

Agenda Item 2.iii

Report to:	Trust Board of Directors	Date: 07 November 2024
Report from:	Richard Chapple Homecare Service manager / Trust Armed Forces Champion	
Principal Objective/ Strategy and Title	Annual report from the Trust Armed Forces Champion This relates to: National Armed Forces Covenant Veterans Covenant Healthcare Alliance accreditation	
Board Assurance Framework Entries	Recruitment Retention Staff Engagement	
Regulatory Requirement	N/A	
Equality Considerations	N/A	
Key Risks	N/A	
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. Richard Chapple, Principal Pharmacy Technician, took over as Trust Armed Forces Champion in late 2021. Both Richard 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 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 2024.

2. VCHA Standards

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

Standard	
1	The Trust understands and is compliant with the Armed Forces Covenant
2	The Trust has appointed Veterans and Armed Forces Champions.
3	The Trust identifies veterans and armed forces community status patients to ensure they receive appropriate care
4	Staff at the Trust are trained and educated in the needs of veterans and the armed forces community
5	The Trust has established links to appropriate nearby armed forces support services
6	The Trust will refer/handover veterans armed forces staff and patients to other services as appropriate
7	The Trust raises awareness of veterans and armed forces community
8	Supporting the Armed Forces as an employer

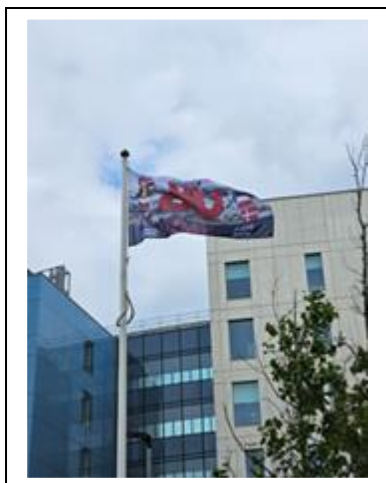
We are currently in the process of revalidation with the VCHA and are due to submit our submission in October 2024.

3. Trust AFC Update and events for 2024

Richard Chapple has been joined by Luke Bage as the Deputy Armed Forces Champion this year, Luke is a driving force within workforce and also leads on the Step Into Health programme, which helps Armed Forces leavers find employment within the NHS.

Richard Chapple represents the Trust on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Armed Forces Covenant Partnership Board, which meets every quarter

This year has seen a change in pace with the celebrations of D-Day 80th Anniversary celebrated within the hospital grounds where a celebratory flag was raised and a wreath of poppies was laid by the Chief Executive and Richard Chapple (Armed Forces Champion).



We celebrated our Veterans and staff who are Reservists during Armed Forces Day in June by flying the Armed Forces Day flag for a week, this highlights the Trusts commitment to the Armed Forces community.



Armed Forces Week

Proud to support our armed forces and veterans

Royal Papworth Hospital are proud and committed to supporting our armed forces and veterans who work for us and also in the wider community.

Today (27 June) the Armed Forces Week flag was raised by John and Phil from our estates team and Richie Chapple, Pharmacy Homecare Services Manager, who are all veterans.

If you are a veteran working in the hospital and want to be involved with our informal group then please contact Richie Chapple who is our Trust Armed Forces Champion.

[Contact Richie](#)

October 3rd 2024 will see Richard and Luke attending **10 years of Step into Health: Celebrating our journey and the Armed Forces Community**, which will be held at the House of Lords.

Armistice Day will be celebrated this year on the 11th November 2024 with a service and wreath laying in the Atrium.

Plans are being put into place for future Remembrance Anniversaries for 2025:

VE Day 80 – Thursday 8th May 2025

VJ Day 80 – Friday 15th August 2025

4. Patient Stories

John:

May 2024, John (Royal Navy Veteran) underwent a double lung transplant and was a patient within RPH for a few weeks, whilst here the consultant looking after him who is a RAF Veteran passed his information to the Trust Armed Forces Champion (Army Veteran). The Trust AF Champion spoke with the patient and after a while found out that John had a few worries about travelling between his home in Hampshire and the hospital, he had to make a lot of visits and

was worried about the financial burden. The Trust AF Champion is a member of the British Legion and a friend of his is the National President of the Royal Naval Association. A quick phone call was made with permission from John and within an hour the RNA were visiting with gifts and get well cards. The RNA have now linked John with local support closer to home and he has been allocated a SSAFA case worker for ongoing support. This is a true measure of Veterans working together across the Services (Air, Land and Sea) and the connectivity between the Trust and local Service Organisations.

Patient Story – David

David (RAF Veteran) was an inpatient and asked if the hospital had a SAAFA representative, a trainee nurse on the ward was aware of the Armed Forces champion (AFC) and made contact, David was a poorly man who whilst receiving treatment was made aware that he was approaching end of life care. The AFC spoke with David to see what help could be provided. David needed financial support as well as putting in place support for his family. The AFC spoke with RAFA, RBL and SAAFA to see what support could be offered. Links were made and the charities reached out to David, who through RAFA has a funded holiday planned and future support in place. The RBL have also raised a case file to assist. The AFC arranged via PALS for David's family to get discounted car parking, due to their distance for travel and also arranged via the Royal Papworth Hospital Charity to the Will writing service to visit as David was worried about his family when he was gone. David Unfortunately passed away before he could go on holiday with his family, RAFA kept their pledge and the family have since had a small break which was fully funded. *"Per Ardua ad Astra"*

Highlighting patient stories shows the commitment to look after our patients and link them with Armed Forces Support and National Charities.

5. 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.