**Information sheet for veterans at Blackburn Road Medical Centre**

Blackburn Road is a Veteran friendly accredited GP practice. We have produced this leaflet to support any Veterans within the Surgery with this short question and answer leaflet.

**What is a veteran?**

Anyone who has served for at least one day in His Majesty’s Armed Forces (Regular or Reserve) or Merchant Mariners who have seen duty on legally defined military operations.

**What is a Veteran accredited GP practice?**

Blackburn Road has been recognised by the Royal College of General Practitioners to provide the following things for veterans.

1. Have a clinical lead for veteran health. The lead at Blackburn Road is Dr Lloyd
2. Ask patients if they have served in the Armed Forces. This allows us to add this information to our coding system so we can refer as appropriate.
3. Support veteran patients to access dedicated health services.
4. Undertake regular training and development to meet the health commitments of the Armed Forces Covenant and better understand the needs of veteran patients.

**What additional services am I entitled to as a veteran?**

1. **Priority referrals -** If you have a health problem not caused by your time in the armed forces, you are likely to go on a waiting list before you can get full treatment from the NHS. This is the usual process for NHS treatment. If you have a health problem caused by your time in the armed forces, you are also likely to go on a waiting list. However, you may be able to get NHS care quicker than usual through priority treatment for veterans.
2. **Support from Op RESTORE** – This a veteran physical health and wellbeing service run by the DMS. They can help provide personalised treatment within the NHS and act as a link for anyone who has physical health problems as a result of their time in the Armed Forces. Ask your doctor if you think you might be suitable for referral.

See <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/armed-forces-community/veterans-service-leavers-non-mobilised-reservists/> for more information.

**What about mental health support?**

**Op COURAGE** is a mental health specialist service designed to help serving personnel due to leave the military, reservists, armed forces veterans and their families. You can self-refer or ask your GP to do this. For the North of England team, you can call 0300 373 3332 or email [OpCourageNORTH@cntw.nhs.uk](mailto:OpCourageNORTH@cntw.nhs.uk)

See <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/armed-forces-community/mental-health/veterans-reservists/> for more information.

**Where else can I seek support?**

**British Legion** provides various support, including community connections, care, financial, and physical and wellbeing support. Their website is <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-support/who-we-help> and they also have an online chat (via the site) and helpline 0808 802 8080 (open 8am-8pm, 7 days a week).

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