

# Lincolnshire Armed Forces Community Covenant Partnership



## Support for Veterans

On Census Day (21 March 2021), 1.85 million people in England and Wales reported they had previously served in the UK armed forces. This represents 3.8% (almost 1 in 25) of the total population aged 16 or over.

Here in Lincolnshire, we have some of the highest number of veterans in England and Wales: (2021 Census)

North Kesteven	10.2% (2 <sup>nd</sup> highest in England and Wales)
South Kesteven	7.4%
West Lindsey	7.3%
East Lindsey	7%
South Holland	5.6%
Lincoln	5.3%
Boston	4.8%

Most veterans transition into civilian life without difficulty, however some find it more difficult and may need some help and support from mental health and other social care provision.

### Sections for Support and Advice

1. Mental Health
2. Housing
3. Health
4. Breakfast Clubs / Associations
5. Other Support Services

## **Section 1: Mental Health**

### **Op Courage**

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

### **LPFT Veterans' Mental Health High Intensity Service**

The Veterans' Mental Health Midlands High Intensity Service (HIS) delivers an intensive package of support to veterans in crisis and their families.

### **Help for Heroes**

Everyone has days when they feel overwhelmed, worried, or fed up.

But if you regularly struggle with your mental health, it may be time to reach out for support.

### **The Veterans Welfare Service**

The Veterans Welfare Service (VWS) provides professional help and advice to veterans, their families and dependants, as well as those supporting veterans.

### **Combat Stress**

Today we provide specialist treatment and support for veterans from every service and conflict, focusing on those with complex mental health issues resulting from their experiences during military service.

### **One is too Many**

The shift to non-military living brings challenges that can lead to Service leavers and veterans feeling detached and in between military and civilian worlds. Funded by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust, the project aims to reduce suicide risks within vulnerable ex-Forces personnel in a coordinated and targeted way.

### **Samaritans**

Samaritans works with the Ministry of Defence and other charities to support serving personnel in the Armed Forces, veterans, and their families

## **Section 2: Housing**

### **Op Fortitude**

Op FORTITUDE is funded by The Armed Forces Covenant Fund to deliver a centralised referral pathway into veteran supported housing. The remit of the team will be to work with individual veterans at risk of or experiencing homelessness, supporting them either into suitable accommodation, or supporting them to maintain their current home.

### **Gov.uk Housing Advice for Veterans**

Get veteran focused help and information on the different types of housing support available from the Veterans' Gateway.

### **Haig Housing - Homes for the Veteran Community**

Haig Housing is proud to have served the British veteran community for over 100 years. As the leading housing provider for ex-service personnel in the UK, the charity now owns over 1,500 properties across 50 locations.

The Trust endeavours to help eligible veterans in housing need, whether they are transitioning into civilian life or are simply in need of a helping hand.

### **Shelter**

Support and advice for homeless veterans and where to get help with finding accommodation. In addition to general services available to people who are homeless, some services provide housing advice and support specifically to veterans and service leavers who are at risk of homelessness.

Most services also offer support to the families of veterans, including widows, widowers and separated partners

### **Defence Transition Services**

The Defence Transition Services (DTS) team is the MOD's tri-service focal point to provide service personnel and their dependants with civilian housing information for those wishing to move to civilian accommodation at any time in their career, and for those during resettlement to assist with the transition to civilian life.

## **Section 3: Health**

### **Op Restore**

Find healthcare and welfare support for veterans, service leavers, non-mobilised reservists, and their family members 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.

### **Op Community**

Originally, an NHS England funded initiative, Op COMMUNITY is an easily accessible point of contact with a dedicated email and phone number to support the Armed Forces community as a whole. This includes Serving (Regulars and Reservists) and Ex-Service Personnel, immediate family members and carers of those from within His Majesty's Armed Forces.

### **Healthcare for the Armed Forces Community (NHS)**

Find healthcare and welfare support for veterans, service leavers, non-mobilised reservists, and their family members 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.

### **Veterans seeking support with physical health (NHS)**

If you have concerns over your health that you think are linked to your service in His Majesty's (HM) Armed Forces, you should contact your GP and discuss this with them, making sure that you say you are a HM Armed Forces veteran.

## **Section 4: Breakfast Clubs / Associations**

### **Royal British Legion**

We support serving and ex-serving personnel all year round, every day of the week.

Our support starts after one day of service and continues through life, long after service is over.

### **The Royal Navy Benevolent Trust**

As a Royal Navy and Marine Charity, we assist thousands of people in need by providing wide ranging financial assistance and caring for older people in our veteran care homes.

### **The Royal Naval Association**

The Royal Naval Association is the biggest collective group of Royal Naval veterans and serving personnel, with over 270 branches in the UK and overseas. The Association provides those with a link to the Royal Navy access to a life-long community of like-minded and supportive individuals.

### **Camaraderie Clubs**

The four new social clubs, known as Camaraderie Clubs, will see around 140 older veterans being offered the opportunity to attend a weekly club in a safe, friendly and open environment. Run by ex-service volunteers, with approximately 40 volunteers set to be in place, three clubs have already opened in Sleaford, Grantham and Coningsby, while one more is set to be established in Spalding.

### **Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club**

Our purpose is to facilitate veterans and serving Armed Forces personnel to meet face to face in a relaxed, safe, social environment to enjoy breakfast and banter, to combat loneliness and allow veterans to, "return to the tribe".

### **RAFA**

For over 90 years, the RAF Association has championed a simple belief – that no member of the RAF community should ever be left without the help that they need.

## Army Benevolent Fund

We stand at the forefront of support for the Army family. We award grants to individuals and families, and fund leading charities and organisations to ensure help is there when you need it.

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## **Section 5: Other Support Services**

### **SSAFA**

Our support covers both regulars and reserves in the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines, the British Army and the Royal Air Force and their families, including anyone who has completed National Service. We know and understand the unique demands of service life, whether in the UK or overseas, and in times of need, we help to enable the Forces family to thrive.

### **DWP Armed Forces Champions**

As part of the Armed Forces Covenant, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has initiatives that help current and former armed forces personnel and your families access Jobcentre Plus services.

This includes having an armed forces champion in every Jobcentre Plus district who ensures that we provide support that meets your needs.

### **Veterans Gateway**

Veterans' Gateway – information and support for veterans and their families

We are the first point of contact for you and your loved ones. Contact us 24/7 for help across housing, mental wellbeing, finances and more. And we can also refer you directly to our Referral Partners. Get in touch with our friendly helpline team by phone, chat, text and email.

### **Veterans Support Service CIC**

To carry out activities which benefit the community, and in particular (without limitation) to the veterans community of Lincolnshire and the surrounding area.

### **Op Prosper**

Op PROSPER is an Office for Veterans' Affairs programme (awarded to us through the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust) which will empower veterans and their families the length and breadth of the United Kingdom, enabling them to thrive in society by ensuring equal access to employment opportunities and supporting them into sustainable, valuable careers.

## 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.

## Fighting with Pride

Fighting With Pride supports the health and wellbeing of LGBT+ Veterans, service personnel and their families – in particular those most impacted by the ban on LGBT+ personnel serving in the Armed Forces prior to January 2000.

## Op Sterling

Working in partnership with Fighting With Pride, Age UK is delivering the Operation Sterling programme to help older LGBT+ veterans, service personnel and their families.

The Operation Sterling programme provides telephone-based support, advice and casework to older LGBT+ veterans through Age UK's Advice Line.

## Forces Pension Society

The Forces Pension Society is an independent, not-for-profit membership funded organisation that acts as a pension watchdog for the whole military community.

## Citizens Advice

Benefits and concessions for the armed forces, veterans and their families. There are many different kinds of financial help available for people in the armed forces, veterans and their families.

## Confederation of Service Charities

Cobseo, as the Confederation of Service Charities, provides a single point of contact for interaction with Government, including local government and the Devolved Administrations; with the Royal Household; with the Private Sector; and, of course, with other members of the Armed Forces Community.

## Forward Assist

We support military veterans struggling to adjust to civilian life; we want all veterans to live great lives, filled with passion, purpose, social connection, service and growth.

## Armed Forces Covenant: guidance and support

The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise from the nation that those who serve or have served in the armed forces, and their families, are treated fairly.

The government is committed to supporting the armed forces community by working with a range of partners who have signed the covenant. The covenant is a national responsibility involving government, businesses, local authorities, charities and the public.

**Please Note:** The Lincolnshire Armed Forces Covenant Partnership does not endorse any of the organisations within this directory.

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