

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Care charities initiate merger to enhance services for veterans

Two charities that care for Armed Forces veterans and their families living with disability, neurological conditions or dementia, have agreed to work towards a merger.

Royal Star & Garter operates three care homes in Solihull, High Wycombe and Surbiton, and Care for Veterans (formerly the Queen Alexandra Hospital Home) operates a single home in Worthing, West Sussex.

A merger of these two historic charities will bring together all their existing services and expand the Royal Star & Garter group to four care homes. Consolidating services will enable the charities to share expertise, resources and support functions, to provide a more effective, efficient and wider-reaching offer to the veteran community of all ages.



Care for Veterans Chair, David Williams, and Royal Star & Garter's Chief Executive Andy Cole in Worthing

The charities have signed a memorandum of understanding that recognises the importance of supporting current residents and staff and enhancing the services delivered to veterans and their families.

Chair of Royal Star & Garter, Major General Tim Tyler CB, commented: "I am delighted to be working with the board of Care for Veterans with a view to bringing its home, residents and staff into the Royal Star & Garter family. Both charities were founded as a result of the Great War, have shared similar experiences and ambitions ever since and today share common goals. Royal Star & Garter's long-term strategy is to ensure consistently high-quality care is provided for those living with disability and dementia among the military family. This merger is absolutely consistent with this, and the two charities will develop and learn from each other for the benefit of our current and future beneficiaries."

David Williams, Chair of Care for Veterans, commented: "Bringing together Care for Veterans and Royal Star & Garter into a single group unites two charities with a combined history of over 200 years of caring for the veteran community. A merger will leverage the expertise of both charities to the benefit of veterans and their families in need of care. It will also strengthen our financial and operational resilience



to ensure that high quality care is provided at the Worthing home now and into the future, while preserving the legacy of the Queen Alexandra Hospital Home/Care for Veterans.”

[ENDS]

Notes for editors

About Royal Star & Garter

Founded in 1916, Royal Star & Garter is a charity which provides loving, compassionate care to veterans and their families living with disability or dementia, and has three Homes in Solihull, Surbiton and High Wycombe. We have launched services reaching out into the community including Lunch Clubs, Day Care and a national Telephone Friendship Service.

Royal Star & Garter also runs the Veteran Friendly Framework which is funded in partnership with the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust and Royal British Legion. It aims to tackle social isolation and deliver improved health and wellbeing outcomes for the over 25,000 veterans living in care homes across England.

<https://veteranfriendlyframework.org.uk/>

About Care for Veterans

Care for Veterans was established in 1919 as the Queen Alexandra Hospital Home in Roehampton, to care for veterans disabled in the First World War. It moved to its current site in Worthing, West Sussex, in 1933 and now operates a 60-bed care home primarily for former members of HM Armed Forces and their families who have suffered physical or neurological injuries, or illnesses such as dementia, multiple sclerosis and stroke.

The charity offers residential, outpatient and end-of-life care, including physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy, tailored to the unique needs of the ex-service community.

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