



Collaborating for Military Mental Health

Chair: Dr Charles Winstanley TD JP DL

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Dear Cobseo member,

Invitation to join the Contact Associate Membership Programme

I am delighted to invite your organisation to join the Contact Group as an Associate Member. The Contact Associate membership programme is a free-of-charge category of Contact membership for Cobseo member organisations that are **directly involved in the provision of military mental health-related support and services to the UK armed forces community (including serving personnel, veterans and/or their families)**. We are inviting relevant Cobseo members (Contact is an affiliate Cobseo body and acts as Cobseo's mental health cluster) to join the programme with the permission of the Cobseo Chair. I hope the information provided below is helpful. All applications will be put to a quarterly meeting of Contact's core members.

About the Contact Group

Contact is the UK collaboration of military mental health service providers, policy makers and researchers. Contact's [core members](#) include the Ministry of Defence, NHS (in England, Scotland & Wales), Cobseo, military charities (Combat Stress, Help for Heroes, Royal British Legion, Walking With The Wounded), TogetherAll (formerly Big White Wall), Royal College of Psychiatrists and King's College London. The aim, through collaborative working, is to ensure that quality-assured services and support for beneficiaries is delivered in an informed and unified way.

Contact Associate Membership Programme

The Contact Associate Membership programme has been introduced for Cobseo organisations that have a direct involvement in the provision of military mental health-related support and services to the UK armed forces community and would like to keep up to date with and contribute (where opportunities arise) to Contact's ongoing collaborative work. Current Contact projects include (further information can be found on our [What we do](#) page):

- Veterans Mental Health Information System to aid case management and information-sharing across organisations
- Common Assessment Framework (CAF) for statutory and non-statutory service users at the point of entry
- Quality and accreditation programme for clinical veterans' mental health treatment providers with accompanying quality mark to help potential users identify quality-checked services
- UK military mental health data dashboard updated regularly using the latest reporting metrics from the main statutory and non-statutory service providers to increase sector efficiency, understanding and identify trends

Progress on the above and other projects are shared in the Contact quarterly newsletter, together with information about recent and upcoming events, external funding opportunities and relevant research. Other, interim updates are also circulated. Associate members are featured in the [Associates](#) section of the Contact website including a logo, summary of activities/services and useful contact information and links.

Associate membership of Contact is free and for Cobseo members that are directly involved in the provision of mental health or mental wellbeing services or support to the UK armed forces community, there are no barriers to entry. If your organisation would like to join, please complete and return (by email) the short Contact Associate membership application form which requests some straightforward information about your organisation and its services.

Further information

If you have any questions or would like additional information about Contact Associate membership or the Contact Group itself, please do not hesitate to ask. Myself or my colleague Anna Owen, Contact Project Officer, are happy to help. Anna can be reached on: anna.owen@contactarmedforces.org.uk. We look forward to working with you and your organisation.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Winstanley
Chair, Contact Group