

Agenda Item 2.iii

Report to:	Board of Directors	Date: 05 October 2023
Report from:	Richie Chapple Homecare Service manager / Trust Armed Forces Champion	
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 1 for information.

In January 2020, the Trust Deputy Chief Nurse volunteered to be the Trust Armed Forces Champion. Richie Chapple, Principal Pharmacy Technician, took over as Trust Armed Forces Champion in late 2021. Both Richie and his predecessor 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).

As part of our VCHA accreditation this report is the annual update to the Board.

This report along with Appendix 1 (our VCHA Year Two Review) was a commitment we made within our annual VCHA review declaration at the Board of Directors 01.09.2022.

This also serves as a useful update to the Board of Directors on the 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 2023.

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) and renewed every 2 years.
- 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 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 2024.

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 1: Veteran Aware – Year Two Review Report