



NO HOMELESS

VETERANS

#NoHomelessVeterans



The No Homeless Veterans Campaign

Introductions – Who We are

What is the campaign about?

Why is the campaign needed?

Who are the Partners working on the campaign?



What is the Government definition of a veteran

- Anyone who has served in His Majesty's Armed Forces
- Covers all 3 Services (Army, Royal Navy and RAF)
- Length of service can be short (1 day) through to retirement
- Regular or reservist
- Foreign and Commonwealth
- 2.4 million veterans in the UK (half over 75)



Current statistics on veterans homelessness

- 3000 to 4000 veterans in urgent housing needs
- 2-3% of those accessing homeless services are veterans
- Annually around 400 veterans are identified as sleeping rough



Why might a veteran experience homelessness

- Poor transition out of the Armed Forces
- Increased support needs around mental health including PTSD
- Breakdown in family and personal relationships
- And every other life challenge



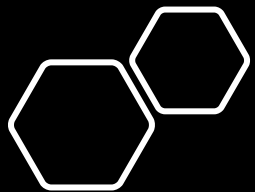
The Armed Forces Covenant

- What is the Armed Forces Covenant?
- Who is involved?
- How does this apply to you?



Ending veterans homelessness

- Recent Government commitment to ending veterans homelessness:
 - Operation Fortitude
 - Veterans Supported Housing



Veterans talking about homelessness





How the campaign can support social housing providers

- Extensive Toolkits, Audit Tools and Personal Housing Plans
- Sharing veterans case studies
- Accessing recorded webinars
- Sharing and celebrating good practice across the sector

Armed Forces Outreach Service

“You don’t know how comforting it is having another Veteran in the council to talk to so soon after leaving the Army. You’ve given me hope it will all be ok.”

Lisa McFadyen - Armed Forces Co-Ordinator

What is the Armed Forces Outreach Service (AFOS)?

- A collaborative regional partnership between Gateshead Council, Newcastle City Council, Your Homes Newcastle, Durham County Council and Believe Housing. Our footprint is just over 4000km².
- Gateshead Council are the lead administrative body but work closely with our partners to provide a holistic service across a large and diverse geographical area. Armed Forces outreach workers are embedded within each region.
- We are essentially a conduit between the Local Authority/Housing Provider and Service Personnel, Serving Reservists, Veterans, Spouses and long term partners and family members of these groups.

What does AFOS offer?

- Housing
- Debt Management
- Employment, training and volunteering opportunities
- Benefits & Pensions
- Mental Health
- Direct routes into other Local Authority services

What makes AFOS different?

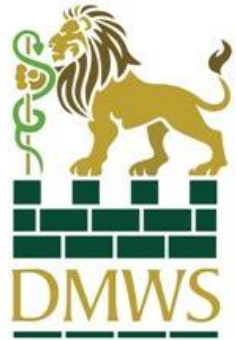
- Employ veterans or those with a connection to the Armed Forces Community
- One dedicated Member of staff from initial contact through to case completion
- SSAFA caseworker trained (Directly raise funds for those we support)
- No other Armed Forces Charity or Organisation has direct access to Housing Providers and LA's. No one else can influence and shape policy.
- We don't wait for referrals to come to us - Early Intervention is key. We offer a cradle to grave service.

Service Reach

- Featured in the Government's Armed Forces Covenant Guidance (November 2022) as an example of best practice in relation to the housing of the AFC and their families.
- Member of the Veteran's Affairs and Pension Committee (VAPC) for North East and Tees Valley – reporting directly to central Government on Veteran Affairs
- Provided support to the Stoll Housing No Homeless Veteran Campaign by delivering Veteran specific Homelessness training to LA's and Housing Providers across England, Scotland and Wales in partnership with Homeless Link
- Deliver training on the Unit Welfare Officers Course providing us exposure to all Army Unit Welfare Officers locally, nationally and internationally.
- Present on the Personnel Recovery Centre (PRC) course for SP facing Medical discharge.
- Present on Brigade led Adjutant Courses to capture “fastball” discipline charges.
- Member of COBSEO Housing Cluster – Confederation of Service Charities

Key Figures & Financials

- Rehoused **1558** members of the Armed Forces Community
- Dominant service is Army, followed by RN/RM/RNR and finally RAF
- 85% of our clients are Veterans or Serving Reservists, 9% still serving, 4% Spouse of Service Person, 2% Spouse of Veteran.
- Secured **£379, 558** in funds for those clients –
 - **£177, 868** White goods, home furnishings
 - **£99, 747** Reduced rents, mortgages – preventing Homelessness
 - **£31, 333** Improvements to Debt/Increased Standard of Living
 - **£26, 517** Benefits Increase





Contact Us



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Armed Forces Outreach Service(AFOS)



www.armedforcesoutreachservice.org





How can you find out more about the campaign

- Download the Toolkits, Audit Tools and Personal Plan
- Download the recorded training webinars
- Share your good practice with us

Go to <https://www.stoll.org.uk/no-homeless-veterans/resources/>

- Join the discussion on social media
- Contact us for more information



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Any questions?