



Warwickshire & West Mercia AFC CJS Remember Veterans Project Case Studies



Case Study Tina

Tina aged 46, single, left the Army in 2012 after serving 13 years around the world in RLC/Catering Corps. During the time after my military service, I had planned to marry & move to Canada once my service was complete. Circumstances had changed to the point I called off the wedding and did not move to Canada.

As I had no history/eligibility for support outside of the Military once I completed my Military service, when I approached the council regarding the support available through the Armed Forces Covenant, they were not aware of the Covenant and offered little or no help. I went down the private renting route due to no previous employment history or being in paid employment and did not have a wage coming in.

I arrived at the job centre to look for work & to seek any additional help and advice that could have helped with housing contributions. After what seemed to be a million forms, and the in's & out's of my history, I was informed of an opportunity with the Olympics being held in London and around the UK, feeling that this was an opportunity that doesn't often present itself, I took up the offer of a short-term job opportunity with them. I became a member of the team that was supporting Olympic events held at Coventry Ricoh Stadium. When this ended, I had a part time job cleaning boats on a Saturday along with another part time cleaning job, both 10 hours a week. I was in receipt of benefits whilst working part time.

I was caught by a routine audit check by the HMRC/DWP, for claiming benefits whilst in work, and for not informing them of my change of situation which resulted in court proceedings with the outcome of a probation order of supervision. I received 20 rehabilitation (RAR) days and 150 hours of community pay back in addition to paying back the benefits, which will take me forever to do but I am committed to doing so.

During the court appearance, I mentioned that I was a Veteran/Former member of the UK Armed Forces and that this was my first offence. Probation, through my Offender Manager who was also a CJS Veterans Champion, put me in touch with the Veterans Contact Point and the Remember Veterans CJS Project. After leaving, the Army I was not aware of how much support there was to support me outside the Army, usually it seemed focused to Families and not so much single people.

My probation officer put me in touch with the Remember Veterans Project and the Veterans Contact Point, I called and they who took down information from me about my circumstances and informed me what they did and how they could help me. They also referred me to SSAFA for help with my rent arrears as I was struggling to pay my rent and I was threatened with eviction. SSAFA helped me by making a one-month payment to help bridge the gap with my shortfall in wages as a result from working 2 jobs, to working one job, receiving a payment from SSAFA was a Godsend.

During one of my appointments with my Offender Manager, Pam, I met Len the RV project manager who invited me to help at Armed Forces Day, saying that this would allow me to see what the VCP did and for me to meet other veterans, many whom were in a similar position as to me. I informed a little bit of the VCP did and some of the characters who worked there. As a female that arrived to the VCP having spent most of my Army career in a very much male dominated environment, I was made to feel welcome and saw an opportunity to give something back and to help other people like myself. When I returned to the VCP to see what was on offer I was introduced to Chris, a fellow Veteran and previous service user. Chris took the time to show me, and introduced me to what they do, how they support other veterans. I agreed to become a volunteer and offered two personal development courses, the Peer Volunteer Course and a Mental Health First Aid for the Armed Forces Community.



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Aspirations & the Future.

Having meet the team, and getting to know what the VCP does and that other veterans were in a similar situation to my own, I want to help others come to terms outside the Military lifestyle, to develop to their full potential, as life is for living. This is not based on seeing action/conflict/war but on the circumstances of how military personnel have been dealt with during their military career and what their support systems/coping mechanisms are.

I have under gone a lot of personnel development since I have left the military and learnt a lot of skills and experiences, given there is also so much on how different personalities learn from some people who have a variety of personalities and approaches to life and dealing with situations. There are four colour groups that can be related to their various groups, blue for those that like to party, green for numbers, yellow for helping and red for assertive or leaders.

There is a lot of information regarding personal development it seems to be complex upon first sight, once it is the abundance of information are understood it becomes easier. It is all about the correct mind-set & self-belief.

Since attending the Veterans Contact Point and being supported by the Remember Veterans CJS Project, I have found a lot of help and support around to advise and lead people to information that they need to know to overcome their own challenges in life.

“Thank you for being there to support me and for allowing me to be there to support other veterans, I know that I would not have been able to get on with my positive life if it was not for initiatives such as the Veterans Contact Point and the Remember Veterans Project. I am also very impressed with the people who are present and patient to listen to, and support those veterans who may have temporally lost their way”