



# Reablement and Empowerment in the community

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23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018

Life beyond sight loss  
St Dunstan's since 1915



# Presenters



- ❖ Sharman Collins (*Brighton Centre Social Worker*)
- ❖ Kellie D'Arcy-Pattenden (*Community Team Leader*)
- ❖ Alan Walker (*Regional Rep Working Age Member Volunteer*)

# Blind Veterans UK



- ❖ Founded in 1915 by Sir Arthur Pearson
- ❖ Formally known as St Dunstan's  
(Changed to Blind Veterans UK in 2010)
- ❖ Changed constitution in 2005 to include those who have lost their sight **and** served
- ❖ Currently supporting 4800 members nationally





# Our Centre's

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# Our Centers



- ❖ At Brighton we have 32 permanent residents, both nursing and residential (average age 86)
- ❖ At Llandudno they have a separate building focusing on regaining life skills, run in partnership with **Blesma**.
- ❖ Predominantly these are both rehabilitation Centres, helping people regain independent living.
- ❖ Close work with the community teams so they can mirror what the centres do in the community (35% of members do not access the centres at all).
- ❖ Both Centres promote external events , particularly sporting challenges, such as the Brighton and London marathon.



# Community Service

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# Community Services



- ❖ Research found that there are an estimated 56,000 veterans who may be eligible for services. Currently supporting 4,800 nationally
- ❖ Of the 4800 current membership, 30% don't visit a centre for reasons which include poor health, carer responsibilities or a reluctance to travel
- ❖ By 2023 we estimate that up to 60% of the membership may not make it to a centre
- ❖ Current average age of a new member is 87 years old. This is expected to rise to 92 by 2023

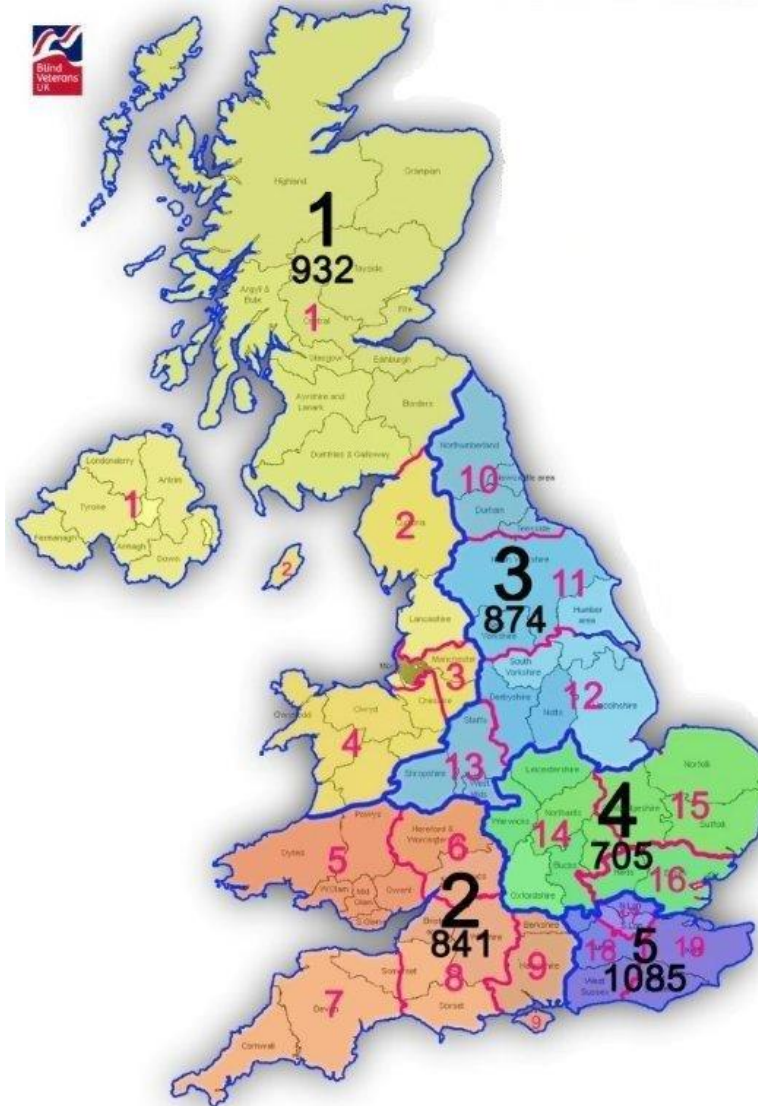
# Community Services



- ❖ Our highest priority is to develop local support services and communities that deliver high quality support to our members
- ❖ Our aim is to reach 6000 members by 2023 and 8000 by 2025
- ❖ Welfare services and centres need to align in order to prepare for a significant increase in member numbers



# Regional map



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# How are we doing...



## ❖ Since April 2017:

- **638** new members
- **90%** of new members have had an Outcomes Assessment completed
- **113** Widows have been supported
- **42,437 Contacts** – telephones, home visits.  
*(This is more than 18,000 additional contacts compared to 2016)*
- **3,482 Assessments**

## Activities, Clubs & Events

- **35 Reunions** - reaching around 3000 members
- **35 Member One Off Activities** – theatre, trips, fundraising – to around 500 members
- **30+ Regular Clubs** – coffee mornings, veterans cafes, IT clubs, lunch clubs etc – to around 450 members



# Alan Walker

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## Member Journey

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A banner for Blind Veterans UK. On the left is the organization's logo. To its right, three blue boxes contain the text "Served.", "Blinded.", and "Supported." in white. Below these boxes is the website address "Find out more at [blindveterans.org.uk](http://blindveterans.org.uk)". The background of the banner shows three veterans standing in a hallway: a man in a suit and sunglasses, an elderly woman in a green jacket, and a man in a military uniform with medals.

 Served.  
Blinded.  
Supported.  
Find out more at [blindveterans.org.uk](http://blindveterans.org.uk)

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