

Armed Forces special stakeholder brief

April 2023

Welcome to this special issue of our Armed Forces stakeholder brief. On 1 April 2023, the revised service model for Op COURAGE: The Veterans Mental Health and Wellbeing Service went live and Op NOVA: Supporting Veterans in the Justice System launched.

This is an exciting time for the NHS England Armed Forces healthcare commissioning team and represents the culmination of significant engagement, procurement, mobilisation and coproduction activity. Many thanks to everyone who has supported in progressing this work to date, especially to members of our Patient and Public Voice (PPV) group and to those who took part in engagement.

Op COURAGE: The Veterans Mental Health and Wellbeing Service

Op COURAGE is now delivered under a single service specification, formally having been commissioned as three individual services:

- Veterans' Mental Health Transition, Intervention and Liaison Service (TILS)
- Veterans' Mental Health Complex Treatment Service (CTS)
- Veterans' Mental Health High Intensity Service (HIS)

This will make the service user journey smoother and more consistent across England. Regionally based mental health provider collaboratives will be led by the following lead providers:

Lead provider	Region
Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear NHS Foundation Trust	North East and North West of England
Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust	East of England
Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Trust	Midlands
Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	South East England
Camden & Islington NHS Foundation Trust	London
Avon and Wiltshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	South West England


Engagement with the Armed Forces community has consistently demonstrated that there is a need to improve awareness of Op COURAGE amongst the Armed Forces and across the NHS. To support this we are finalising arrangements for an Op COURAGE marketing campaign which will launch later this spring. A campaign toolkit will be available shortly.

Further information on Op COURAGE is available at www.nhs.uk/opcourage, with contact details also set out in the attached map.



**The Veterans Mental Health
and Wellbeing Service**

Op COURAGE



Op NOVA: Supporting Veterans in The Justice System

Following a robust procurement exercise, we have appointed the Forces Employment Charity to deliver Op NOVA, an England wide service for veterans who come in to contact with the justice system, pre and post prison custody.

This non-clinical service builds on existing provision to improve the identification and support of veterans pre and post prison custody. Working together with NHS services and health and justice services, as well as charities and other organisations, Op NOVA provides a single point of contact for veterans, who, following an assessment, will have a comprehensive support plan developed for them that is overseen by a care and support co-ordinator.

Op NOVA, which is being delivered by Forces Employment Charity in collaboration with Care After Combat, builds on the success of Project Nova that supported veterans pre prison in five regions of England. Visit [here](#) for more information on Op NOVA.

Following a naming convention engagement exercise earlier this year, the name Op NOVA: Supporting Veterans in The Justice System, was agreed. For a copy of the engagement report, please email kate.barnett12@nhs.net



Supporting Veterans in
the Justice System

OpNOVA

Three horizontal bars of different colors (dark blue, red, and light blue) are positioned below the 'OpNOVA' text.

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