



Remember Veterans is a project funded by the Covenant Fund's Large Grant scheme. With a focus on developing a strategic response across the criminal justice areas of Warwickshire and West Mercia the project aims to help improve support and outcomes for veterans engaged in the criminal justice system.

The project's key aims are:

- To develop an exemplar model of a joined-up strategy that delivers improvements in the services provided to offender veterans which can be adopted by other criminal justice areas
- To develop robust identification processes for veterans who have offended, at each stage of the criminal justice system, with appropriate and timely information sharing and referral routes into other service provision as required
- To develop a structured partnership between criminal justice agencies and the various UK military charities and providers of support within West Mercia and Warwickshire, ensuring there is a veterans' voice at a strategic level within the criminal justice system
- To develop the capacity of the voluntary sector to engage with and work alongside criminal justice professionals

The project is led by the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia on behalf of the criminal justice agencies in Warwickshire and West Mercia and has three main delivery partners, Ubique Partnerships Ltd, YSS and the Veterans Contact Point Charity.



1. Introduction

This workbook is aimed at practitioners working in and alongside criminal justice organisations and who have attended a briefing event or completed the induction workbook. The workbook builds on the overview of veterans in the criminal justice system provided in the induction and looks at the role of the Veterans' Champion. Some useful resources and websites which might help you in your work are included throughout. This workbook will help you to develop a better understanding about the role of a Veterans' Champion.

A short quiz is available at the back of this workbook to help you consolidate your learning.

2. Remember the Covenant

From your training you will know that the Government has set out its responsibilities for serving military, their families and those who have previously served in a Covenant:

- The Armed Forces Covenant sets out the obligation that the Government, the Nation and the Armed Forces Community – those who serve, whether Regular or Reserve, veterans and their families – have to one another.
- The Covenant key principles are that veterans should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services; and that special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given the most such as the injured and the bereaved. The Covenant belongs to the whole Nation, and it is not just for the government to deliver. Local authorities, local communities, public services, businesses, charities, individuals and the Armed Forces themselves have a role to play.

In undertaking the role of Veterans' Champion, you need to be aware of the Covenant and ensure that you understand your own organisation's commitment to implementing it. If your organisation is not a signatory to the covenant you should encourage decision makers to engage with the Remember Veterans Project or Covenant team within your local authority which can provide further advice and support.

3. What is a Veterans' Champion?

"I wasn't sure what to expect when I went to the training. I'd always felt that I wanted to do something to support veterans, being from a military family. The training was so powerful and moving that you couldn't help but want to be involved. I went back to the office and asked my manager if I could act as the Veterans' Champion and they were happy to support me. I held a team meeting and shared my experience of the training and asked my colleagues if they were happy for me to take on the role which they were. They know I'll act as a point of contact and so far I've several colleagues come to me and ask for help. It's usually just a matter of sign posting people to the right place. I had one case where I had to get involved and challenge my own organisation about how we were supporting them – no one seemed to take account of the fact that we'd signed the Covenant."

In short, a Veterans' Champion is a 'point of contact' within an organisation and provides advice and support to their peers and other practitioners. As a 'point of contact' the Champion will be the 'go to person' for other Champions within a local network to refer to when information and advice is required. For example, where a Probation Officer may want to ask a local authority Housing Officer about accommodation issues.

The Remember Veterans project has produced a role description for a Veterans' Champion that sets out the expectations of the role:

- To aid in the processes of early identification of military service when former members of the UK's Armed Forces (veterans) are arrested or convicted, ensuring the effective recording of military service is completed, and where appropriate a referral is made to the Remember Veterans Criminal Justice Referral & Helpline Service 02476 348227.
- To support best practice relating to the rehabilitative needs of veterans convicted of criminal offences and sentenced to a custodial or community sentence, and to aid in the development of the current rehabilitation available to them within your respective criminal justice agency.
- With the support of your manager, you will be the primary focal point for liaison within your organisation.
- To raise the profile and needs of veterans within your organisation.

In most organisations the Champion's role is voluntary and unpaid. There should be some expectation that anyone undertaking the role will receive support from their management which would include time to attend relevant training and network meetings.

The full roles and responsibilities of a Veterans' Champion can be found at appendix A.

4. Who makes a good a good champion in the Criminal Justice System?

Most people working within or alongside the Criminal Justice System will have the skills and abilities to work with service users and support their resettlement and rehabilitation. A Champion builds on these skills and their experience to act as an advocate, in this case for veterans.

A Champion will need to:

- Develop knowledge and experience of veterans' issues
- Understand why the Armed Forces Covenant has been established and how their organisation delivers on its commitment to implement it at a local level
- The ability to challenge (appropriately) others to support the Covenant agenda and ask the question
- Understand the problems veterans can face in accessing services
- Build the confidence of others in the organisation to see them as the Veterans' Champion and point of contact for others

Many veterans work within criminal justice as Policemen and women, Prison Officers, Probation Officers etc. They can be a valuable resource to draw upon to support veteran offenders and could consider taking on the role of a Veterans' Champion.

"I volunteered to become a champion because I'd served in the Army and whilst I had a good transition to civilian life I regularly see guys who didn't. I can't help but feel this has a lot to do with your personal circumstances when you come out and the decisions you take – it also has a lot to do with luck."

5. What has the Remember Veterans project done already?

The project has had significant success in recruiting frontline staff across the CJS and partner organisations to undertake the role of Veterans' Champion. Remember Veterans has trained over 1,000 frontline staff of which nearly 150 have undertaken Champions' training. Champions have come from a range of backgrounds and from different organisations.

Remember Veterans has helped facilitate local networks across Warwickshire and West Mercia and there is evidence that organisations are starting to work more effectively together to address the sometimes complex needs of veterans. It is also evident that Champions are playing a pivotal role within their own organisation by helping establish policy and practice changes.

"After my training I was contacted by the Champion from the local authority housing team about a Veteran they were trying to support. He'd told them he was with probation and they wanted to discuss what support he was receiving. I was able to provide information which helped them make the decision to accommodate him temporarily whilst more suitable housing was considered. If we'd not been to the training I doubt we'd have had that conversation which led to him being helped in this way."

6. I understand there's a network of Champions. How do I join the network?

If you are interested in being put in touch with other Veterans' Champions we are happy to introduce you to Champions local to you. You can find some information on the project's website www.remember-veterans.com

Alternatively, if you want to speak to someone please call the Remember Veterans helpline on 02476 348227.

7. Will my organisation support a Veterans' Champion role?

The whole nation has a moral obligation to the members of the Naval Service, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families. They deserve our respect and support, and fair treatment.

The Armed Forces Covenant.

If you work in the Public Sector most organisations will have policies and procedures in place that recognises their commitment to the Covenant. Many other organisations have adopted similar approaches in support of the Armed Forces Covenant.

Remember Veterans developed guidelines for practitioners working in the National Probation Service and the Community Rehabilitation Company in Warwickshire and West Mercia and these can be found at Appendix B. The guidelines provide comprehensive information including policy and processes as well as useful sources of information. If your organisation does not have similar guidance in place, please consider how you can adapt these for your use.

Your organisation may have committed to support the aims of the Covenant nationally or locally and you should find out if they have and at what level. If they haven't yet committed to supporting the Covenant you might want to ask them why and you should encourage them to consider what they can do to support veterans and serving military personnel.

8. Is there any on-going training and support?

Yes. We will be happy to provide on-going training and support for Veterans Champions until the end of the project in April 2018 and beyond. Training delivered after April 2018 will continue to be provided with Remember Veterans delivering regular training events or provide bespoke training to organisations. A small fee for training will be charged to cover the cost of trainers and materials.

Veterans CJS Training include:

- Knowledge around the Criminal Justice agencies (Police, Courts, the National Probation Service, Warwickshire & West Mercia Community Rehabilitation Company, Prisons), what they do, how they affect veterans' rehabilitation/community integration.
- Knowledge of veterans' specific support, military charities, community Veterans' Champion networks.
- Understanding the needs of veterans and the barriers they face.
- Developing peer support approaches
- Interview skills for working with veterans
- Military Mental Health First Aid

All enquiries should be directed to the helpline in the first instance on 02476 348227 or via e-mail on contactus@veteranscontactpoint.co.uk

9. How do I continue to raise awareness of veterans' issues in my organisation?

There are lots of practical things you can do to raise awareness of veterans' issues in your organisation. Different charities will be happy to provide you with information booklets, posters etc. for your use.

We recommend you have a standing agenda item at team / management meeting so that you can highlight any positive casework that has been undertaken and discuss any issues

that may arise. This will also help your organisation to audit their commitment to the Covenant.

You should also encourage senior managers to attend relevant meetings held by local authority led Covenant teams and participate in wider community activities such as the annual Armed Forces Day held in June each year.

The Ministry of Defence has established the Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) which encourages employers to support the military community and inspire other organisations to do the same. The scheme encompasses bronze, silver and gold awards for employer organisations that pledge, demonstrate or advocate support to Defence and the armed forces community, and align their values to the Armed Forces Covenant. If not already an award holder you should encourage your organisation to achieve the Bronze award as a minimum. The majority of organisations in the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Veterans' partnership already have achieved the Bronze award.

Further information on the scheme can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-employer-recognition-scheme

10. Useful resources and Websites

In Warwickshire and West Mercia, Remember Veterans has trained over 150 practitioners to act as Veterans' Champions across a range of organisations. The project has also established a referral helpline specifically for practitioners working in and alongside criminal justice. Details of the helpline and the work of the Remember Veterans project can be found at www.remember-veterans.com

Warwickshire County Council has developed an on-line learning module which provides an excellent resource for practitioners wanting to know more about working with Veterans. This includes content on working with Veterans in the Criminal Justice System. The resource is available to those working in Warwickshire and details of how to access the site can be found at warwickshire.learningpool.com/login/index.php

You may already be aware of The Royal British Legion, Sailors Soldiers, Air Force Families Association (SSAFA), Help 4 Heroes, Combat Stress, Walking with the Wounded etc. Each charity has its own remit, and some are actively engaged supporting criminal justice agencies, for example, SSAFA caseworkers providing an in-reach service to prisons.

A full list of Military Charities and Military Organisations that provide support can be found on the Cobseo (Confederation of Service Charities) website at: www.cobseo.org.uk

The Government recently launched the Veterans Gateway that aims to be a 'first point of contact' for veterans requiring help and support. Information about the service can be found via their website www.veteransgateway.org.uk

Quick Quiz - Consolidate your learning

This short quiz aims to help you consolidate your learning from this workbook. Having read this workbook, you should be able to answer most of the questions, however, you might also need to find out a little more about your own organisation. You can make notes on page 9.

Becoming a Champion

1. Who is / are the Veterans' Champion(s) in your organisation? If there isn't someone identified would you consider becoming a champion?
2. What support should you expect from your employer if you agree to be a Veterans' Champion?
3. What are the main roles of a Veterans' Champion?

Asking the Question

As a practitioner working in or alongside criminal justice organisations it's important to ask the question **'Have you ever served in any of the UK Armed Forces as a Regular or Reservist?'** Please read the case studies below and think about the importance of the question and what you do next.

Veteran A

"I'd never been in trouble before and I didn't know what to expect. At Probation they asked me a lot of questions but none of them seemed to be about me and why I was there. I felt like they were going through the motions of ticking boxes and putting me in one. I wanted to talk to them, to tell them who I am and explain things but that didn't seem to be what was important. They asked me about my previous jobs and I told them what I'd been doing and that I'd been in the Army for 12 years before. I don't know why they asked because they showed no interest in what I said."

Veteran B

"My probation officer was brilliant, she asked me if I'd been in the forces and she told me straight away that there was help and support that I could tap into. She arranged a meeting with a SSAFA caseworker who helped me with a housing application and got me funding to help me move into new accommodation. I don't think I'd have thought about contacting SSAFA myself and the fact my Probation Officer asked me the question in the first place has made a big difference to me."

- Q4.** Having read both case studies what do you think the main differences in approach between the two interviewers are?
- Q5.** Having read Veteran A's case study what would you do differently if you were the interviewer?
- Q6.** How would you help the interviewer in Veteran A's case study understand the importance of asking the question?

Establishing your network

Below is a case study where a practitioner has started to establish a network

Practitioner A

"I attended the training and I'm trying to establish a champions network locally. I've identified a Police Officer and a colleague from the CRC, but I don't know who or which other organisations to invite. I work for Probation."

- Q7.** Which other organisations do you think should be invited to participate in a local network?
- Q8.** What would your network do?

Challenging others to support the covenant

Below is a case study of a champion who has found that their employer does not appear to support the covenant or have policies and procedures in place for working with veterans.

"After my training I checked whether the charity I work for is committed to the Covenant. The charity is national and provides support to people with substance and alcohol misuse problems and we see a lot of veterans including those who are on probation or involved with the Police. I was surprised that we seem to have no policy or specific practices in place to identify and support veterans. I discussed this with my line-manager, but he didn't think it was worth doing anything about. What should I do?"

- Q9.** As the Champion what would you do to encourage the employer to engage with and support the Covenant?
- Q10.** What resources would you refer to in building your case for the employer to consider engaging with and supporting the covenant?

NOTES

Appendix A

Remember Veterans Armed Forces Champions

The Role

- To aid in the processes of early identification of military service when former members of the UK's Armed Forces (Veterans) are arrested or convicted, ensuring the effective recording of military service is completed, and where appropriate a referral is made to the Remember Veterans Criminal Justice Referral & Helpline Service 02476 348227.
- To support best practice relating to the rehabilitative needs of veterans convicted of criminal offences and sentenced to a custodial or community sentence, and to aid in the development of the current rehabilitation available to them within your respective criminal justice agency.
- With the support of your manager, you will be the primary focal point for liaison within your organisation.
- To raise the profile and needs of veterans within your organisation.

Responsibilities

- Normally a voluntary role, in addition to your other organisational responsibilities.
- Will help develop a working knowledge regarding veterans across the rehabilitation pathways and share knowledge, skills and expertise in 'Working with Veterans' issues.
- The Remember Veterans Champion will work to develop links with their local Armed Forces Community Covenant Champions, other Veterans Services and the various Military Charities operating in their area.
- The Remember Veterans Champion should organise Veterans Awareness Training events in consultation with local Remember Veterans project leads.
- The Remember Veterans Champion will be the key point of contact and liaison with the Remember Veterans Support Line.
- The Remember Veterans Champion will be the key point of contact, within their own CJS organisation, to advise and support fellow practitioners on veterans' issues, and may disseminate relevant information to colleagues by offering support and information regarding issues pertinent to Veterans' needs.
- The Remember Veterans Champions will organise local network/partnership meetings to share good practice in consultation with local Remember Veterans project leads.
- As part of their ongoing professional development The Remember Veterans Champion will seek to access relevant training and/or disseminate this training to other Champions or members of their team in consultation with local Remember Veterans project leads
- The Remember Veterans Champion will contribute to the initiation and implementation of change and improvement to service offered by their organisation and across other CJS agencies/partners in consultation with local Remember Veterans project leads.
- The Veterans Champion will contribute to the formulation and review of reducing re-offending pathways, policies and protocols in consultation with local Remember Veterans project leads.

APPENDIX B**Military Personnel (Serving, Reservists
& Ex-Serving)****Practice Guidelines**

Introduction

Over the past 5 years, military personnel in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) have been subject to increased media attention. This document outlines the background to working with military personnel and provides practitioners with practice guidelines on identification, recording, assessment, top tips, the importance of onward referrals to other relevant support services and opportunities for further reading.

Background

In January 2014 the Justice Minister announced a package of measures to identify and support veterans when entering and leaving prison. The emphasis was on early interventions, better coordination of veteran specific services and tailored through the gate support.

The number of veterans within the criminal justice estate ranges between 3.5% and 9.1%. Veterans within English and Welsh prisons are sentenced for a wide range of offences but the most common are for violence against the person (including domestic abuse), sexual offences and drugs.

The needs of military personnel have been identified as:

Mental health - depression and suicide, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), adjustment and identity issues

Substance misuse - evidence suggests military personnel were less likely to report drug use

Physical health - military personnel are likely to have greater physical health problems and disability

Accommodation needs - military personnel are less likely to report accommodation needs

Education needs - evidence suggests that military personnel may be more likely to have qualifications than other prisoners; however, those with lower educational levels were predictive of violent offending for this group

Whilst the needs of military personnel look similar to our other service users, it is the root cause of these issues that need to be identified, confirmed and addressed accordingly. Please note that some of these issues may have been present prior to enlistment and so it is the skills of the practitioner that are needed to unpick these.

To date there has been a variety of reports undertaken to identify the various issues and needs relating this cohort. In addition to the needs identified above it has been noted that the recording and flagging of military personnel status has been poor, yet this is a significant factor in engaging with and referring on those within the CJS; providing they understand why we are recording such and for what purpose. Information sharing with other organisations is critical in ensuring that an individual is supported to successfully reintegrate into civilian life alongside increasing desistance from crime.

It is important to differentiate between the three sectors of the Armed Forces; these are the British Army, the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force. It is important because there are substantial differences inherent within the various cultures and as such different issues may be present within different services and those who have served within them. Practitioners do

not need to experts in these cultures as the expectation will be to ask questions and develop a personalised approach.

Given the above it is therefore essential that CRCs develop and progress their work with military personnel to ensure that we are not only meeting the needs of our service users but we are applying best practice in order to promote their journey of desistance from crime.

Practice Guidelines - Statement of Intention

It is WWM CRC's responsibility to 'ask the question' regarding a service users military status as outlined in induction paperwork. This will enable us as a service to clearly identify military personnel, record this within our systems and flag appropriately to others, where relevant. It is also important that we establish and confirm an individual's military status because it unlocks a variety of pre-existing support services which can aide a practitioner in sentence plan formulation and provide access to interventions and resources that are already geared to work with this cohort; therefore, lessening the burden on practitioners and enabling a holistic approach to rehabilitation.

It is CRC good practice that military personnel are not defined by their military status. It is therefore essential that practitioners consider whether the individual's experience of military life is an underpinning criminogenic factor of their offending behaviour; and/or a factor in determining the welfare provision required; and/or simply a feature of their previous employment history. Practitioners need to pay special attention to ensuring that when detailing a military personnel's history, they are applying a level of analysis as opposed to just narrative. In this way we would expect assessments to detail not only features of their service history and experiences but also an analytical assessment on the relevance of this, if any, to their offending behaviour.

It is also CRC good practice to support individuals to accept responsibility not only for their offending behaviour but for their own journey of desistance. In the same way that alcohol is not an excuse for committing domestic abuse, experience of serving in the armed forces is similarly not an excuse for offending behaviour, as such a clear analysis will be vital in ensuring that we support individuals to take responsibility and ownership for their behaviour and actions.

Practice Guidelines

All practitioners are required to adhere to the following guidelines:

Identification - Questions regarding military status must be asked and all details recorded onto nDelius. *Ideally this should take place at the earliest contact with the service user. Verification of these details can be obtained by notifying the Remember Veterans Criminal Justice Project (telephone 02476 348 227).*

Recording - The military status of individuals will need entering in the personal details section of n-Delius.

Assessment - It is critical that an individual's service history is considered within their assessment of both risk and needs. This in turn will enable practitioners to determine whether or not their service history represents an underpinning criminogenic factor.

Aspects of Assessment:

- Information collection regarding their service history (please note that this is a potted history as opposed to an in-depth description of their military experiences, which they may be unwilling to provide particularly if they have experienced traumatic service).

- Should the individual still be serving in the military (either full time or as a reservist) then contact should be made with their Commanding Officer.
- Is this information pertinent or relevant to their offending behaviour i.e. is it an underpinning factor?
- If it is relevant, then in what way does this need to be factored into sentence plan formulation (consider if they need referral to a specific intervention or if programme staff need to be made aware of their experiences etc).
- Sense check your assessment; whilst it is important to note the possible traumatic situations that they may have experienced, this does not impact on their understanding of 'right or wrong' and as such should not be used to excuse offending behaviour. That said, acknowledging the needs of individuals and the possible trauma experienced is critical in empowering an individual to lead a crime free life whilst addressing any additional needs.
- Is there any additional resource required to aid resettlement and rehabilitation, e.g. in relation to substance misuse, finances, accommodation or welfare, and if so identify the relevant providing organisation.

Whilst elements of a service user's military experience may feature in the various sections of OASys, practitioners are required to place the facts and analysis of their military service in the ETE section of OASys. This allows consistency and an ability for the CRC to collate data.

A checklist summarising these points is attached to this guidance.

Top Tips

- Remember you don't need to be an expert or have experienced military life to be able to assess and successfully supervise individuals who have. All practitioners have a wealth of transferrable engagement and assessment skills that enable them to work with any individual to identify criminogenic factors, formulate sentence plans and deliver interventions.
- Answers to questions pertaining to their service number and rank should roll off their tongue, so any hesitation then it's probably not the truth.
- Analyse don't tell a story.
- Utilise the current existing provision where necessary. There are a wealth of organisations geared to provide support for military personnel.
- Be aware of specific flash points which pertain to military personnel. These include the week leading up to, and the week after Remembrance Sunday, plus Christmas, which are peaks for suicide and self-harm amongst military personnel. Bonfire night may also cause some anxieties.
- On occasion military personnel may state that they are unable to disclose their service record due to it being of a sensitive nature. This is not an issue as our current providers of military record checks are able to utilise training codes to identify any individuals involved in potentially sensitive operations; and whilst the details of these will not be disclosed they can confirm or deny such attempts at secrecy.
- Irrespective of whether their military service is an underpinning factor of their offending behaviour, it is our responsibility as an organisation to inform all our service users of potential support services available to them in order to enhance their opportunities and social capital.
- As with all service users the ability to effectively manage a crisis and look forward rather than backwards is intrinsic in successful case management. Some individuals will have experienced significant trauma; however, managing this through appropriate channels, and ensuring supervision time is forward looking, is key.

- You may query the importance of establishing and verifying an individual's service record; however, not only is this vital in ensuring access to relevant services but should a service record be fabricated we would want to question this and investigate possible reasons why.
- As with any other service user, military personnel may use language which is unfamiliar to the practitioner, never be afraid to ask them to explain as they are the experts.
- Practitioners need to be aware that values and norms that are often established within civilian life can often be reversed whilst serving in the military and some of these may need to be challenged and reinforced. For example, in the Armed Forces whilst not condoned, assaults can occur as a means of dealing with disputes/disagreements amongst other personnel and often a blind eye is turned, whereas theft is considered a significant breach of trust.
- The use of peer mentors can be effective in empowering individuals to integrate successfully into civilian life; however, it is important to note that careful matching of peer mentors is vital. This is for two reasons; ranking may still play a part in civilian life as it did in the military and may impact upon their willingness to disclose; links with other military support need to be forward looking and avoid further entrenchment.

Support Services

Remember Veterans Referral Helpline 02476 348 227

Funded by the Armed Forces Covenant to increase awareness of veterans in contact with the criminal justice system and provide practical assistance across Shropshire, Telford, Worcestershire Herefordshire and Warwickshire.

SSAFA – 0800 731 4880

An Armed Forces charity, formerly known as Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association, is a UK charity that provides lifelong support to serving men and women and veterans from the British Armed Forces and their families or dependents.

The Royal British Legion (RBL) – 0808 802 8080

Is a British charity providing financial, social and emotional support to members and veterans of the British Armed Forces, their families and dependants.

Combat Stress - 0800 138 1619

Is a registered charity in the United Kingdom offering residential and community treatment to former members of the British Armed Forces suffering from a range of mental health conditions including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Combat Stress provides treatment for all Veterans suffering with mental illness free of charge.

Information Sharing

As with all service users there will be a need to share information with other organisations. Practitioners are aware of the guidelines around the sharing of information and the current induction paperwork offers opportunities for permission to be given by the service user. When sharing information about military personnel it is vital to include their service number, Regiment and current military status.

Further Reading

The needs of ex-service personnel in the criminal justice system: a rapid evidence assessment: Clare Lyne and Daniel Packham Ministry of Justice
Ministry of Justice Analytical Series 2014.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/389855/the-needs-of-ex-service-personnel-in-the-cjs-rapid-evidence-assessment.pdf

The needs of ex-service personnel in the criminal justice system: Evidence from two surveys
Jessica Kelly
Ministry of Justice

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/389856/the-needs-of-ex-service-personnel-in-the-cjs-analytical-summary.pdf

An exploration of the Veteran Cohort within Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust. Managing military identity within the Criminal Justice System, ideas for the future.

Andrea Macdonald Probation Officer

<http://probationchiefs.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/An-exploration-of-the-veteran-cohort-by-Andrea-MacDonald.pdf>

UK veterans and the criminal justice system, The Royal British Legion.

http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/media/31583/LitRev_UKVetsCrimJustice.pdf



CRC Ex- Armed Forces Personnel (Veteran) Checklist

Attention Offender Managers!
Is anyone on your caseload a Military Veteran?
Did you know they can access specialist support?

- **Remember to ask the question** – “Have you ever been a member of the regular or reservist armed forces?”
- **Record it on n-Delius!** (Offender Index, Personal Circumstances, add service history)
- **Refer** where appropriate to the Criminal Justice Referral Service and Helpline (02476 348227) for specialist support and signposting
- **Contact** your local Remember Veterans Champion for further information, advice and guidance
- **Incorporate** all of this into your risk management plan

The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise from the nation that those who serve or have served, and their families, are treated fairly and without disadvantage due to their military service. **Remember Veterans** is funded by the Armed Forces Covenant to raise awareness of ex-Armed Forces Personnel in the Criminal Justice System and link them into services available to them.

Have you asked the relevant questions relating to military experience at induction and details of their service number and Regiment documented?	
Have you notified the Remember Veterans Criminal Justice Project?	
Have you documented this within nDelius?	
If confirmed have the relevant details been documented within the personal details section on nDelius?	
Have you conducted an assessment of risk and needs?	
Have you been analytical?	
Is the analysis documented within the ETE section of OASys (or equivalent)?	
Have you pulled through the needs of the individual into the sentence plan?	
Has the sentence plan been discussed, developed and agreed with the individual?	
Is there a need for additional support services?	
Is the individual aware of the various support they are entitled to as military personnel?	

Ring the Criminal Justice Referral Service & Helpline 02476 348227 – Just one number to ring to access your gateway to support, information and advice.

“I was met by friendly people, veterans just like me. I too had served in HM Armed Forces. I was immediately welcomed, supported and given assistance regarding my housing situation and my drug and alcohol issues - in short, my life is improving slowly through a measure of hard work and external support.” **Chad (Grenadier Guards Veteran)**

“I am currently receiving assistance finding employment, accessing funding for education and peer support whilst on probation. For me, this has been invaluable; I would recommend other Veterans who are struggling to make contact with the array of support organisations to make contact with Remember Veterans or the Veterans Contact Point in Nuneaton.” - **Rich (4 Parachute Regiment Veteran)**

“The staff at the VCP/RV project has really helped me in my time of need after suffering another episode of PTSD. I had no one else to turn to and they had helped me in the past. Their help and support is brilliant and just to have someone to speak to over a brew has really helped me to cope and to get my head sorted. The service and advice they have given me has really helped me, giving me a step by step plan to follow, thank you” - **Ben (Royal Artillery Veteran)**

Read more case studies from the project at www.remember-veterans.com

Help for Veterans & Family

Helpline 02476 348227

Mobile 07391 237 551

contactus@veteranscontactpoint.co.uk

Monday to Friday 10:00 to 15:00

Tuesday and Thursday 18:30 to 19:30

