

## **HARPER BROWN (Chair HCC AFCB, Health Sub Gp)**

### **ADDRESS TO HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024**

Harper Brown talked about how the Armed Force Covenant board (AFCB) are trying to connect with health services, there are 3 subgroups (health, housing and education) their remit is statutory but not enforceable. The responsibility for assessing the needs across the county falls into their remit. They are trying to work to build networks with the health service. Relationships between local authorities, NHS and military are being built, there is a spend of £20M on social welfare in Herts alone. We have 50,000 serving, veterans and dependants in Herts and understanding their needs is vital.

There are 2,500 military charities across the UK. It has been estimated that by 2040 24% more people will be living to over 70. So ensuring we are connecting people with the right services is vital. We know that the Veterans Gateway doesn't work as well as it should and there are several groups / organisations that can help e.g. 'Herts Help' and getting GP practices to be veteran friendly.

There are 34 Primary care trusts across Herts and Essex nearly all have Veteran friendly practices, and they think it is vital to link in with the RBL branches and local networks. NHS trusts have a campaign – Veteran Aware. It is all about joined up care and care plans. He went on to talk about the big issues on an aging population, such as dementia and care for all ages in suicide prevention and missing persons. The NHS has several programmes for Veterans;-

Operation Courage – focused on mental health and wellbeing;  
Operation Restore – for those suffering from trauma;  
Operation Nova – for those veterans within the criminal justice system;  
Operation Community – for social and primary care.

He gave examples of all these related to cases in Hertfordshire.