

## **Manchester Health and Wellbeing Board Report for Information**

**Report to:** Manchester Health and Wellbeing Board - 20 September 2023

**Subject:** Armed Forces Community JSNA

**Report of:** Strategic Director of Children and Education Services

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### **Summary**

This Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) provides a summary of the evidence and data regarding the health of the armed forces community. It describes some of the health issues that may affect members of the armed forces community and what the data from the 2021 Census tells us about UK armed forces veterans living in Manchester.

It also describes what Manchester City Council and other organisations working in the city are doing to support members of the armed forces community and their families as well as some of the opportunities for action that exist.

### **Recommendations**

The Board is asked to:

1. Note the content of the JSNA
  2. Support the opportunities for further action described in the JSNA
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### **Our Manchester Outcomes Framework**

<b>Manchester Strategy outcomes</b>	<b>Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS/Contribution to the Strategy</b>
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Members of the ex-Service community and their families are also at greater risk of financial and debt-related problems linked to poorer access to suitable employment opportunities.
A highly skilled city: world class and home-grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	Members of the ex-Service community are more than twice as likely than the general population to receive sickness or disability benefits, contributing to the high levels of ill-health related economic inactivity in the city.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	Members of the ex-Service community are more likely than the general population to report health conditions that limit their daily activity. Work to addressing these disparities will

	contribute to strategies to tackle health inequalities in the city.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	

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**Background documents (available for public inspection):**

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy, please contact one of the contact officers above.

Manchester City Council. [Armed Forces Annual Report 2021/22](#)

## **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012) states that every local authority must produce a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) describing the health needs of the population(s) within its area. Local Health and Wellbeing Boards are statutorily responsible for ensuring that a JSNA is published and that local partners have regard to the JSNA when planning health and care services for the populations they are responsible for.
- 1.2 This Armed Forces Community JSNA is designed to:
- provide a summary of the evidence and data regarding the health issues that may affect members of the armed forces community
  - summarise what the data from the 2021 Census tells us about UK armed forces veterans living in Manchester
  - describe what Manchester City Council and other organisations working in the city are doing to support members of the armed forces community and their families
  - outline some of the opportunities for action that exist to address the health and care issues that affect the armed forces community in Manchester.
- 1.3 The initial content of the JSNA was put together to support preparations for Armed Forces Day on 20 May 2023. It adopts a newer, more succinct format that is designed to highlight the key messages and actions. However, it is underpinned by a more detailed and comprehensive set of evidence and data, which can be made available on request.

## **2.0 Armed Forces Community JSNA**

- 2.1 For the purpose of the JSNA, the armed forces community includes serving members of the armed forces or reservists, armed forces veterans and the partners and children of serving members or veterans of the armed forces.
- 2.2 The 2021 Census in England and Wales was the first to ask people if they had previously served in the UK armed forces. Overall, 7,728 people in Manchester reported that they had previously served in the UK armed forces, which is equivalent to 1.8% of usual residents of the city aged 16 years and over. In total, there were just over 7,300 households in Manchester with one or more persons who had served in the UK armed forces (3.4% of all households in the city).
- 2.3 Appendix 1 contains a copy of the current version of the Armed Forces Community JSNA. Key points highlighted in the JSNA are as follows:
- National data indicates that working age ex-Service community are more likely than the general population to report health conditions that limit their daily activity, such as hearing difficulties, musculoskeletal problems and depression, and are also more than twice as likely than the UK population as a whole to be in receipt of sickness or disability benefits.

- The physical and mental health difficulties experienced by ex-service personnel may also have a wider impact on parents, siblings, partners, spouses and children.
- According to the 2021 Census, UK armed forces veterans in Manchester were over twice as likely as non-veterans to report being in poor health. Overall, 15.6% of UK armed forces veterans in Manchester reported that their health was “Bad” or “Very Bad” compared with 7.2% of people who had not previously served in the armed forces.
- Members of the ex-Service community and their families, particularly younger single people, those with dependent children or a long-term illness or disability, are also at greater risk of financial problems and are more likely to take on debt. The working age ex-forces community is almost twice as likely than their civilian peers to have unpaid caring responsibilities for family members, friends or neighbours.

2.4 The JSNA goes on to describe what Manchester City Council and other organisations working in the city. including the [Royal British Legion](#) and [Walking with the Wounded](#), are doing to support members of the armed forces community and their families, and how this work links with other Council strategies. It also summarises the national NHS mental health and wellbeing support offer for armed forces veterans, including the Ministry of [Defence Veterans and Reserves Mental Health Programme \(VRMHP\)](#) and the [Pennine Care Military Veterans Service \(MVS\)](#).

2.5 The final part of the JSNA outlines some of the opportunities for action, including Local Armed Forces Covenant Networks, the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (DERS) and the role that local partners can play in continuing to provide support, general guidance, and specialised advice on issues within the context of their service/function.

### **3.0 Recommendations**

3.1 The Board is asked to:

- Note the content of the JSNA
- Support the opportunities for further action described in the JSNA