

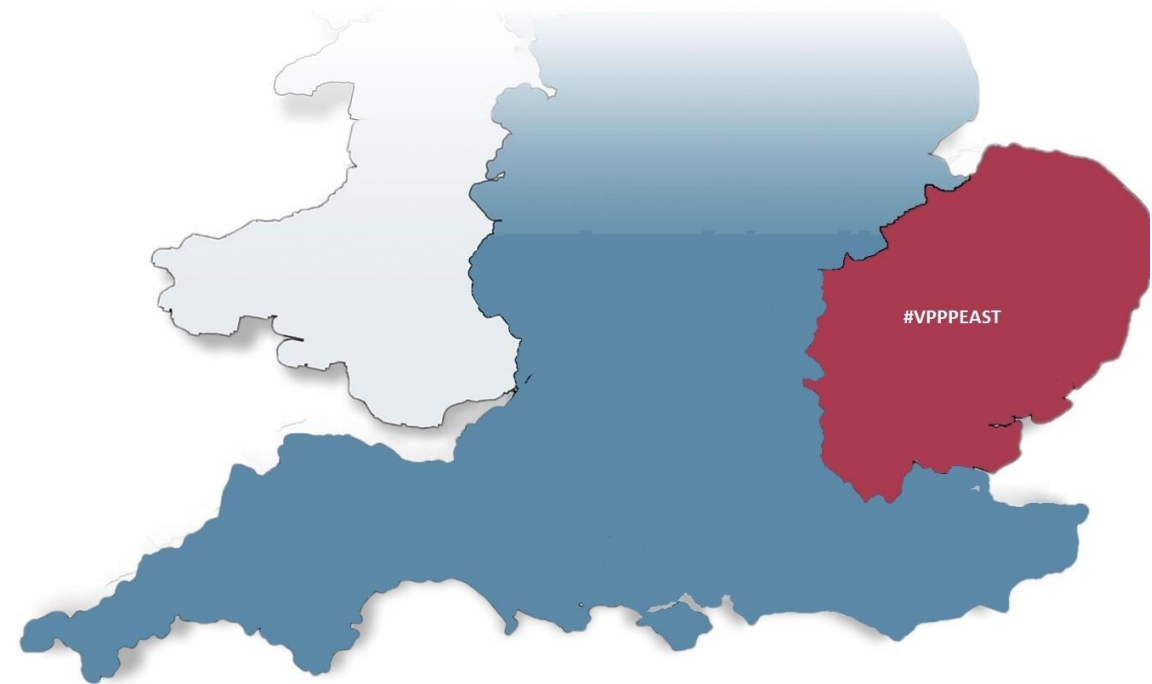
Thrive Together

Welcome

Darren Hickie

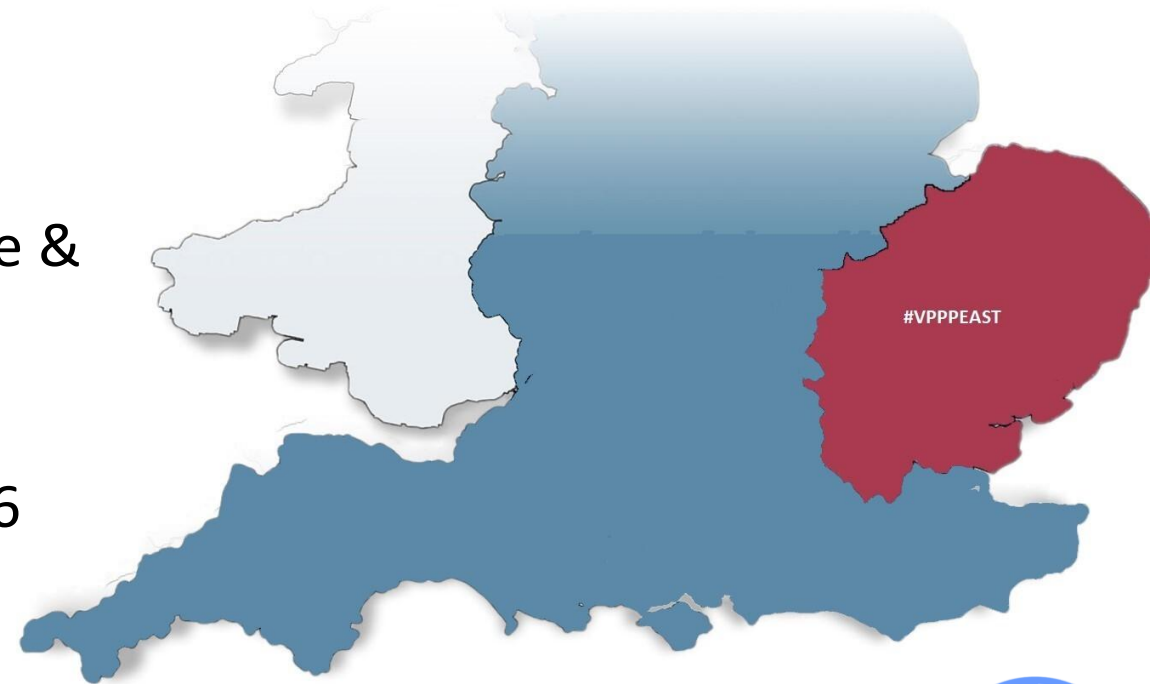
Thrive Together Programme Manager

The Bridge for Heroes



Background

- The Bridge for Heroes awarded East of England grant, Project Name – Veterans Voice
- East of England Region –
 - Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, Bedfordshire & Milton Keynes
- Project – Apr 2024 to Mar 2027 in 3 Phases
- Phase 2 - Funding Projects Jan 2025 to Sep 2026



Consultation Phase

Key Outcomes

- Conference with Veterans, LA, NHS and Charities
- Consulted with LA, NHS and Charities
- Face to Face and online survey of Veterans, their families and Carers
- Consultation findings reviewed and the needs of the community identified
- Strategic plan submitted to the AFCFT to bid for funding for the next stage
- Targeted projects that meet the needs identified in the consultation are being awarded
- Expression of Interest bids totalled £1.4m from 30 organisations



Recommendations

- Improvement of Awareness and Access to Support Services
- Expanding our Network to Connect with Veterans, Families and Carers
- Tackle Stigma around Mental Health
- Improved Community Integration
- Armed Forces Network Expansion

7 Projects Defined to achieve these goals



Funded Projects

1. Local Hubs and Drop-Ins
2. Mobile Awareness Stands
3. Transport Accessibility Programmes
4. Mental Health Stigma Reduction
5. Self-Esteem and Identity Programmes
6. Finding Veterans in Care Home
7. Armed Forces Network



Funded Projects

Organisations	Project 1 - Local Hubs and Drop-ins	Project 2 - Mobile Awareness Stands	Project 3 - Transport Accessibility Programmes	Project 4 - Mental Health Stigma Reduction	Project 5 - Self-esteem and Identity Programmes	Project 6 - Finding Veterans in Care Homes
Combat2Coffee		Suffolk & Essex				
James Paget University Hospital	Norfolk - East					Norfolk - East
Mid and South Essex NHS FT	Essex					
Suffolk Family Carers	Suffolk					
The Poppy Factory					East of England	
Veterans Central	Norfolk, Cambs & P'boro	Norfolk, Cambs & P'boro				
Veterans Community Network	Bedford, Luton & Milton Keynes	Bedford, Luton & Milton Keynes		Bedford, Luton & Milton Keynes		Bedford, Luton & Milton Keynes
Remaining to allocate		25% to allocate in Hertfordshire	Reviewing	67% to allocate in other counties	50% to allocate in other counties	

Current Progress

1. Model created and being tested for Local Hubs and Drop-ins
2. Model created and being tested to find Veterans in Care Homes
3. 13 projects awarded
4. Working with groups to award last funding – Op Community, LA
5. Armed Forces Network
6. Annual Conference
7. Sustainability Development



Digital Platforms

- Two digital platforms in development
- Veterans Voice
 - Veteran-related information, e.g. support organisations, events, activities
 - County pages
 - Feedback section – community to let us know issues and views
 - Content will be driven from projects activities and collaborations
- Thrive Together East Region
 - Professional information, e.g. AFCFT news, updates, events, training and support resources, conferences and meetings for professionals



Thank You

Q&A

Contact me for further information and
feedback:

darren@thebridgeforheroes.org

