

Quality Network for Veterans Mental Health Services

6th Annual Forum 2026

29th September 2026

The Royal College of Psychiatrists, London, E1 8BB



VETERANS
QUALITY NETWORK
FOR VETERANS MENTAL
HEALTH SERVICES

Programme

- 09:30** **Registration and refreshments**
- 10:00** **Welcome and introduction**
*Chairs: **Professor Walter Busuttill**, Consultant Psychiatrist and Chair of the QNVMHS Accreditation Committee and **Dr Peter McAllister**, Military Psychiatrist, RCPsych Lead for Veterans Mental Health and Chair of QNVMHS Advisory Group*
- 10:10** **Five years of the Quality Network**
***Jem Jethwa**, Programme Manager and **Sarah Martins**, Project Officer, The Royal College of Psychiatrists*
- 10:30** **How the Centre for Evidence can inform good practice for working with veterans and families**
***Mary Keeling**, Deputy Director, Centre for Evidence for the Armed Forces Community*
- 11:00** **Understanding long-term psychosocial and sexual impacts of conflict-related genital injury to develop evidence-based psychological support**
***Dr Samantha Brooks**, Research Associate, King's Centre for Military Health Research, King's College London and **Mary Keeling**, Deputy Director, Centre for Evidence for the Armed Forces Community*
- 11:30** **Peer Advice Services**
***Lee Cairns**, CEO and **Andy McMenemy**, Veterans Mental Health Lead, Peer Advice Services UK*
- 12:00** **Lunch break**
- 13:00** **Compassionate resilience in veterans living under ongoing threat: A pilot complex trauma group intervention in Northern Ireland**
***Dr Sarah Downing**, Consultant Clinical Psychologist and Clinical Lead, Southern Health and Social Care Trust Northern Ireland and **Dr Jennifer Soule**, Consultant Clinical Lead Psychologist, Regional Trauma Network, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust*
- 13:30 Interactive workshops
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| <p>Supporting veteran recovery through digital psychoeducational solutions
<i>Dr Vicky Aldridge, Principal Clinical Psychologist and Clinical Lead and Leona Waterfield, Lead Occupational Therapist, Combat Stress</i></p> | <p>An integrated approach for COMHAD in veterans
<i>Michaela Waspe, Operational Service Lead, Op Courage South East</i></p> |
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- 14:15** **Refreshment break**
- 14:30 Interactive workshops
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| <p>A recovery-focused Model for veterans with PTSD, battling social isolation and loneliness
<i>Joan Clements, CEO, Brooke House Health and Wellbeing Centre</i></p> | <p>A low intensity anger intervention for the armed forces community
<i>James Knox, Clinical Lead, Hidden Wounds Service, Help for Heroes</i></p> |
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- 15:15** **Brief interventions for veterans with PTSD: Veterans NHS Wales waitlist initiatives**
***Dr Gwen O'Connor**, Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Veterans NHS Wales*
- 15:45** **Discussion and final plenary**
- 16:00** **Close of conference**