

# What's New in Mental Health Care Provision for Veterans

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# Legislation - NHS Act 2006 & Health and Care Act 2022



## NHS England

- Directly commission all secondary care health services for serving personnel and families registered with DMS and specific specialised services for veterans that, by law, NHS England must provide access to for those distinct populations across England.
- These services are directly commissioned by NHS England with providers of secondary and specialised services and include :
  - All secondary healthcare services
  - Specialised Veterans Mental Health service – OP Courage
  - Prosthetics
- NHS England sets policy , national clinical and governance standards and service specifications which providers are contracted to deliver against

## Integrated Care Boards (ICB)

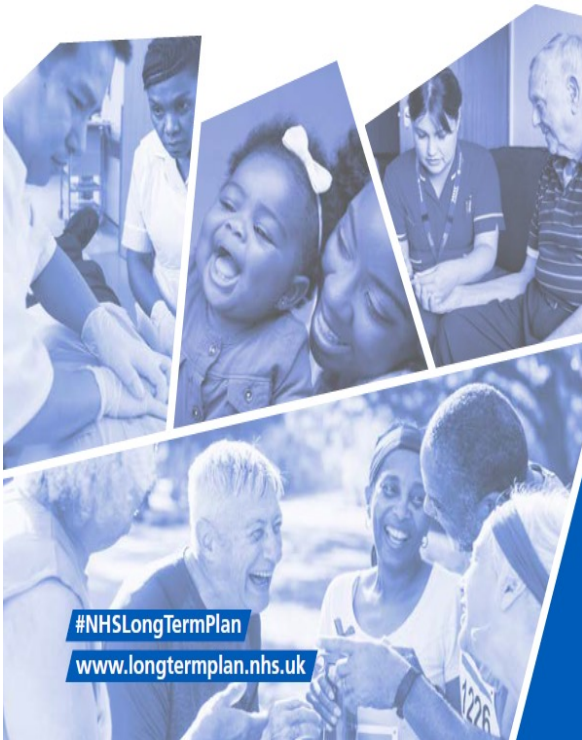
- Commissioning healthcare for veterans of **Armed Forces veterans and their families** registered with NHS GP practices
- Give **due regard to the health and social care needs of the Armed Forces community in the planning and commissioning of services**
- By March 2023, ICBs will be expected to have appointed an **Armed Forces health lead**
- The 2021 document, [Healthcare for the Armed Forces community: a forward view](#) sets out key considerations for ICBs

**Service charities continue to play an important role in the provision of services through sub-contracted arrangements and direct funding allocations**

# The NHS Long Term Plan



## The NHS Long Term Plan



### Armed Forces health commitments

We will expand our support for all veterans and their families as they transition out of the Armed Forces, regardless of when people leave the services.

- We have translated the aspirations of the Long Term Plan into an ambitious transformation programme – *Healthcare for the Armed Forces Community: a Armed Forces Forward View*
- A refreshed national partnership agreement with the Ministry of Defence that reflects NHS system changes has been signed
- To ensure the NHS is equipped to best serve veterans and their families we are rolling out;
  - In conjunction with the Royal College of GPs – the **Veteran** accreditation schemes across all GP practices in England
  - The **Veteran** Covenant Hospital Alliance accreditation across all NHS secondary care acute hospitals
  - Establishing a Single Point of Access for **Veterans** and their families which are based in the Integrated Care Board (ICBs) local areas.

# Armed Forces policy and commitments

## Healthcare for the Armed Forces community: a forward view

From serving to civilian life: health and wellbeing for all



# Bridging the Gap - Mental Health care for Veterans



- There have been over 26,000 referrals to date
- The average waiting time for assessment is 14 days in 2022/23
- 92% males & 8% females accessed these services in 2022/23
- The annual spend in 21/22 was £17m rising to £22.5m in 23/24

Procurement of the Integrated Mental Health Service – OP Courage across England is complete and we are mobilising services across England with a start date of April 2013

The Veteran Trauma Network members are working closely with The Op Courage services to provide joint assessments treatment and care.



## NHS England Strategic Direction



The connection between mental and physical health is well rehearsed . Physical health problems significantly increase the risk of poor mental health, and vice versa.

Research indicates 30% of all people with a long-term physical health condition also have a mental health problem . In turn mental health problems can seriously exacerbate physical illness affecting patient outcomes with a dramatic effect on life-expectancy

**Recognising each Veteran is different we will work as flexibly as possible to support their individual needs**

# Veterans in the Justice System

## Building on Op Nova



- Currently completing commissioning of service to support veterans in Justice System
- Across England
- Additional support, education and understanding for those who work in justice system to identify, understand, relate and as needs refer for more specific care.
  - Pre-Prison
  - Sentenced into Prison Custody
  - Post Prison Custody

## Primary Care Key Part of the Service

- Part of curriculum for all new GPs
- Veteran accreditation with specific clinical lead
  - 1889 Practices (28 Feb 23)
  - 29.34 % of practices
  - 33.58% of the population
  - 66.4% of PCNs have at least one practice accredited.
  - 14 ICBs have at least 40% of practices accredited
- Currently working with ICBs and PCNs to increase the number



## Veterans Covenant Healthcare Alliance



- Important element of increasing knowledge, understanding and support in Trusts
  - Trust understands compliant with Armed Forces Covenant
  - Designated Veterans and AF champion
  - Staff Educated in needs of mil population
  - Established links to Vet and Armed Forces Community
  - Trust has knowledge and refers
  - Trust supports UK Armed Forces as employer.

136 Trusts in network

# Bridging the Gap - Integrated Personalised Health Care for Veterans



## Armed Forces personnel in transition

Integrated Personal Commissioning for Veterans (IPC4V)



The Integrated Personal Commissioning for Veterans (IPC4V) was born out of the need to ensure that Armed Forces personnel who have complex and enduring physical, neurological and mental health conditions resulting from injury that is attributable to Service are effectively cared for and supported as they transition to civilian life and beyond.

IPC4V integrates health and social care (and education and prevention, where relevant) around a person's needs, giving them greater choice and control over the care they need by focusing on what is important to them.

We have supported 18 complex cases as part of transitioning out of service life into that of a Veteran in the community ;

- Complex Trauma
- Neurological
- Continuing Health care support
- Prosthetics and mobility

## Keeping up to date

### Armed Forces stakeholder database



- NHSE publishes regular bulletin. If you would like to be on the recipients, please register..

Thank you.....