

Agenda Item 4.v

Report to:	Board of Directors	Date: 01 September 2022
Report from:	Deputy Director of Workforce and OD on behalf of Ivan Graham, Deputy Chief Nurse / Trust Armed Forces Champion (up to 24.07.2022)	
Principal Objective/ Strategy and Title:	Report from the Trust Armed Forces Champion This relates to: National Armed Forces Covenant Veterans Covenant Healthcare Alliance accreditation	
For:	Information	

1. Purpose/Background/Summary

Royal Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (RPH) has a history of supporting the Armed Forces community and in 2014, Royal Papworth Hospital (Papworth Hospital at the time) became a member of the original Community Armed Forces Covenant Scheme. That same year, the Trust was awarded Silver status under the national Defence Employer Recognition Scheme which encourages employers to support the Armed Forces community and inspire others to do the same. This commitment was renewed at Silver in 2017 and again at Silver in 2022. A full timeline of key events is shown in Appendix A (pp.3-4) for information.

In January 2020, the Trust Deputy Chief Nurse (Ivan Graham) volunteered to be the Trust Armed Forces Champion. Richie Chapple, Principal Pharmacy Technician, volunteered to be the deputy. Both Ivan and Richie are Armed Forces Veterans and very passionate about supported the entire Armed Forces Community. This really helped to raise the Armed Forces 'family' profile across RPH even further.

In 2021, RPH applied for and received Veterans Covenant Healthcare Alliance (VCHA) accreditation. This accreditation recognises our work identifying and sharing best practice across the NHS as an exemplar of the best standards of care for the Armed Forces community, and our ongoing commitment to continue to champion these standards for all the Armed Forces community. It also forms part of our obligation within the wider ICS and the national Armed Forces Covenant (of which we are a signatory).

We were required to renew our VCHA accreditation in July 2022. As part of our annual VCHA review, we were required to declare:

What annual reporting do you have in place for the Veteran Aware work stream? For example: Board level reporting / Quality Account priorities / reporting schedule. As noted in Appendix A (pp.1-2), the Veteran Aware work to date, has not included annual reporting to the Board.

Bringing this paper with Appendix A (our VCHA renewal application) to the Board of Directors was a commitment made within our annual VCHA review declaration. Further to this, an update from the Armed Forces Champion has also been added to the Board Forward Plan for September every year.

The report serves as a useful update to the Board of Directors on the significant amount of work that has occurred over the last year as part of our Armed Forces Champion work. Therefore, this report should also be regarded as the annual update from the Armed Forces Champion for 2022.

2. VCHA Standards

There are eight VCHA Standards that each organisation needs to evidence against. The eight VCHA Standards are:

Standard	
1	The organisation understands and is compliant with the Armed Forces Covenant
2	The organisation has a clearly designated veterans Champion Dyad
3	The organisation support the UK Armed Forces as an employer
4	Staff in the organisation are trained and educated in the needs of veterans
5	The organisation has established links to appropriate nearby veterans services
6	The organisation identifies veterans to ensure they receive appropriate care
7	The organisation will refer veterans to other services as appropriate
8	The organisation raises awareness of veterans

Appendix A explains our work and evidence against each of these Standards.

This also works in parallel with other Armed Forces aware initiatives we have at RPH:

- i. As part of our renewed commitment to the national Armed Forces Covenant (re-signed April 2022)
- ii. As part of the renewal of our Silver Accreditation for the Employer Recognition Scheme (renewed April 2022)
- iii. As part of our Pledge to join the national Step into Health programme (submitted 07.07.2022; accepted/approved 12.07.2022)
- iv. As part of our Veterans Covenant Healthcare Alliance (VCHA) renewal (submitted 11.07.2022; approved 18.07.2022)
- v. Aligns to the new Trust Armed Forces Policy (DN857) written and published in 2022.

As an Armed Forces Champion team, it is also an ambition to achieve Gold Accreditation for the Employer Recognition Scheme. The updates we have made with the addition of the new Trust Armed Forces Policy (DN857) and the other initiatives as referred above, will place RPH in a very strong position for the application when the opportunity arises again in 2023.

Other 'Next steps' for the team are listed in Appendix A (p.18) for information.

3. Actions Arising

The Board of Directors are asked to note the contents of this report. The Armed Forces Champion(s) would like to thank to Board of Directors for their ongoing support.

Attachments:

Appendix A: Veteran Aware – Year One Review Report

Which also includes:

Appendix A: DN957 Armed Forces Policy

Appendix 1: Step into Health email 07.07.2022

Appendix 2: ESR and Armed Forces NHS staff email trail

Appendix 3: Poppy Appeal 2021 thank you letter (date 24.11.2021)