

# contact

*The collaboration of statutory and third sector organisations working to improve mental health support to the UK armed forces community*

Chair: Dr Charles Winstanley TD JP DL

[www.contactarmedforces.co.uk](http://www.contactarmedforces.co.uk) | [twitter.com/contact\\_af](https://twitter.com/contact_af)  
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Dear Cobseo member,

## **Invitation to join the Contact Associate Membership Programme**

I am delighted to extend an invitation to your organisation to join the Contact Group as an Associate Member. The Associate programme is a new, free-of-charge category of Contact membership for organisations that are involved in military mental health-related support and services. We are initially inviting existing Cobseo members (Contact is an affiliate Cobseo body) to join the programme with the permission of the Cobseo Chair. I hope that the information provided below is helpful and that you will decide to take up our invitation and join us. All applications will be put to a quarterly meeting of Contact's core members, but for Cobseo members this will be a formality.

### **About the Contact Group**

Contact is the UK's collaboration of military mental health service providers, policy makers and academics. Members include Cobseo, Ministry of Defence, the NHS in the four nations, military charities (Combat Stress, Help for Heroes, the Royal British Legion, Walking With the Wounded), TogetherAll (formerly Big White Wall), the Royal College of Psychiatrists and King's College London. These organisations constitute the core members of Contact and the aim, through collaborative working, is to ensure that quality-assured support for beneficiaries is delivered in an informed and unified way.

### **New Contact Associate Membership Programme**

The new Contact Associate Membership programme has been introduced for organisations providing military mental health support or services that would like to keep up to date with, benefit from and contribute to the Contact Group's ongoing collaborative work. Contact's current projects include developing:

- A holistic case management system for service users, ensuring continuity and a single point of contact
- A common/standard set of assessment questions to be asked of service users at the point of entry
- A quality/accreditation scheme and 'kitemark' to help potential users identify quality service providers
- A performance data dashboard using up to date reporting metrics from the main statutory and non-statutory providers to increase sectoral efficiency, understanding and to share with stakeholders interested in high-level trends

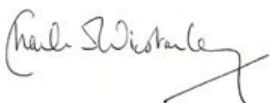
Progress on the above projects will be shared in a quarterly Members' newsletter, together with updates about recent and upcoming events, funding opportunities and relevant research findings. In future, there will also be an Associate Members' section on the new Contact website which will include the opportunity to feature your logo, a summary of your work and links to your website and other communications.

Associate Membership of Contact is free and as an existing Cobseo member, there are no barriers to entry. Please save, complete and return (by email) the attached form which requests some general information about your organisation. With your permission we will store this information securely on a database for our own internal use and add you to our Associate Members' mailing list.

### **Further information**

If you have any questions or would like any additional information about Associate Membership or the Contact Group in general, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Myself or my colleague Anna Owen, Contact Project Officer would be happy to help. Anna can be reached on: [anna.owen@contactarmedforces.org.uk](mailto:anna.owen@contactarmedforces.org.uk). We look forward to working with you and your organisation.

Yours sincerely,



Charles Winstanley  
Chair, Contact Group