

What should I do next?

- Contact the Armed Forces Champion for your organisation and ask them about their role, ask them about Veterans and Reservists
- Take a look at the eLearning modules available

Useful links:

Reservists pages on NHS Employers:

<http://www.nhsemployers.org/your-workforce/retain-and-improve/managing-your-workforce/employing-reservists-in-the-nhs>

Contact details for your Armed Forces Champion

Name:

Role:

Email:

Telephone number:

What are Armed Forces Champions?

A Guide for NHS staff



What are Armed Forces Champions?

An Armed Forces Champion is a named member of staff within your organisation who acts as the first point of contact for Health Education England (HEE) working across the North West around Veterans and Reservist forces.

What is the role of an Armed Forces Champion?

- The Armed Forces Champion will help put systems in place within your organisation to inform HEE of the number of reserve forces that are employed in your organisation.
- They will work with HEE and NHS Employers to promote the role of Reservists in the workforce and ensure that the organisation support them as in the [NHS Employers model policy](#).
- They will investigate with colleagues how Veterans can be employed within your organisations' workforce, working with the College for Military Veterans www.cmves.org.uk
- They will ensure your organisation uses the HEE nationally developed awareness raising eLearning package (more information included later in this leaflet)
- They will ensure access to awareness raising information is shared with the whole of the workforce in your organisation (including all grades of staff and volunteers whether clinical or non-clinical)

- They will ensure your organisation follows the [Forces Covenant](#) and ensure that Veterans and their families are not disadvantaged in their treatment – i.e. if the Veteran or family has transferred in from another area that they are then put on a waiting list at the equivalent level as they were in their previous hospital

- Champions are role models - they provide a 'listening ear' for colleagues and have a supporting role around Veterans and Reservists issues

Veterans, Reservists and the NHS

The Armed Forces Covenant is a Government framework for the duty of care Britain owes to its Armed Forces. This document says that:



“those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those have given most such as the injured and the bereaved”

The Armed Forces Covenant

The Covenant also states that Veterans should receive priority treatment from the NHS “where it related to a condition which results from their service in the Armed Forces”.

- [The Armed Forces Covenant](#)
- [The Covenant in Numbers 2016](#)
- [The Armed Forces Covenant GovUK](#)



What can I do to learn more about Veterans and Reservists?

HEE's online eLearning platform ([eLearning for Health](#)) is a high quality provider of online learning free of charge for the NHS workforce across the UK.

This includes an eLearning programme called 'NHS Healthcare for the Armed Forces' designed to highlight both the similarities and the differences to allow healthcare personnel to understand both the context of military life and also how to appropriately respond to patient need. The programme is broken into three broad areas – the NHS care of current serving personnel; the NHS care of families of military personnel and Veterans; and finally Veterans themselves.

<http://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/nhs-healthcare-for-the-armed-forces/>