



Tri Services & Veterans Support Centre
Registered Charity No 1159599



Chairperson
Treasurer
Centre Manager
Email
Website
Telephone No

Mr G Harriman
Mrs J Billingham
Mrs T Robinson
info@veteransupportcentre.org
www.veteransupportcentre.org
01782 713963

Veterans House
Hassell Street
Newcastle-under-Lyme
Staffordshire
ST5 1AR

TRUSTEES REPORT FOR FINANCIAL PERIOD 01/01/24 TO 31/12/24

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1159599

ADDRESS: Tri Services and Veterans Support Centre,
Veterans House,
Hassell Street,
Newcastle under Lyme,
Staffordshire.
ST5 1AR

Trustees

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Geoff Harriman | (Chair) |
| Colin Critchlow | |
| Kevin Robinson | |
| Kathy Munslow | |
| Matty Holcroft | (Vice Chair) |
| Julie Billingham | (Treasurer) |
| Paddy Knowles | |
| Kenn Griffiths | |

Governance and Management

The charity is overseen by a dedicated group of Trustees, who meet approximately every six weeks. At each meeting, minutes are taken to ensure all decisions are properly recorded and documented, maintaining transparency and accountability within the organisation.

Centre Refurbishment and Development

Following the successful purchase of the building, the charity dedicated considerable time and resources to refurbishing and renovating the centre. This significant undertaking was made possible by an exceptionally generous donation from Mr John Cauldwell. The charity, along with our service users, express deep gratitude to Mr Cauldwell, whose support included match funding the veterans' own fundraising efforts.

A key aspect of the refurbishment was the extension of the building to incorporate a new teaching kitchen. This development has been instrumental in facilitating the launch of new projects and will pave the way for further initiatives, such as the establishment of a veteran's breakfast club. The creation of this fully functioning teaching kitchen was achieved thanks to the generous funding provided by Get up and Give

Back, who took part in many fundraising activities to fund the costs of setting up and equipping the kitchen in its entirety. All these improvements were undertaken with the aim of better serving the needs of our service users.

Project Delivery and Partnerships

A key project started during the year, funded by the Defence Medical Welfare Service (DMWS), involved the creation and successful delivery of cookery classes for veterans. These classes are designed to teach veterans how to prepare and cook healthy, sustainable meals. The project was made possible through support from a local catering college, with particular thanks to one of its chefs for their involvement.

Fundraising and Volunteer Support

Fundraising remains a priority, with the Trustees leading efforts across all available avenues, strongly supported by an enthusiastic and committed volunteer group. With the completion of the centre's refurbishment, the charity has now fully vacated its temporary premises in Hanley and operates exclusively from the centre in Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Ongoing Support and Collaboration

The charity maintains a strong commitment to supporting veterans across North Staffordshire and surrounding areas. Central to this commitment is the operation of a dedicated drop-in centre, which is open three days a week, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday during the day. In addition to these regular sessions, the centre hosts cooking classes and a welfare clinic, which take place on alternate Thursday evenings.

Each week, the centre welcomes approximately 150 visitors, offering a welcoming and supportive environment for veterans and their families. Beyond the regular drop-in sessions, the charity also provides vital services such as a foodbank and a veteran's boutique, addressing immediate needs and supporting overall wellbeing.

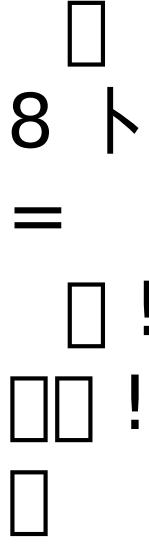
Collaboration with other organisations remains a cornerstone of the charity's approach. The charity works in close partnership with groups such as SSAFA, Walking with the Wounded, Veterans UK, and several other national and local organisations. Representatives from these organisations are regularly present at the centre, which further strengthens the network of support available to veterans and ensures a comprehensive approach to meeting their needs.

Board Changes and Strategic Focus

During the year, there were changes to the Trustee board, including the Treasurer stepping down and the appointment of a new Treasurer, as well as the departure of 3 Trustees and the introduction of a new member. Despite these changes, the primary focus remains on fundraising to ensure the charity's ongoing sustainability and on operating in accordance with the charity's constitution.

Activities in Education, Health, and Wellbeing

The charity has maintained a diverse programme of activities aimed at supporting veterans and engaging the wider local community. These initiatives encompass a number of key areas, including education, health, and wellbeing.



Ongoing Programmes

- Bee Keeping: Veterans and community members have the opportunity to participate in bee keeping sessions, fostering both learning and therapeutic engagement.
- Camping Buddies: This activity provides a platform for veterans to connect with one another through organised camping experiences, promoting camaraderie and outdoor skills.
- Men in Sheds: The 'Men in Sheds' project encourages practical skills development and social interaction, offering a supportive environment for participants to work on projects and share expertise.
- Zero to Hero (Cooking Classes): These cooking classes, delivered in partnership with a local catering college, help veterans learn to prepare healthy and sustainable meals, enhancing their wellbeing and independence.

Special Events

In addition to the regular programmes, a few special events have been organised. Notably, two separate battlefield tours took place during the year. Both tours were well attended and received positive feedback from participants, who found the experiences beneficial, educational, interesting, and enjoyable.

Given the success and popularity of these tours, there has been a request from attendees for additional trips of this nature. The trustees are considering this suggestion for future planning.

Achievements ,Performance and Benefits

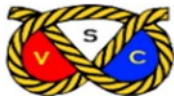
The charity is proud to hold the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, a prestigious honour recognising outstanding work by volunteer groups to benefit their local communities. In addition to this distinguished accolade, the organisation was accredited this year with the Armed Forces Covenant Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award. This recognition highlights the charity's commitment to supporting members of the armed forces community, reflecting both the dedication of its volunteers and its ongoing efforts to foster a supportive and inclusive environment for veterans and their families.



Paddy Knowles

Trustee

Tri Services & Veterans Support Centre



FINANCES 01 JANUARY 2024 TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Income | |
| St Johns and Red Cross DMWS | £5375.00 |
| Transfer in from Premium Account | £22431.24 |
| Cash Donations taken to bank | £13601.70 |
| Donations through Paypal | £527.50 |
| Donations Through Sum Up Card Reader | £724.98 |
| Donations on line, direct to the bank | £72243.41 |
| Events | £574.56 |
| Donatis | £18.74 |
| Other | £4246.35 |
| Interest Paid [Business Premium Account] | £1808.32 |
| | |
| | |
| Total Income | £121551.80 |
| | |
| Expenditure | |
| Newcastle Refurbishment | £50109.47 |
| Insurance | £3801.00 |
| Waste removal | £892.33 |
| Retreat Expenditure | £396.00 |
| Centre Managers Salary | £17735.84 |
| Veterans Clinic | £2145.00 |
| Events | £2712.77 |
| Phone / Internet provision | £2891.22 |
| Opus/EDF – gas and electricity provision, Newcastle | £5221.22 |
| NULBC – Rates Newcastle | £1088.58 |
| SOT City Council re Hanley Site | £3567.85 |
| Service Charge | £15423.60 |
| Vehicle expenditure | £5413.96 |
| Water provision, Newcastle Site | £457.72 |
| Other | £5954.55 |
| Personal Payments | £9998.89 |
| Barclaycard Payments | £4390.74 |
| | |
| Total Expenditure | £132200.74 |
| | |
| Cash at Bank - Community Account 31/12/2024 | £23011.10 |
| Cash at Bank – Business Premium Account (Savings) 31/12/2024 | £100,444.95 |
| Petty Cash | £95.32 |
| | |
| Total Cash Assets | £123,551.37 |

CORFIELDS
WESTWOOD LODGE
MILL LANE
WETLEY ROCKS
STOKE ON TRENT
STAFFS. ST9 0BN

Tel: 01782 550834 Mobile: 07498017555

E-mail: corfields@btconnect.com

Re: Tri Services & Veterans Support Centre

We have examined the records and accounts of the above
as at 31st December 2024 and they were found to be a
Correct record on the information provided to us.

Yours faithfully

Sue Corfield

S.A. Corfield.

Independent Examiner