

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group
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Our Ref: ID318

**Re:
Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which was received into this office on 8th October 2015.

You Asked for:

- In your area, do you commission armed forces veteran-specific healthcare service(s)?
- If yes, can you please outline the service provision commissioned by the CCG in your area?
- If no, can you tell us if veteran-specific healthcare service provision for your area is part of your CCG commissioning intentions for the future?

Our Response:

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group commissions a Military Veteran Psychological Therapy service as part of a collaborative commissioning arrangement with a number of other local CCGs. The contract has been recently awarded so is currently mobilising and embedding.

The primary aim of the services is to improve the mental health and well-being of veterans. The secondary aim is to achieve this through the development of sustainable, accessible and effective services that meet the needs of veterans with mental health and wellbeing difficulties who live in the area. The service will be fully integrated with the other local services and agencies that cater for the health and social needs of veterans. The provider (Greater Manchester West NHS Trust) will proactively encourage closer working relationships with local services to support better patient care. The service will be one part of the care pathway for military veterans and will adopt a stepped care approach to ensure veterans' needs are addressed by the most appropriate agency.

The key outcomes of the service will be:

- Provision of expert advice and support to local services on the assessment and treatment of veterans who experience mental health difficulties to ensure local services, including addictions services
- Maximise and support mainstream services to meet the needs of the clients
- Veterans who experience mental health and wellbeing difficulties are able to access and use services that cater for their needs.

- Veterans in this service are given a comprehensive assessment that accurately assesses their psychological and social needs.
- Veterans are signposted or referred to appropriate services for any physical needs that are detected.
- Veterans and others involved in their care are able to develop an appropriate management plan that takes their family and their surroundings into account.
- Veterans' families are signposted to appropriate services if required.
- Develop local and national networks of support services and agencies involved in the care of veterans to promote multi-agency working to improve outcomes for veterans and their families.
- Effective links in place with the military to facilitate early identification and intervention.
- Promotion of recovery models so that veterans can maximise their physical, mental and social wellbeing
- Provision of brief psychosocial interventions

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