

Delivering on the Armed Forces Covenant

Presentation to Leicester City
Health and Wellbeing Board

Miranda Cannon – Director champion for AFC & Co-
Chair LLR Civil & Military Partnership Board

Armed Forces Covenant (AFC)

What is the AFC?



- A promise by the nation
- Reflected in local Covenant commitments
- Addressing disadvantage so armed forces personnel, past and present, get the same treatment and access to services as the civilian community
- UK-wide Strategy for Veterans published Nov 2018. Consultation open until 21 Feb to support implementation
- Armed Forces Covenant Fund - £10m p.a.

Armed Forces Covenant in practice

Local commitments by organisations vary but can include:

- Access and provision of services eg housing, healthcare, schools
- Supporting employment eg veterans and service leavers, reservists
- Working with and supporting cadet forces
- Discounted services
- Raising awareness and supporting community engagement
- Working in partnership
- Celebrating the contribution of the Armed Forces

Armed Forces community

- Data gaps and under-reporting - 2021 Census to include veterans.
- Covenant-funded 'Map of Need' in development
- In 2016* estimated 2.5million UK Armed Forces Veterans across Great Britain (approx. 5% of household residents aged 16+ in England)
 - 98% white
 - 90% male
 - 63% aged 65 or over
 - 92% veterans compared to 89% non-veterans have a qualification but less likely to be at degree level (20% versus 30%)
 - 78% working age veterans in employment compared to 79% non-veterans
 - 75% veterans own their own home compared to 77% non-veterans

** Based on ONS annual population survey*

Armed Forces Community locally

Locally based / connected regiments and facilities include:

- Chetwynd Barracks, Chilwell - 7th Infantry Brigade / HQ East 'The Desert Rats'
- Kendrew Barracks, Cottesmore – Royal Anglian Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps, Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment
- Melton Defence Animal Training Regiment including Canine and Equine Training Squadrons, Veterinary Training Squadron
- Army Reserves incl Medical Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps, Royal Yeomanry, Royal Anglians
- Army Reserve Centres eg Ulverscroft Rd, Glen Parva, Loughborough
- Defence and Medical Rehabilitation Centre in Stanford Hall, Rushcliffe
- Local cadet forces across LLR and localised facilities eg cadet detachment huts etc

Armed Forces Community in Leicester

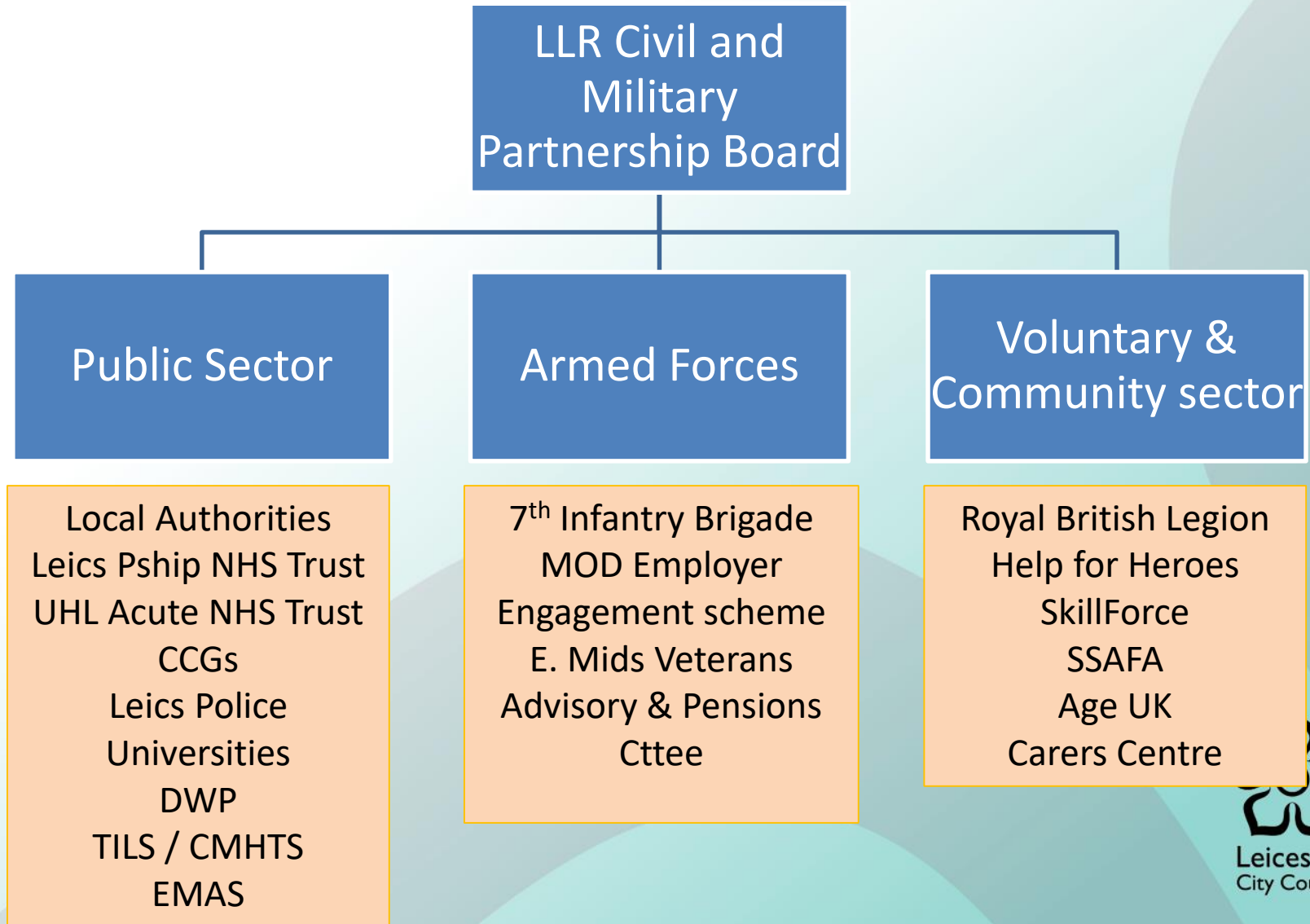
In East Midlands veterans estimated to make up 6-8% of population (i.e. 14,000 – 19,000)

Some local indications of numbers in the city:

- School census identified 7 children for service pupil premium
- 20 registered service voters on the Electoral register
- 4 applications on the housing register and 1 housed in 2018
- No rough sleepers identifying as veterans
- 155 veterans from Leicestershire in HM Prisons
- 888 Veterans received payments under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

But.....does everyone declare their Armed Forces service??

Working in partnership



Armed Forces & health needs

- Evidence from Govt/ONS suggests Veterans' health and wellbeing is generally consistent with – or better than – the rest of the population?
- PTSD prevalence broadly comparable to general population as is common mental disorder?
- KCL research suggests conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan may have led to an increase in PTSD - 9% compared to 5% for those not deployed.
- Early service leavers (<4 yrs), deployed reservists, combat troops, those with pre-existing risk factors - all at increased risk
- Suicide and self-harm rates reportedly lower than UK general population except males under 20 which are equivalent to
- *Implications of public perception and stigma?*
- *Only 25 – 50% who need help actually seek it?*

Armed Forces & health provision

- National strategies: Defence People Health and Wellbeing and Defence People Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Priority access for service-related conditions subject to clinical need
- Specific GP coding at registration for veterans
- ‘Veteran friendly GP practices’ - Military Veteran Aware Accreditation
- Veterans and Armed Forces issues now part of the GP curriculum
- Veterans Trauma Network
- Transition, Intervention and Liaison Service (TILS) and Complex Mental Health Service
- Veterans Gateway support and signposting

Health and Wellbeing Board support

- Links with Civil and Military Partnership Board
- Awareness raising especially primary care
- Promotion of the veteran friendly GP accreditation scheme
- Addressing data gaps and under-reporting
- Consideration of Armed Forces needs and provision as part of wider needs assessments and activity eg Time to Change and Start a Conversation campaigns
- Wider preventative activity eg social prescribing, role of sport