

WELFARE & MH UPDATE

High Intensity Service

The new veteran's High Intensity Service (HIS) has just been announced. This is being rolled out from June this year to complement the existing and successful Transition, Intervention and Liaison Service (TILS) and the Veteran's Mental Health Complex Treatment Service (CTS). The new service will get Veterans into the system i.e. hospital or a bespoke recovery and treatment plan faster than the existing services can support. The new service will be linked in with existing charities and existing MH providers.

Some key points;

- The service will be local to the user's home to make travel more practical.
- Where In-patient treatment is needed the families will not have hours of travel to contend with in 90% of cases (exceptions will be the most rural and remote areas of the UK i.e.; Scottish Highlands and some areas of Wales etc) There will be a greater involvement of families, friends and carers with treatment plans.
- The new service will interface with not only the CTS, TILS but also the Early Intervention Teams and Crisis Resolution service already successfully in place.
- Extensive training for all stakeholders, some GP's are still not aware of the Veteran's services.

It is not yet clear what the referral process will look like. More information will be released as we get nearer to the June implementation date.

The link to the full briefing document is here; <https://www.cobseo.org.uk/assets/files/2020/01/HIS-stakeholder-brief-Jan-2020-FINAL.pdf>

Forces Connect Smartphone/Tablet App

The Forces Connect app has now been expanded to cover all our Regimental Footprint area plus many more counties. By the end of 2020 it is envisaged that it will cover 80% of the UK. The app accesses support services for Veterans, namely, Crisis support, Employment, education and training, Family support, care and benefits. Health and wellbeing, Housing and homelessness. The helplines are manned by Service champions in the AFN (Armed Forces Network) who understand the needs of veterans and can FastTrack as required!

The app is compatible with all smart phones and tablets. It is available from the Playstore for Android and iStore for Apple based phones etc. It is free to download and automatically updates when new regions are added.

Veteran Fast Tracking in the NHS

Recent service leavers have details of their medical history sent to their nominated GP, but those who left 3 years plus ago will have to advise their GP surgeries that they are a veteran. Simply drop a note to the doctors stating that you are a military veteran with your regimental number, unit and dates served. The admin team at the GP's will then add a "flag" to your records.

If you need specialist treatment in the future this "flag" will help you to fast track the system. One example is Osteopath treatment, it normally takes around 4 to 6 weeks to get an initial appointment after referral but being flagged as a veteran can take around a week!

If you have a pre-existing illness or injury your GP can apply to the MOD for your FMed3 so that the records can be matched consistently. You will have to complete a Subject access record request; you fill in your details and sign to confirm they can release the information and the GP will send off for you. If its marked urgent the details will be released within a fortnight. The forms are attached to this update.

TILS Referrals

If you feel that you need a bit of help and don't know how to access it quickly. The Transition Intervention and Liaison team are there to help. You can self-refer, go through the veteran's charities or your GP. It's a confidential service please tell your non-Facebook friends and buddies.

Please this link to find out how to access their services.

<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/military-healthcare/nhs-mental-health-services-for-veterans/>

Orthopaedic referrals

We all have worn out joints and high impact injuries, getting new Joints and outpatient's appointments can present a long, painful and tedious wait on the NHS. If you can get to Brighton there is a clinic which fast tracks veterans. The Chavasse clinic is accessed via this web link; <https://www.bsuh.nhs.uk/chavasse-clinic/> Pass this to your GP and get them to refer you. Initial appointments are about 2 weeks and depending on clinical need, an operation within a further month or so!

Don't forget that our RHQ are there to signpost you to the various charities' dependant on the individual need. Please call them on **0203 166 6918**. The email is Diana.White993@mod.gov.uk

The PWRR Association website contains useful information please have a look! www.pwrrtigers.com Contact details for the branches including our new South Western branch are contained within the Veterans pages, check the nearest one to where you live! There may be an ambush or get together happening near you soon!

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PWRRRA Mental Health Champion