



# Veteran Care Through Custody

Dr Jane Jones

Clinical & Research Lead – Care After Combat & Nottinghamshire Offender Healthcare

**Resilience and  
Employability Conference**

Unlocking the Hidden Labour Force





**‘Care after Combat is a UK based Charity providing support within the Justice System for the well-being of former British Armed Forces personnel and their families.’**



**The King's Award  
for Voluntary Service**



# Phoenix - Peer to peer mentorship scheme

Delivered by Regional Coordinators & Volunteer Mentors

Support is offered throughout a sentence

- remotely via the 'Stand Easy' pack and
- 24hr helpline
- face to face via peer group forums and
- individual meetings

Individual mentorship:

- From 12 months prior to release, through the gate;
  - To 12 months post release
- 
- Full release package bespoke to the individual
  - Working alongside and referring out to other statutory and charitable services





**CARE  
AFTER  
COMBAT**

# An Independent Evaluation of Emergency Covid Response Bowman Wellbeing Activity Packs



UNIVERSITY OF  
LINCOLN

Dr Lauren Hall, Mrs Elena Gaschino, Dr Lyndsey Harris

October 2021



## KEY FINDINGS



MEDIATED LONELINESS

FOSTERED A SENSE OF  
COMMUNITY



PROVIDED SENSE OF  
HOPE

MOTIVATED RECIPIENTS



MOBILISED SOCIAL  
CAPITAL

ENTERTAINED  
MINDS



BOWMAN WELLBEING ACTIVITY PACK  
EVALUATION



# Our Impact

2022-2023



# “TRUSTED MENTORS HELPING VETERANS IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM”

**1000+**

OVER 1000 VETERANS HAVE RECEIVED ONE-TO-ONE MENTORSHIP FROM CARE AFTER COMBAT

**1/5**

CARE AFTER COMBAT MENTORSHIP REDUCES THE REOFFENDING RATE OF VETERANS TO ONE-FIFTH OF THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

**465**

PRISON FORUMS HELD BY CARE AFTER COMBAT 2022/23

# Our Impact in Numbers

**1/5**

CARE AFTER COMBAT MENTORSHIP REDUCES REOFFENDING RATES TO ONE FIFTH OF THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

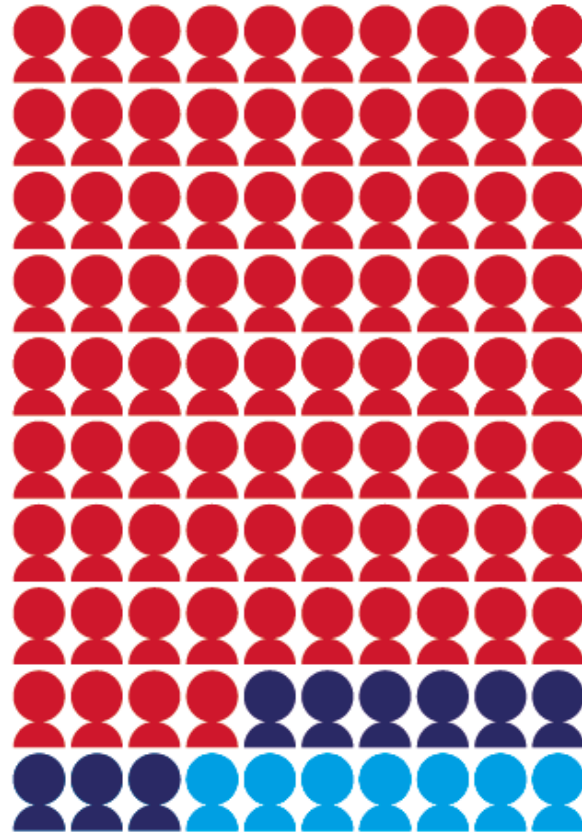
**£185,000**

THE AVERAGE COST TO SOCIETY OF ONE PERSON REOFFENDING AND RECEIVING A CUSTODIAL SENTENCE\*

**£1,500**

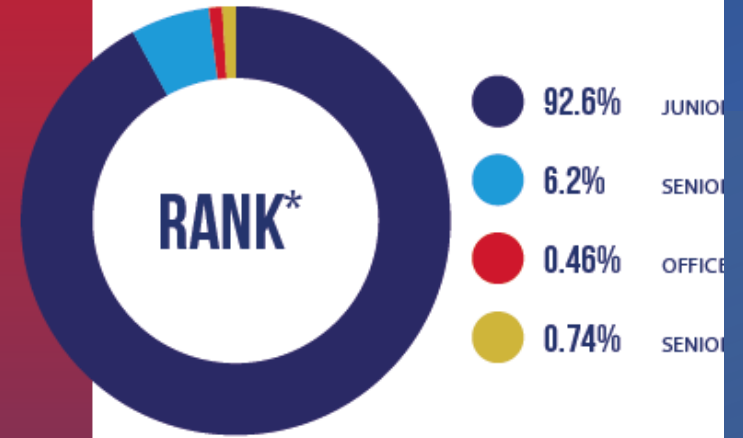
THE AVERAGE COST OF PROVIDING CARE AFTER COMBAT SUPPORT TO A VETERAN IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM PER YEAR

\* Ministry of Justice (2019) Economic and Social Costs of Reoffending – Analytical Report; Ministry of Justice (25 April 2019) Proven Reoffending Statistics – Annual Average data; Table 1, Ministry of Justice (2020) Costs per prison place and cost per prisoner by individual prison establishment 2019 to 2020 tables, London: Ministry of Justice

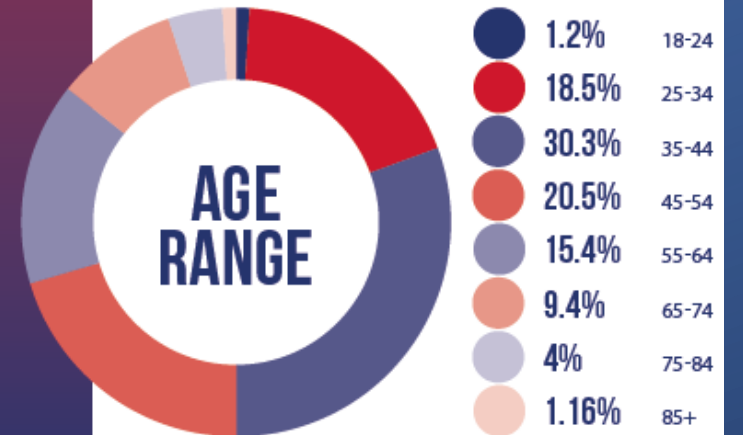


**2027**

TOTAL NUMBER OF VETERANS SUPPORTED SINCE 2015 (TO END 2023)



\* Where declared by beneficiaries



# What we know

The majority of veterans lead successful lives after leaving the armed forces

Mental Health is however for some a significant factor interfering with transition from military services to civilian life including:

- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder - PTSD
- Moral Injury
- Complex Trauma
- Adjustment Disorder
- Co morbid presentations

*“the army was the making of me but when I became a civilian the army was the breaking of me”*





# Myths & Barriers

Veterans	Offenders	Mental Health
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• They are all mad, bad or sad</li><li>• Lack commercial/industrial knowledge &amp; experience</li><li>• They shout at and order people around</li><li>• They come from poorly educated backgrounds or lack educational qualifications</li><li>• Lack professional qualifications</li><li>• Won't settle</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leopards can't change their spots - will reoffend</li><li>• Safety of the rest of the workforce</li><li>• Attitude and relations with the rest of the workforce</li><li>• Untrustworthy</li><li>• Damage public image of the company</li><li>• Type of offence</li><li>• Company policies</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Performance deficit assumed to be less capable or competent</li><li>• Paradoxically expecting too low and not trusting capabilities</li><li>• Lack of receptiveness or understanding for hidden disability</li><li>• Assumption of high rate of sickness</li><li>• Costs of adjustments</li></ul>



# Veterans' perspective of being employed outside the military

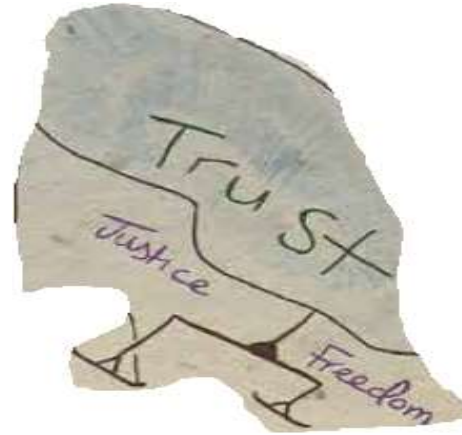
- Employers don't pay enough attention to see potential – have low expectations
- Speed and efficiency not valued by work forces
- Perceived lack of organization & structure in the workplace
- Feeling patronized and belittled by people who don't understand sacrifices made the impact of and life experiences of the armed forces

*“I was used to orders and getting on with the task as quickly as possible to the best of my ability and while this is appreciated by your colleagues in the army it's not appreciated by your colleagues in a factory not when management start to wonder why everyone can't graft as hard as you, so I was called a blackleg I was alienated. I didn't get it.”*

# What we know through partnership working with the NHS

- Prison is a leveler often breaking the cycle of maladaptive behaviors
- Prison can provide opportunity time and space to address mental healthcare issues – dealing with chronic issues as well as acute and immerging issues
- Prison can provide opportunity time and space to address the wraparound problems which can be a consequence of or cause of maladaptive coping and/or mental health problems

That veterans who are offenders and who may also experience mental health problems, given the right opportunities to deal with underlying issues, do have significant transferable skills





# Veterans' Employment & Transferable Skill Set

- Communication skills
- Teamwork
- Leadership
- Social perception
- Flexibility
- Creative problem solving
- Judgment and decision making
- Productivity and organization
- Time management
- Motivation
- Sense of humor, loyal, generally fit and well, innovative



(Veterans Work recognizing the potential of ex service personnel Deloitte 2016)



# Contact

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