

RSN Yorkshire Regional Seminar

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Yorkshire

Introduction

- About Community First Yorkshire
- Community First Yorkshire projects
 - Ex-Forces North Yorkshire
 - Warm and Well in North Yorkshire
- Questions

Who are we?

- Independent charity formed as a result of merger between Rural Action Yorkshire and York and North Yorkshire Forum
- Core focus is on asset-based community development, creating low-level prevention activities in rural communities
- Provides practical support to voluntary and community organisations, social enterprises and rural communities across Yorkshire
- A Rural Community Council (ACRE Network) which has a rural advocacy role in North, South and West Yorkshire

And we also...

- Engage in partnership projects which serve people at community/local level across the county



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Current partnership projects

In addition to core community development work, we are currently engaged with the following projects:

- Community Led Housing
- North Yorkshire Parent and Carer Forum
- Community Connect (Leeds)
- Ex Forces Support North Yorkshire
- Warm and Well North Yorkshire (*NEW*)



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Ex-Forces Support North Yorkshire

- **Project to support non-core health and wellbeing needs for ex-service men and women in North Yorkshire.**
- **MoD's "Aged Veterans Fund" worth just over £1 million across three years (2017 – 2020) from LIBOR fines**
- **Target is to reach 1,000 veterans over 65 years old and complement and widen existing support provided by service charities in North Yorkshire**



Objectives

1. Raise the profile of older ex-service men and women and the issues they face
2. Reach and engage with older ex-service men and women
3. Refer to the right service or support for older ex-service men and women
4. Respond to the needs and feedback of older ex-service men and women
5. Grow intelligence of older veteran's needs and learn from good practice, sharing learning (regionally and nationally) with funders and across the voluntary and public sectors

Background

- Community First Yorkshire researched existing support and partners in advance of project proposal to avoid duplication and to bring on board key strategic partners, such as the County Council and District Councils
- Led by Community First Yorkshire, with 14 delivery partners
- Takes “single point of contact” approach enabling Community First Yorkshire to triage requests for help and refer them to the right partner without the veteran having to work it all out.

Who does the project support?

- Anyone who served in HM Armed Forces* and is aged 65 or over and living in North Yorkshire.
- Families and carers of older veterans.

** Includes Regular Forces, Territorial/Reserves and National Service. Also extends to people who served in Merchant Navy and saw active service (e.g. Falklands Conflict).*



Partnership approach

Provides practical and customised support for ex-forces personnel who are aged over 65 across North Yorkshire through partnership working with organisations that can offer appropriate services.



Richmondshire Community & Voluntary Action

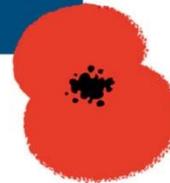


The portfolio approach with many partners delivering services means that we can usually find the right support or someone knows who we can refer to.

Other stakeholders

Military charities:

Stakeholder engagement from organisations concerned with older people who have served in the UK Armed Forces.



This project complements the support offered by military charities*.

** The military charities are not linked into the wider VCS sector so not always referring veterans to key support.*



Other stakeholders

Local authorities:

Collaboration with local authorities, including:

- **North Yorkshire County Council Living Well:** mutual referrals
- **Richmondshire District Council:** portfolio partner on pop-up shed and referrals to home improvement scheme
- **Libraries:** for example, Northallerton distribution service help disseminate project information
- **Scarborough Borough Council:** portfolio partner (White Rose HIA)



Services on offer

Partners (including Community First Yorkshire) deliver a range of services for ex-forces personnel, including:

- Trips/days out
- Friendship lunches
- Christmas party
- Men's sheds/pop-up sheds
- Gardening
- Befriending
- Activities and skills groups
- Home visits
- Financial support, grants, advice and advocacy
- Support for carers and families
- Volunteering



Challenges and how they are addressed

Challenges:

- Geography
- Number and diversity of partners, including those not traditionally involved with VCS
- Level of support required for cohort
- Low engagement from veterans, especially those who did National Service

Solutions:

- Active in as wide an area as possible with range of services (e.g. telephone befriending)
- Close working relationship, regular communication and meetings, address any issues quickly
- Provide support where possible but use referral network to other partners, ensure communication appropriate to cohort, consider needs in advance.
- Work with military charities, local outreach, referrals



Outcomes

For beneficiaries:

- Reduced loneliness
- Greater connection to the community
- Increased awareness of support services available
- Live independently for longer
- Improved wellbeing



For partners:

- Access to a new cohort of older people needing support
- Strengthened partnerships and opportunities for referrals across services in North Yorkshire
- Positive feedback from beneficiaries



Feedback from beneficiaries

“... you explained it all and we understood it. It was brilliant, you sorted it all out and we couldn't have done it ourselves”.

Beneficiary who received a home visit from the Yorkshire Energy Doctor

“Absolutely thrilled with the help – didn't know such help was available. We are now gaining support with an application for Attendance Allowance.”

Beneficiary who received support from Carer's Resource

“Really enjoyed the museum trip – would not have gone there without this project – loved working with everyone when I could.”

Older veteran who volunteered with North Yorkshire Youth



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Legacy and sustainability

- Looking to establish sustainable “Friendship Lunches” which are organised by veterans themselves.
- Gardening services portfolio will end in 2019, currently exploring ways of continuing outside of the project, for example through low-cost provision and/or local voluntary organisation that can offer gardening.
- Sheds are successful once established and may have longevity through membership subs and opening up to over-50s.
- Ghurka project has now closed, but Richmondshire Voluntary and Community Action have secured funding to continue to employ the Ghurkha worker and are also looking at a possible project with Saffa who have taken an interest nationally in supporting the Gurkha community. We have identified that there needs to be support for women within this group and this is going to be explored as this project still very much continues.

Find out more



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Warm & Well North Yorkshire



Background:

- Funded by the British Gas Energy Trust and run in partnership with Citizen's Advice Mid-North Yorkshire, who part-fund the Single Point of Contact.
- Partnership project bringing together organisations from the public, private and charity sector.
- Three-year project commencing October 2018

Objective:

- To reduce the number of cold homes, cold people and cold deaths within North Yorkshire.



How it will work

Multi-partner approach with organisations that can offer appropriate services:

- Practical and financial help to stay warm and well at home.
- Talks, events and training for residents and frontline workers.
- Campaigns, resources and top tips on a range of wider health and wellbeing issues.

All supported by single point of contact to enable coordinated response.



Find out more

Warm & Well
in North Yorkshire

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Thank you

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