

AGM – QUESTION 1	
TOPIC: Veterans MH Services and additional funding to manage health and wellbeing following Covid-19	
<p>Mr Christopher Auker-Howlett Asking question on behalf of GIVS - Gloucestershire Integrated Veterans Strategy</p>	
Question	Response
<p>Progress of the Glos NHS Armed Forces Champions?</p>	<p>There are currently 8 Veterans Champions in mental health teams across the Trust, to champion the identification and support of veterans, including signposting them to sources of help for other needs. We are keen to build on this promising start. This has been part of the ongoing work of the Trust’s Veterans Working Group. We are also expecting some staff educational videos to be available. These are in final editing before being shared.</p>
<p>Additional take up of Veterans mental health needs as Combat Stress (Veterans Mental Health charity) were told that their funding from Central Government was to lose £4 million?</p>	<p>We are unsure whether there has been increased take-up this year. Following the merger, the Trust signed the Armed Forces Covenant on 28 November 2019 – and this includes our commitment to “ensuring quick and easy access to healthcare services, and in some cases ‘fast-tracking’ where symptoms are as a result of military service or related experience”.</p>
<p>Will there be any specific NHS Mental Health Staff focusing on working with Veterans and serving Military Personnel in Gloucestershire?</p>	<p>Trust support for veterans is provided by all teams rather than having a separate service. The Trust’s IAPT service does have a number of staff who are Veterans Leads for the service. We also refer people to the South West specialist Veterans Complex Treatment Service (CTS) and Transition Intervention and Liaison Service (TILS) which is delivered in Gloucestershire by Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust.</p>
<p>What additional resources to be used to focus on general public’s mental health that has been impacted by COVID-19?</p>	<p>This is really a question for Commissioners, not for GHC as a provider of specialist mental health services. The Trust’s talking therapy service (Let’s Talk) has continued to operate during the Covid pandemic supporting people with mild to moderate anxiety or depression. More generally, (not Covid specific), Clinical Commissioning Groups are required to meet the Mental Health Investment Standard (MHIS). This standard was brought in to address funding disparity which favoured physical health services above mental health services.</p>

	<p>The standard requires CCGs to increase investment in mental health services at a faster rate than their overall increase in funding allocation each year.</p>
<p>Is there any resources being used to focus on the Emergency Services and NHS Staff's mental health impacted by COVID-19 deaths?</p>	<p>While the health and well-being offer during COVID has not been focussed on providing extra support to forces, the Health and Well-being Hub has continued to ensure all staff are provided with a wide range of support options and benefits in the following areas – Physical Health, Mental Health, Lifestyle, Supporting Staff, Speaking Up, and Staff Benefits. However, as a signatory of the Armed Covenant, we do continue to ensure colleagues are aware of the national NHS offers for forces colleagues - https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/military-healthcare/ and specifically https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/military-healthcare/welfare-and-support-for-families-of-serving-personnel/</p> <p>The VIVUP platform is now fully established for benefits and a new financial advice service for staff and their families starts at the end of September 2020. This financial service help offer is also available to the families of our staff so may help some services families more widely.</p> <p>The Trust continues to ensure it is linked in with national NHS offer to ensure it maximises and communicates the wide range of available support options, toolkits and apps.</p> <p>The Hub has also focussed on supporting the relaunch of “Work in Confidence”, the various “Thank You” initiatives and charitable bids to further provide additional equipment, environment, health and well-being options for colleagues. The charitable bids have been successful for gaining circa £100k of funds to provide additional Clinical Psychology support, extra counselling hours and new staff on-boarding health and well-being plans.</p>

AGM – QUESTION 2	
TOPIC: Funding for Eating Disorder Services	
Pat Ayres MBE Volunteer facilitator of the Cirencester E.D. Support group founded 2003.	
Question	Response
Extra monies were allocated to MH services by the Government last year but sadly with the distress that Covid has brought to the public this year monies might get swallowed up with treating new patients. Any monies which may have been earmarked for the Eating Disorder services may get depleted. E.D. sufferers who are already vulnerable their illnesses have been impacted further by extra anxiety due to the pandemic. I would appreciate comments on this please.	This is a question for our commissioners, the CCG, as the Trust does not decide how government money is spent. However, we do provide an Eating Disorder service which has continued to see urgent patients throughout the pandemic and we are working hard to safely restore the service fully to normal levels as part of our Covid recovery programme.

AGM – QUESTION 3	
TOPIC: Adverse Childhood Experiences	
Albert Weager	
Question	Response
<p>Is there still in place an interactive ability to identify and treat youngsters and how are those previously identified being managed?</p>	<p>The ACE’s agenda is something that has been led by Gloucestershire County Council and the Police in Gloucestershire.</p> <p>However, at GHC all children and young people who are identified as having vulnerability are clinically prioritised in services and a clinical decision making tool is used to decide which delivery method to use if they require a service/ interventions, this would include those previously identified as having ACES that a service could support.</p> <p>We can offer a blended approach to visits which is stratified based on clinical need: face to face, video consultation, telephone contact, chat health texting service.</p> <p>Services are working closely with partner organisations to ensure line of sight of vulnerable children.</p> <p>Digital offers are available for families and children and young people to access thee are on our trust website and Young Minds Matter.</p> <p>All CYPS services are open and receiving referrals.</p> <p>As a directorate we share all system initiatives and support across all services so we can proactively promote with families and individuals all opportunities for support across the whole community.</p>



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