



## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

### SOMERSET ADMIRAL NURSES

SPRING 2017



The Admiral Nurse team in Somerset has been in action since November 2015. The team has seen a steady increase in referrals and are supporting families across Somerset, North Somerset and Banes area.

The team has been spending time getting to know the area and have been attending various memory café's, support groups and visiting other teams. We are currently exploring the opportunities of developing specialist beneficiary 'Carers Support Groups.

#### **What is an Admiral Nurse?**

Admiral Nurses are specialist dementia nurses who give much-needed practical and emotional support to family carers, as well as the person with dementia. They offer support to families throughout their experience of dementia that is tailored to their individual needs and challenges. They provide families with the knowledge to understand the condition and its effects, the skills and tools to improve communication and provide emotional and psychological support to help family carers carry on caring for their family member. They are able to take on complex cases and provide specialist support and advice.

# LIVE ON

THE ROYAL BRITISH  
LEGION



## MEET THE TEAM



### **Petra Soper – Admiral Nurse Administrator**

“I have been with the British Legion for 8 years now and previously worked with Devon and Cornwall Team. I have been with the Admiral Nurses since November 2015.

Most of my spare time is taken up by having fun with my 5 year old who loves coming to any events with me and enjoys helping.”



### **Saul Mason – Admiral Nurse**

“I served three years in the Royal Army Medical Corps, after which I did my nurse training in Colchester. I qualified in 1993. I have worked in various roles within the NHS and private sector and for more than a decade have worked caring for people living with dementia. I have been an Admiral Nurse since the end of 2013 and can’t imagine doing anything else now. I like keeping fit and always have a book on the go.”



### **Vicki Redmond-Fitzgerald – Admiral Nurse**

“I am a Registered Mental Health Nurse, currently working towards my Masters degree. I have worked in health and social care for 17 years, supporting people living with dementia and/or learning disabilities. I am married with 2 children, 1 dog, 2 rabbits and a messy house, all of which keeps me on my toes. I love reading, spending time with my family, cross stitch (Sssh - don’t tell anybody!) and thinking about exercising! My role as an Admiral Nurse has provided me with the most fulfilling and rewarding job I have ever had and both my job and my family serve as a constant reminder that life is forever moving and changing and pleasure should be found in the moment wherever possible.”



## **Emma McErlean – Admiral Nurse**

“I have been a Royal British Legion Admiral Nurse since August 2016 and was the latest member to join the Somerset Team.

I qualified as a Registered General Nurse in 1998 and have worked in a variety of settings, 11 years of which I spent in the Royal Navy as a Queen Alexandra Royal Naval Nurse.

I have a keen interest in rugby union and enjoy walking with my husband and 2 dogs Bruno and Mo.”

## **REFERRAL DETAILS**

**If you know of anyone who is eligible then please do not hesitate to contact our Administrator Petra on the following email address [psoper@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:psoper@britishlegion.org.uk) or alternatively call her direct on 01823 218443 and she will be happy to discuss the referral process.**

To be eligible for our free service, either the carer or the person with dementia has to have done a minimum of 7 days paid service in any of the armed forces – National Service counts too! It's OK if they can't remember their service details in full, we can find that information out.

**BRITISH LEGION IS MORE THAN JUST A POPPY**

## **SPECIALISTS WITHIN THE BRITISH LEGION**

### **Benefits, Debts and Money Advice (BDMA)**

BDMA's are there to provide support with debts and benefits. They would normally deal with priority debts (mortgage, rent, CT, utilities, phones arrears) bailiffs action.

BDMA's can represent clients in court and they deal with courts, Local Authorities, bailiffs, and so on.

### **Independent Living Advice (ILA)**

Specialist advice, advocacy and referral to a mix of statutory, charitable and private sources will be provided to beneficiaries and their carers through a mixture of face-to-face, telephone and email interactions, including the following:

In scope:

- Assistance and advocacy in obtaining disabled facilities grants (DFGs) and minor adaptations funding
- Preparing support and presenting cases to the appropriate statutory bodies, tribunals and courts and social care/health panels
- Acting for the client when necessary, drafting letters, supporting with financial forms related to care and support, for example personal budgets, direct payments, fairer charging and disabled facilities grants and collecting information to facilitate assessment and eligibility for services
- Assistance with obtaining mobility aids, including Electronically Powered Vehicles (EPVs), where necessary
- Support on how to avoid scams and unscrupulous business tactics targeting the vulnerable, outside of general information and advice
- Social isolation referrals service such as lunch clubs and befriending services

### **Handy Van Service (previously known as Poppy Calls)**



The Handy Van Service is designed to deliver low level home maintenance tasks

These include :

- A Household Check
- Carpentry Work – i.e. installing a spy hole , Flat pack furniture construction, installing and replacing internal doors and locks
- Plumbing Works – i.e. . Replacing a defective wash hand tap, Replacing tap washers, The unblocking of sinks, Replacing bath, shower or sink sealant, Replacing a bath or sink plug and chain, The repair and clearance of low level gutters
- Installation of Ramps, external and internal grab rails, construction of steps, installing toilet seat risers
- Installation of care line, telephones and key safes, Change plugs and sockets, replace lightbulbs

*The Handy Van Service do not carry out electrical work of any kind , major works such as wet rooms and anything that involves working above ground level*

## **War Pension and Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (WP&AFCS)**

Those specialists help with pension claims related to injuries that happened during the service. The client should be signposted to Veterans UK at first 0808 1914 218 and if they already went through this and didn't get help or if they are turned down or not happy with the answer to then be referred to WP&AFCS. The specialists can meet the client and go through all the documents and details and let the client know if they have a case or not. They can also represent the client at a tribunal.

## **Outreach**

Client Support Officers (CSO) deal with clients who are vulnerable, have alcohol and drugs history, ex-convicts, serious mental health problems, sofa-surfing and homeless. They often link in with Local Authority and tenancy Support, if there is one in the County or Area, and also work with Case Officers.

## **Free Will-writing service or Gift in your will**

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If you wish to know more information, please contact the Royal British Legion, Nicola Hall on 020 3207 2253

**To inquire about the support and the services that the Royal British Legion offers please call our Contact Centre on 0808 802 8080 which is free from landlines and most major mobile networks and available seven days a week from 8am to 8pm**

**Thank you for reading our newsletter and feel free to share this with colleagues, or pass to families you think might benefit from our support.**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support.

- ❖ Please email [psoper@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:psoper@britishlegion.org.uk) with your address details if you would like copies of our leaflets and posters.

## ***In Flanders Fields***

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow.  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.*

*~John McRae, 1915*