

Media information for immediate use



New service for veterans launches in Ayrshire

NHS Ayrshire & Arran has launched a new support service to help veterans, and their families, with the move from military to civilian life.

More than 80 people attended the launch at Fullerton Connexions in Irvine, where they were joined by East Ayrshire Council's Provost Jim Todd, North Ayrshire Council's Provost Ian Clarkson and South Ayrshire Council's Depute Provost Mary Kilpatrick. The Lord-Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran, John Duncan, also attended.

Guests heard from a number of speakers and had the opportunity to chat to representatives from supporting organisations, including Erskine Care Home, SSAFA (the armed forces' charity), East Ayrshire Advocacy, Combat Stress, BLESMA (for limbless veterans), Poppy Scotland, Police Scotland, Recovery at work and Scottish Veterans Residences.

To mark the event, Tracy Harvey a Primary Care Practitioner wrote and performed a Scottish poem about the issues veterans can face when returning to 'civvie street'. When they arrived, guests were also entertained by a piper from the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

Lindsay Kirkwood, Clinical Lead for Veterans First Point Ayrshire and Arran, explains how the Veterans First Point team can help veterans and their families: "The team includes staff with personal experience of military life, and professionals with extensive knowledge of psychological issues often encountered by veterans. They can also help veterans and their families make sense of all the different services and have connections to local specialist support agencies.

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“Veterans First Point can offer support with a number of issues, including housing, drugs and alcohol, careers, relationships, physical and mental health, finances and social support.”

If you feel you could benefit from support from the Veterans First Point service, don't hesitate to contact them:

- Telephone: 01294 310400
- Email: AA-UHB.veteransfirstpoint@nhs.net
- Website: www.veteransfirstpoint.org.uk
- In person: 12-14 Bridgegate, Irvine, KA12 8BQ

Ends

Date of release: Friday 17 March 2017



Invited guests officially open the Veterans First Point premises at Bridgegate, Irvine.

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Guests hear from a number of speakers and veterans charities at the Veterans First Point launch at Fullerton Connexions, Irvine.

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