



Veteran Aware Information Leaflet

Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust (BHT) is proud to be a Veteran Aware healthcare provider.

Please let a member of staff know if you, or your spouse/partner, currently serve or have ever served in the UK armed forces so that we can best support your care needs.

Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust is a member of the Veterans Covenant Healthcare Alliance, sharing and driving best practice in NHS care for the Armed Forces Community.

The Armed Forces Covenant states that serving personnel, reservists, veterans, spouses, and dependents should not face disadvantage compared to other citizens when accessing health services.

You and your family should not be at a disadvantage in accessing appropriate health services; for example, members of the Armed Forces Community in England and Wales who are patients on NHS waiting lists have the time already accrued considered when posted to a different location.

Veterans (anyone who has Served in HM Forces for 1 day or more, including National Service) may also be entitled to priority access to NHS care for health conditions associated with their time in service, subject to clinical need.

What you can expect from us:

- We are committed to ensuring no disadvantage and to giving special consideration where appropriate.
- We have educated and trained all relevant staff to identify and respond to the specific needs of the Armed Forces Community.
- We support the UK Armed Forces Community as an employer.

Defence Medical Welfare Services

Here at BHT, we work collaboratively with Defence Medical Welfare Service (DMWS) Welfare Officer (WO), who can put you in touch, or refer you, to organisations and services best placed to help with information, advice, and support.



DMWS WOs take a holistic non-clinical approach to healthcare and with early intervention and assessment

of patient needs, outside of the clinical pathway can help to provide a positive patient experience.

DMWS WOs can enable appropriate referrals to localised services including 3rd sector and families' specific resources in the wider community.

Veterans' Gateway

First point of contact for veterans and their families providing information, advice, and support. 0808 802 1212 or text 81212 or visit www.veteransgateway.org.uk



SSAFA

Welfare, health, and support services, for the UK military's serving personnel, veterans, and their families. 020 4566 9126 or visit ssafa.org.uk/buckinghamshire



Royal British Legion

Welfare, health, and support services, for the UK military's serving personnel, veterans, and their families. 0808 802 8080 or visit www.britishlegion.org.uk



Op RESTORE

Provides specialist care to veterans with physical injuries related to their time in service. [Healthcare for the Armed Forces Community mobilised-reservists](#)



Health and Wellbeing Service

OP Courage is for serving personnel approaching discharge, and for veterans. The service provides a range of treatment, from access to early support, to therapeutic treatment for complex mental health difficulties, and psychological trauma.

For services in Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Berkshire, Oxfordshire, or Buckinghamshire, call 0300 365 2000 or email gateway@berkshire.nhs.uk



Additional Information:



**Royal Navy – Royal Marine
Benevolent Fund -**
www.rnbt.org.uk



**British Army – Benevolent
Fund -**
www.soldierscharity.org



**Royal Air Force – Benevolent
Fund - www.rafbf.org
Royal Air Force Association
- www.rafa.org.uk**

Working for the NHS

The NHS benefits significantly from the skills and experience of the Armed Forces Community, and Veteran Aware organisations support the employment of this community in the NHS.

Find out more about careers at BHT - [Welcome to Buckinghamshire Healthcare Vacancies](#)

or in the wider NHS at [Step into Health](#)

If you are already working in the NHS, BHT has the following available:

- Armed forces staff network
 - Website - [Armed Forces Covenant Information](#)
 - Armed Forces Covenant Lead – bht.armedforces@nhs.net Tel: 07824 416839
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Community Support

Armed Forces Community Drop In

To support our Armed Forces Community accessing support and advice when needed, we are working with SSAFA, the Armed Forces Charity, and Op COURAGE, the Veterans Mental Health & Wellbeing Service, by hosting Drop-In sessions across our community sites.

Thame Community Hospital

10am -12pm on 1st Wednesday of each month

Buckingham Community Hospital

10am – 12pm on the 1st Thursday of each month

Aylesbury, Unit 33 Friars Square

10am – 1pm on 2nd Thursday of each month

Chalfonts & Gerrards Cross Hospital

10am – 12pm on 3rd Thursday of each month

Marlow Fire Station

10am – 12pm on the last Thursday of each month



The Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club

Facilitates serving Armed forces personnel and Veterans to meet face to face in a relaxed, safe, social environment where they can **enjoy breakfast and banter**, combat loneliness and allow veterans to 'return to the tribe'.

Locations in Buckinghamshire:

Stoke Mandeville, Hospital

First Sunday of each month from 10am

Wing, Cock Inn

Second Saturday of each month from 10am

Hazelmere, The Crown

First Sunday of each month from 11am

Loudwater, Brewers Fayre

Every Saturday from 9.30am

Aylesbury, White Hart

Every Saturday from 8am

Aylesbury, Horse & Jockey

Last Saturday of each month from 10am



We are committed to continually learning from our patients and their families to improve care for all. If you have feedback or suggestions, please contact the

Armed Forces Covenant Lead:

Pam Daley 07824 416839

DMWS Welfare Officer:

Helen Stewart 07302 002888

bht.armedforces@nhs.net

