement’ (Lord Ashcroft, 2014: 39, 40).
- Lord Ashcroft’s review also reported that ‘a number of recent Service Leavers […] found it hard to translate their experience and qualifications for civilian employment, and several employers […] were confused’ (Lord Ashcroft, 2014: 39).
- The Ministry of Defence Annual Population survey found that ‘working age UK Armed Forces veterans residing in Great Britain were significantly more likely to have gained their qualifications through work compared to non-veterans (61.1% compared to 45.2% respectively)” (MIND, 2015: 36).
- The British Legion concluded that ‘as the Army tends to recruit for the infinity from more deprived areas of the country, Zapponstek education and support to obtain qualifications that are recognised outside the Armed Forces is vital. Up to 36% of Army recruits have Science and Numeracy skills below Entry Level 3, equivalent to the standard expected of primary school leavers at age 11’ (The British Legion, 2016: 12).
- In their UK Household survey conducted in 2014 the British Legion reported that ‘those in the service community are […] less likely to have a degree’ (The British Legion, 2014: 35).

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Employment and Education

• Career Transition Partnership, also included ‘Future Horizons’ for Early Service Leavers
  • https://www.ctp.org.uk/

• Civvy Street (The British Legion)
  • https://www.civvystreet.org/
Employment and Education

• RBLI Life Works
  • http://www.rbli.co.uk/employment_solutions/lifeworks/

• The Royal Forces Employment Association (RFEA Ltd.)
  • http://www.rfea.org.uk/
Employment and Education

- Walking with the Wounded
  - http://walkingwiththewounded.org.uk/

- Veterans Gateway - Employment
  - https://support.veteransgateway.org.uk/app/self_help/
Finance
Finance

Finance: Evidence Summary

- The British Legion's Household Survey found 16-24 year olds, particularly veterans [...] report a number of issues around debt, employment and transition, and a significant proportion have caring responsibilities [...] one in 20 has taken out a payday loan.

- "'One in ten reports some kind of financial difficulty, equivalent to 400,000 people' (British Legion, 2014.6b)

- "'The higher living costs in civilian life, and wider range of things that are charged for at the point of purchase, can come as a shock to people who are also juggling a new job and adapting...'

- Veterans "often have insufficient savings and limited experience of managing their finances, and without permanent employment and patchy credit records... can find it difficult to get accepted for a rental contract or mortgage." (AMT, 2013)

- "Although pensioned and financially semiretired, the nature of these lives means they do not experience the same financial challenges as their civilian counterparts. As a result, many feel themselves unprepared when they come to leave service... as financially naive..."

- "Service Leavers may be entitled to a range of financial benefits... These may take the form of lump sums and pensions, issues include the timing of payment of lump sums, compensation payments and pensions preventing the individual from receiving social support..."

- "These factors, which sometimes work in combination, mean that a minority of Service Leavers find themselves in financial difficulties that could be avoided." (Smallwood (CMI ACF, 2014.35))

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Finance

- Veterans UK (Ministry of Defence)
  - https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/veterans-uk

- Veterans Gateway - Finance
  - https://support.veteransgateway.org.uk/app/self_help/
Health
Health: Evidence Summary

• Land Author's Transition Review concluded that there is a widespread perception that Service personnel are commonly damaged by their time in the forces [...]. Land that the statutory provision of healthcare is deficient and the Third Sector is having to fill the gap. A growing body of peer-reviewed research suggests that both these perceptions are misplaced. (Land Author, 2016). 391

• The overwhelming majority of these leaving the Armed Forces are fit and healthy and remain so, going on to lead productive lives and not experiencing any disadvantage in accessing healthcare. (Land Author, 2016: 391)

• Healthcare provision in the armed forces is managed by the Defence Medical Services. On leaving the Armed Forces, Service personnel receive their full entitlement to NHS healthcare. In some circumstances this includes priority treatment in line with the Armed Forces Covenant.

• The British Legion's Household Survey found that veterans aged 16–64 are more likely than the general population of the same age to report a long-term illness that limits their activities. (British Legion, 2014: 391)

• 'Compared with UK adults aged 16-64, those in the ex-Services community of working age and, in particular, veterans aged 16-64, are more likely to report musculoskeletal problems, musculo-skeletal problems, sensory problems, diabetes and depression'. (British Legion, 2016: 391)

• A health report joint report focusing on the health needs of individuals who served between 1991 and 2016 found 'estimated that at least 65,000 veterans might need health-related support at some point' for either physical or mental health. (Health Board, 2016: 391)

Mental Health: Evidence Summary

• The King's Centre for Military Health Research (KCMHR) concluded that in general, there is no clear evidence that mental health in the Armed Forces is substantially worse than other occupation groups. (KCMHR, 2016: 391)

• The prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in UK military personnel returning from Iraq is low, between 6-6%, contrasting with figures from the USA (between 15-19%) (Mental Health Foundation, 2015: 391)

• A Centre for Mental Health report found that PTSD [...] is not the most common mental health problem experienced by veterans. Depression, anxiety and alcohol abuse are far more prevalent. (Centre for Mental Health, 2010: 391)

• They also found that the number of personnel leaving the UK armed forces due to a psychological condition is very low [...] around 6.1% of regular service personnel are discharged annually for mental health reasons. (Centre for Mental Health, 2010: 391)

• 'Service personnel and veterans are no less vulnerable than the civilian population to a range of mental health problems [...], unpacking the extent to which any mental health disorders are due to service or not straightforward' (Land Author, 2016: 391)

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Health

- Combat Stress

- Veterans in Mind (Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust) (Mental Health)
  - [https://www.gmmh.nhs.uk/military-veterans-services](https://www.gmmh.nhs.uk/military-veterans-services)
Health

- The Military Veterans Service (Mental Health)
  - https://www.gmmh.nhs.uk/military-veterans-services

- Tom Harrison House (Military Veteran Addiction Recovery Centre)
  - http://tomharrisonhouse.org.uk/
Health

• British Limbless Ex-Service Men’s Association (BLESMA)
  • [https://blesma.org/](https://blesma.org/)

• Defense Medical Welfare Service
  • [https://www.dmws.org.uk/](https://www.dmws.org.uk/)
Health

• Blind Veterans UK
  • https://www.blindveterans.org.uk/

• Battle Back Centre
  • http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-support/physical-health/the-battle-back-centre/
Health

- Help for Heroes Hidden Wounds Service

- The Veterans Trauma Network
  - [http://support.britishlegion.org.uk/app/answers/detail/a_id/1856/~/the-veterans-trauma-network](http://support.britishlegion.org.uk/app/answers/detail/a_id/1856/~/the-veterans-trauma-network)
Health

• Veterans Gateway – Physical Health and Mental Wellbeing

• https://support.veteransgateway.org.uk/app/self_help/
Welfare and Social Inclusion
Welfare and Social Inclusion

Welfare and Social Inclusion: Evidence Summary

- "One in ten (16-44 year olds) reports difficulty integrating into society, with 16% of those discharged from the military in the past five years" p. 11
- "One in six reports some relationship or isolation difficulty, equivalent to around 170,000 people" p. 22
- "One in four working-age members of the ex-Service community have unpaid caring responsibilities (21%) higher than general population (6%); etc."
- "One in 20 reports some unmet need for support, ranging to one in four among the unemployed" p. 17
- "Not having enough money for daily living, or to buy or replace needed items, is experienced by one in twenty" p. 16
- "Households containing working-age adults in the ex-Service community are more likely to receive sickness or disability benefits as UK adults in general" p. 17

*Veterans in Communities

... those who leave the Armed Forces after less than four years, the Early Service Leavers, are recognized as being amongst those most at risk of social exclusion" p. 72

"... ex-service personnel who developed mental health problems during their military careers were at higher risk of social exclusion after leaving, and experienced other negative outcomes than a greater chance of being unemployed" p. 75

*The Centre for Social Justice, 2014

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Welfare and Social Inclusion

• SSAFA – The Armed Forces Charity
  
  https://www.ssafa.org.uk/help-you

• Veterans UK (Ministry of Defence)
  
  https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/veterans-uk
Welfare and Social Inclusion

• Royal Air Force Association
  • https://www.rafa.org.uk/

• The British Legion
  • http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/
Welfare and Social Inclusion

• Help for Heroes
  • http://www.helpforheroes.org.uk/

• The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity
  • https://www.rnrmc.org.uk/
Welfare and Social Inclusion

- Royal Navy and Royal Marines Widows’ Association
  - [http://www.rnrwmwidows.org/](http://www.rnrwmwidows.org/)

- War Widows’ Association of Great Britain
  - [www.warwidows.org.uk](http://www.warwidows.org.uk)
Welfare and Social Inclusion

- Forces in Mind Trust
  - http://www.fim-trust.org/

- Liverpool Veterans
  - http://www.liverpoolveterans.co.uk/
Welfare and Social Inclusion

- Project Nova

- Ex-Forces Action Network (E-FAN)
Welfare and Social Inclusion

• Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service – Safe and Well Project


This flagship engagement tool is the Home Fire Safety Check (HFSC). This is a simple risk assessment of a person’s home and if required the installation of smoke detectors, if during the HFSC the service finds additional needs we can support the individual or family by referring to key agencies, our service for those aged over 65 is being extended into a Safe & Well visit which covers aspects of health. This service is open to veterans. For a free Home Fire Safety Check call 0800 731 5958
Welfare and Social Inclusion

- Veterans Gateway - Living Independently
- https://support.veteransgateway.org.uk/app/self_help/
Leisure
Leisure

• Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Clubs
• [https://afvbc.co.uk](https://afvbc.co.uk)
• Meeting Clubs Maps

• Knowsley Veterans Hub (every Wednesday 10am-12 noon) KGV Sports Centre, Longview Lane, Huyton
• Contact: Dave Curtis | 0151 530 5263/5253 | david.curtis@evertonfc.com
Leisure

• The ‘Not Forgotten’ Association
  • www.nfassociation.org

• Dig In North West
  • http://www.diginnorthwest.org/

• Veterans Gateway – Families and Communities
  • https://support.veteransgateway.org.uk/app/self_help/
Disclaimer: The directory was produced using the knowledge base of the Health Education England North West Armed Forces Network, to give a starting point of information for its members. It is not an exhaustive list of every organisation or resource available in this area; only those that network members are aware of, or actively work with. Inclusion of an organisation does not indicate endorsement by HEE, and we would recommend that members make their own enquiries to assess whether the organisations meet their specific needs.