



ICB Board – 26 November 2025 – Question received from members of the public

“Are the Board considering any partnerships with Armed Forces Charities with respect to Valour funding?”

The Board very much welcomes the Office for Veterans’ Affairs (OVA) VALOUR initiative launched this year; designed to offer unified, in-person support for veterans in health, housing, employment, with support for finance, wellbeing, and integration. Establishment of a VALOUR Recognised Centre (VRC) in our county as part of the new UK-wide network would be hugely beneficial to our veterans. But it will require a broad partnership approach and will be important to get it right from the outset to connect our veterans to the best local support.

There are 3 actions we are taking in relation to this:

- Our Neighbourhood Approach will shift healthcare from hospitals to local communities, creating integrated teams (including GPs, social care, mental health, voluntary sector). This provides an opportunity to explore whether establishing a VRC within our future model will form the basis of a successful bid for the funding required from OVA under the VALOUR scheme.*
- It is our understanding that recruitment is in progress by the Ministry of Defence to appoint a VALOUR Field Officer in our region. Once that person is appointed, we will make contact at the earliest opportunity.*
- We will be appointing a new senior leadership team as part of the wider reset of our Integrated Care Board cluster relationship with Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent, early in the New Year. A lead for Armed Forces health will be nominated within that process. They will be tasked with drawing together partners from our Local Authorities, Armed Forces Charities and others as appropriate, to develop a bid for funding to establish a VRC. This will aim to be within the second round of funding that the Government has indicated will be made available in the Spring.*