

Tyrwhitt House, Oaklawn Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 0BX

> Tel: 01372 587 100 Fax: 01372 587 001 Helpline: 0800 138 1619

contactus@combatstress.org.uk www.combatstress.org.uk

Dear veteran,

At our AGM in September 2017, we announced a new five-year plan which aims to improve the recovery experience of veterans with mental health problems.

The plan proposes changing our services to meet the continuing demand from former servicemen and women for intensive treatment and support.

The plan is based on latest research and feedback from veterans and independent trauma experts. We've also made sure we're in tune with the NHS, Ministry of Defence and other charities' mental health plans.

We will be improving assessment and access, integrating our residential and community teams into one regional service and introducing new non-residential modular treatment programmes to better fit in with veterans work and family life.

The number of residential beds at our treatment centres will be reduced gradually to release resources to run these new programmes. We will also pilot and phase in the use of Skype to improve treatment access.

We propose to start the first phase of the plan this winter by making changes in our central region, Helpline and triage services. We launched a consultation with our employees about these plans on 19 September and will provide you with an update on our progress in the next issue of the magazine.

Please find out more on our website at combatstress.org.uk/strategy

With warm wishes

Sue Freeth



