



Armed Forces Support Agencies Resource Pack

There are a wealth of services available for the armed forces community that can help our organisation to deliver outstanding care to the armed services community. Listed below are some key services within the NHS and Third Sector. There will be others commissioned within your locality, so it is worth staying in regular contact with armed forces contacts within the local authority, ICS and Third Sector as well as those delivered by or in partnership with the MOD.

Veteran Covenant Healthcare Alliance (VCHA) has a dedicated page on our website where you find support for Veterans in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern England.

[Veterans Covenant Healthcare Alliance – Veterans Covenant Healthcare Alliance](#)

NHS Commissioned Services



Op Courage

Op COURAGE is an NHS **mental health specialist service** designed to help serving personnel due to leave the military, reservists, veterans and their families.

<https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/armed-forces-community/mental-health/veterans-reservists/>

Op Restore

Find healthcare and welfare support dedicated to veterans, service leavers, non-mobilised reservists, and their families and carers. All veterans, service leavers, non-mobilised reservists and their family members and carers can access a range of specialist healthcare and support created to provide treatment and care for many different problems.

<https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/armed-forces-community/veterans-service-leavers-nonmobilised-reservists/>

Op Nova

Op NOVA, delivered by the Forces Employment Charity and commissioned by NHS England, provides support for veterans who are in contact with the **justice system**, enabling them to access the services they need.

[Op NOVA | Forces Employment Charity](#)

Armed Forces Veteran Friendly accredited GP Practice

The health needs of military veterans can differ significantly to those of other patients. Ensuring that all GPs in England are equipped to best serve our armed forces veterans and their families is a key commitment in the NHS Long Term Plan. A range of guidance for GPs on the care of patients who have served in the armed forces, and their families. This has been developed in partnership with NHS England. The toolkit sits alongside our Veteran Friendly Accreditation Scheme, which supports practices to meet veterans' healthcare needs.

<https://elearning.rcgp.org.uk/course/view.php?id=803>

Defence Medical Services

The Defence Medical Services (DMS) is made up of the Royal Navy Medical Service, Army Medical Service, the Royal Air Force Medical Service and the Headquarters DMS Group (HQ DMS GP). The primary role of the DMS is to promote, protect and restore the health of the UK armed forces to ensure that they are ready and medically fit to go where they are required in the UK and throughout the world. The provision of secondary healthcare for service personnel is the responsibility of the NHS. The majority of DMS secondary healthcare personnel work in clinical placements within the NHS to maintain and develop their clinical skills when they are not deployed on operations or other commitments.

[Defence Medical Services \(DMS\) - GOV.UK](#)

Defence Medical Welfare Service (DMWS)

DMWS Welfare Officers are highly trained, professional individuals, often from a military or NHS background. They use their knowledge and skills to navigate patients through their care pathway. Many NHS hospitals have DMWS workers based on site. Welfare Officers provide a confidential, impartial and early assessment of wellbeing needs, separate from medical care. They assist with access to specialist support from services, charities and organisations who can help with non-medical practical support. Staff will also support throughout treatment. This may include A&E, on hospital wards, maternity units, paediatric clinics, hospices, mental health centres, as well as outpatients and community-based health clinic.

[Home - Armed Forces Support - DMWS](#)

Veterans' Gateway

Veteran specific resources across all welfare categories. These include housing, finances, mental wellbeing, employment, family and communities, physical health and living independently. Advice and support for veterans & ex-forces | Veterans' Gateway veteransgateway.org.uk

Army Welfare Services

The Army Welfare Service (AWS) is the Army's professional welfare provider; it delivers a comprehensive and confidential welfare service responsive to the needs of individuals, families and the Chain of Command in order to maximise the operational effectiveness of Service Personnel.

AWS

Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund

Provide lifelong support to serving and ex-serving RAF personnel and their families. The fund will consider any request for assistance, however big or small, providing a tailor-made approach to each individual situation. From mobility aids and confidential counselling to financial grants, the fund offers a range of support tailored to the individual's needs.

<https://www.rafbf.org/>

Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity

Beneficiaries lie at the heart of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity's purpose; it is our duty to remain focused on their needs. Since 2007, we have funded projects and facilities that boost morale for those who serve today. We also distribute millions of pounds annually to military charities which care for the children, families and veterans of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines.

<https://www.rnrmc.org.uk/about-us>

Royal British Legion

The Legion is here to help members of the Royal Navy, British Army, Royal Air Force, veterans and their families.

[Royal British Legion | Armed Forces Charity](#)

SSAFA the Armed Forces Charity

SSAFA can help provide practical, financial and emotional support for service personnel, veterans and their families.

[Get help | SSAFA](#)

King Edward VII's Hospital: Veterans' Pain Management Programme

We help veterans enjoy a greater quality of life by teaching them how to manage pain. The Veterans' Pain Management Programme (PMP) is an innovative PMP which we offer exclusively for Veterans of the Armed Forces. The programme is a ten-day virtual programme run over nine months and delivered virtually on Zoom. The virtual Pain Management Programme delivers the same content as the previously run face-to-face programme, without the need for you to travel or stay in London. The pain management team work closely with the group and all the educational and practical sessions encourage discussion and is adaptive to the needs of each group.

<https://www.kingedwardvii.co.uk/the-charity/veterans-pain-management-programme>

Little Troopers

Little Troopers is a registered charity supporting all military children who have parent(s) serving in our British Armed Forces, regular or reserve.

[Home - Little Troopers](#)

Scotty's Little Soldiers

Scotty's Little Soldiers is a charity dedicated to supporting bereaved military children and young people. The charity provides its beneficiaries with support and guidance throughout their childhood and offers a respite, however brief, from the daily ups and downs of coping with the loss of a parent.

<https://www.scottyslittlesoldiers.co.uk/>

Samaritans Veterans

Samaritans Veterans is a free app that can provide you with emotional support after your career in the Armed Forces.

[Samaritans Veterans app | How we can help | Samaritans](#)

BLESMA

Blesma, The Limbless Veterans, is dedicated to assisting serving and ex-Service men and women who have suffered life-changing limb loss or the use of a limb, an eye or loss of sight in the

honourable service of our country.

<https://blesma.org/how-we-help>

ABF The Soldiers Charity

Working with our fantastic committees, volunteers and supporters across the length and breadth of the country, raising both money and awareness. Together we run many exciting fundraising events throughout the year, from motorcycle rides to concerts, curry lunches and afternoon tea.

<https://armybenevolentfund.org>

Armed Forces Breakfast Club

Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Clubs are completely free! There are no fees or subs, they do not exist to raise funds for any national charity, organisation or business. Breakfast Clubs exist to facilitate veterans and, quite often, current service personnel, meeting face to face in a relaxed, safe, social environment.

<https://www.afvbc.world/#bc-search>

Fighting with Pride

Founded in January 2020, Fighting with Pride is a military charity supporting the health and wellbeing of LGBTQ+ Veterans, services personnel and their families.

<https://www.fightingwithpride.org.uk>

SALUTE HER UK

SALUTE HER offers a bespoke service to all women who have served in the British Armed Forces and accept both professional and self-referrals. Their services have been developed to address the growing needs of the increasing population of military women transitioning to civilian life.

<https://www.saluteher.co.uk>

Office of Veterans' Affairs

Find help for UK armed forces veterans and their families, including help with physical and mental health, finance, employment, housing, social care and more.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-for-veterans-affairs>

Useful Links to support agencies

National Support Agencies/Charities

1. [Assistance Dogs UK](#)
2. [Blind Veterans UK](#)
3. [Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund](#)
4. [Royal British Legion](#)
5. [Service Dogs UK](#)
6. [SSAFA](#)
7. [Veterans' Gateway](#)
8. [Veterans UK](#)

National Mental Health/Wellbeing

1. [OpCOURAGE](#)
2. [togetherall](#)
3. [Combat Stress](#)
4. [Walking with the Wounded](#)
5. [Warrior Programme](#)

Physical Health

1. [OpRESTORE](#)
2. [RNID: The Royal National Institute for Deaf People](#)
3. [Centre for Veterans Health – King Edwards VII's Hospital](#)
4. [BLESMA – The Limbless Veterans](#)
5. [Chavasse Clinic – Brighton – Referral Form](#)

Employment/Education

1. [Career Transition Partnership](#)
2. [Forces Employment Charity](#)

3. [NHS Armed Forces Reservists Toolkit](#)
4. [HighGround](#)
5. [LifeWorks](#)
6. [The Poppy Factory](#)
7. [Forces Families Jobs](#)

Criminal Justice

1. [OpNOVA](#)
2. [Friends Against Scams](#)

Housing/Homelessness

1. [OpFORTITUDE](#)
2. [Care for Veterans](#)
3. [Royal British Legion Industries](#)
4. [STOLL](#)

Carers and Families

1. [Army Families Federation](#)
2. [Ripple Pond](#)
3. [Royal Air Force Families Federation](#)
4. [Royal Navy Families Federation](#)
5. [Winston's Wish](#)