

# Volunteer to Career for the Armed Forces community

Supporting members  
of the Armed Forces  
community to  
embark on careers in  
health and care  
through volunteering



This programme is  
nationally overseen  
by

**helpforce**



# About the programme

The Volunteer to Career for the Armed Forces community is a national programme that sees a number of healthcare organisations across England provide volunteering opportunities to members of the Armed Forces community to explore careers in health and care.

The programme provides a 'try-before-you-buy' opportunity if you are interested in roles working in healthcare.

You can volunteer in clinical, non-clinical, or other health and care areas that interest you, with support from staff.

This programme is nationally overseen by Helpforce, a national charity that supports health and care organisations across the UK to maximise the impact of their volunteers.

## Benefits of volunteering for this programme

If you decide to volunteer, you will:

- ▶ Get hands-on experiences of what it's like to work in health and care organisations
- ▶ Receive tailored support to help you seek employment or further training whilst on the programme.
- ▶ Gain support to build up your confidence, particularly around your transition to civilian life
- ▶ Be able to shape your volunteering experiences to align with your career aspirations
- ▶ Receive support with numeracy and literacy skills if desired
- ▶ Receive peer-to-peer support for mental health conditions

# Frequently asked questions:

## Who can volunteer for this programme?

- Members of the Armed Forces Community and
- 18 years old and above

## How many hours am I required to commit to this programme?

This depends on the organisation that you plan to volunteer with, so please check with them first.

## Will my travelling expenses be covered by the organisation that I plan to volunteer with?

Generally organisations will cover your travelling expenses, but you must check with the organisation first.

## Does this cost me anything?

No, this does not cost you anything. You won't pay for your training or any fees. You only need to volunteer your time at the organisation.

## Questions you should ask the organisation that you plan to volunteer at:

- What specific career pathways are they offering as part of the programme?
- How many hours at the minimum are you required to volunteer?
- What extra support can they give you as part of the programme?
- Will they be able to cover your travelling expenses?

# Where this programme takes place and how to apply

Geography cover	Organisation	Potential careers	How to apply
Durham, Darlington, Teeside, York, and North Yorkshire	Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust  County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust  North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust  South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Becoming a health care assistant/ward helper  Working in estates, portering, catering, domestic, administration and corporate functions	Email your interest to: <a href="mailto:cddft.northeastvtcp.rogamme@nhs.net">cddft.northeastvtcp.rogamme@nhs.net</a> or Call 0800 7835774
Scarborough also covering North and East Yorkshire	Saint Catherines Hospice	Becoming a health care assistant  Working in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Business support</li><li>• Hospitality</li></ul>	Via <a href="https://www.saintcatherines.org.uk/volunteer-to-career/">https://www.saintcatherines.org.uk/volunteer-to-career/</a> Or By emailing - <a href="mailto:vtvc@saintcatherines.org.uk">vtvc@saintcatherines.org.uk</a>

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# Where this programme takes place and how to apply (cont'd)

Geography cover	Organisation	Potential careers	How to apply
Mid Yorkshire: Wakefield & North Kirklees	Mid Yorkshire Teaching NHS Trust – volunteering opportunities will be primarily at Pinderfields Hospital (Wakefield), Dewsbury Hospital and Pontefract Hospital.	Working in clinical and non-clinical areas, depending on volunteers' interests	Apply via website: <a href="https://www.midyorks.nhs.uk/volunteering">https://www.midyorks.nhs.uk/volunteering</a>
West Midlands (Shropshire, Telford & Wrenkin, mid-Wales)	Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust	Working in clinical and non-clinical areas, depending on volunteers' interests	Apply via website: <a href="https://www.sath.nhs.uk/working-with-us/volunteering/veterans-volunteer-to-career-programme-2/">https://www.sath.nhs.uk/working-with-us/volunteering/veterans-volunteer-to-career-programme-2/</a>
South East London, covering Greenwich, Lewisham and Bexley	Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust	Working into healthcare	Email <a href="mailto:lh.voluntaryservices@nhs.net">lh.voluntaryservices@nhs.net</a>

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# Where this programme takes place and how to apply (cont'd)

Geography cover	Organisation	Potential careers	How to apply
Somerset	Somerset NHS Foundation Trust	<p>Becoming health care support worker</p> <p>Working in Portering, Emergency and Dementia departments</p>	Email <a href="mailto:VolunteeringSFT@somersetft.nhs.uk">VolunteeringSFT@somersetft.nhs.uk</a>
Dorset, West Dorset, North Dorset, Purbeck, Weymouth and Portland and some joint services with Somerset, and the Bournemouth / Poole area	Dorset County Hospital	<p>Taking up roles centred around Alliance Health Professionals careers</p> <p>Supporting Occupational Therapy, Dietetics, Orthotics, Pathology, Pharmacy</p> <p>Non-clinical roles</p>	Email <a href="mailto:volunteering@dchft.nhs.uk">volunteering@dchft.nhs.uk</a>

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# Where this programme takes place and how to apply (cont'd)

Geography cover	Organisation	Potential careers	How to apply
Plymouth, Devon	Livewell Southwest CIC	Estates, i.e., electricians, plumbers, maintenance, ground work, pharmacy and HCA	Expressions of interest should be emailed to <a href="mailto:livewell.volunteers@nhs.net">livewell.volunteers@nhs.net</a>