

Team – Sussex - Crawley Assessment and Treatment Service (ATS)

The Assessment and treatment community mental health service based in Crawley have shown a continued commitment in their support for the Armed Forces Community; there are now 3 Armed Forces Service Champions based within this multi-disciplinary team; Social Worker Hannah Tring, Nicole Rodgers Community Support Worker and Team Lead Martin Diver, who is himself a veteran.

Crawley ATS are extremely proactive in building close working relationships with members of the Network to ensure the best outcomes for their service users who are from an Armed Forces background. The team have a dedicated resource board in the waiting area at their clinic which helps to identify members of the community at the earliest opportunity and to signpost individuals to further sources of support. Crawley ATS regularly highlight and champion support for the Armed Forces Community via their social media accounts which helps to spread the word further afield. The team members also show true dedication by taking the time to support clients to attend the local monthly veterans drop in where multi agency support is available.

Team – Kent – Margate Task Force

The Margate Task Force is a multi-agency team who work together to support the community of Margate. The Task Force brings together officers from 14 different agencies and organisations that are co-located within the Thanet District Council offices. The team have embraced the Armed Forces Community with the team receiving awareness training and actively engaging with the Kent and Medway Armed Forces Network. They promote a better quality of life by working across a number of agencies which include the military charities and linking public services in an armed forces friendly way. The Service Champions within the Task Force:

- Andy Bigginton who is the Lead Officer for the Margate Task Force will receive this award with and on behalf of his team.
- Allison Gambrill with the NHS Crisis Team organised with the Network awareness training for 60 of her colleagues which led to a significant increase in the number of local Service Champions.
- Jo Hirst, who you heard speak today and Debbie Lancaster who both work for the Department of Work and Pensions

Charity – Julia Molony - Ripple pond

Julia Molony is a founding member of the national charity Ripple Pond: A self-help support network for the adult family members of physically or emotionally injured Service Personnel and Veterans. Julia is one of the original members of the Sussex Armed Forces Network (back in 2011) and has been a proactive supporter ever since. She has volunteered her time on countless occasions to deliver sessions for our Armed Force Champions training and is an incredible champion of support for families and carers both behind the wire and on Civvy Street. Julia is an admirable example of someone who has reflected on her own difficult experiences as the mother of a severely injured soldier and used this as the basis for improving and championing support for others in similar situations. Her empathic nature and persistent enthusiasm for her area of interest inspire many!

Carers – Sussex Joint award Steve Hinton and Mike Dixon

Michael Dixon has worked for the West Sussex Carers Health Team as a clinician for the past three years. The Carers Health team is a community NHS service which supports informal carers to maintain their own health and wellbeing whilst caring for others. Mike undertakes home visits, GP clinics and local libraries and support groups. Mike is a very motivated and committed health care professional who understands the role the Armed forces can play in helping support ex-service people and their families. He has ensured that the rest of the team are fully understanding of the support available as well promoting this support throughout his everyday role. Mike Dixon always goes the extra mile to try and make a difference to informal carers and their families.

Steve Hinton is based at the Carers Centre for Brighton & Hove and is the Armed Forces Support and Outreach Worker for carers and families across the whole of Sussex. Covering such a huge patch single handedly has never been an issue for Steve and as well as providing practical and emotional support to carers and families, Steve is also dedicated to raising awareness of the issues facing carers in the Armed Forces community with anyone who will listen! Steve's approach in seeking out this hidden army of carers has been so successful that funding for the project has been extended for another year. Steve is a mine of information in knowing what support for families is available from military organisations, particularly some of the lesser known associations. He always responds to requests for support in the most helpful way possible, going out of his way (often in a creative way!) to find the appropriate support for even the most challenging of cases.

Commissioners – Tom Beaumont

Tom Beaumont is a Mental Health Commissioner for Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). He has been very supportive to the Network since it expanded to Kent and Medway. He goes beyond what is required, providing links and coordination of other commissioners by providing advice and access to local services for the system. Tom is driving it forward for his CCG who are working towards their Silver Employers Recognition Award and are ensuring the armed forces community are recognised in commissioning of services.

Local Authority – Councillor Pat Todd

Pat is the official Armed Forces Champion for Canterbury City Council; he is a great ambassador for the Armed Forces and hugely supportive of the Canterbury Covenant Partnership and what the Council is trying to achieve. He takes his role seriously and is committed to raising the profile of the Armed Forces and Covenant at local level and beyond and is constantly working behind the scenes to do this.

(Angela Maxted, Head Teacher for Cheriton Primary School collected the award on his behalf)

Primary Care – Keith Fuller

Dr Keith Fuller is the Managing Partner for Downs Way Medical Practice in Gravesend. He has been an adult Cadet Volunteer for several decades. He is an exemplar service champion and GP. He is collecting the data of the armed forces community and using his Practice website to bring it to the attention of his patients. He has shared his good practice and actions with other GP Surgeries/practices and through the network to the whole South East. He has helped with cases outside his geographical area including where advice was required for the newly arrived Gurkha wives.

Provider – Rory Mcloughlin

Community Mental Health Nurse, East Sussex Care Home In Reach Team, Sussex Partnership Foundation NHS Foundation Trust (Sussex)

Rory first trained as a Service Champion in October 2015 and since then has worked with nursing homes to raise the profile of the armed forces community. Encouraging, where appropriate and safe, to celebrate a resident's service in the armed forces and enabling staff to "better know their residents story" potentially have a positive influence on care. Rory has supported both carers and nursing home staff when addressing concerns in regards ex-service personnel who are suffering from dementia.

(Dr Nick Lake, Clinical Director for Sussex Partnership Trust collected this award on his behalf)

Dedication Award - Jane Burt

Jane Burt's has supported the Armed Forces Community since September 2014 when she was working in the carers centre. She has worked extensively in the voluntary sector for services that provide specialist support to informal carer's including mental health carers. She became a service champion in October 2015. Through her work and dedication Jane started undertaking work for the Network until she became a member of the team in May 2017. She now leads on Mental Health First Aid, general advice and support to the Armed Forces Community who contact the Network, support and recognition for carer's and families. Recently she is also leading on the Gurkha/Nepalese Health Toolkit where an event was held with 75 people to ensure an understanding of the requirements.

Jane is understanding, dedicated and will engage with all communities to ensure that the best outcome is achieved.