

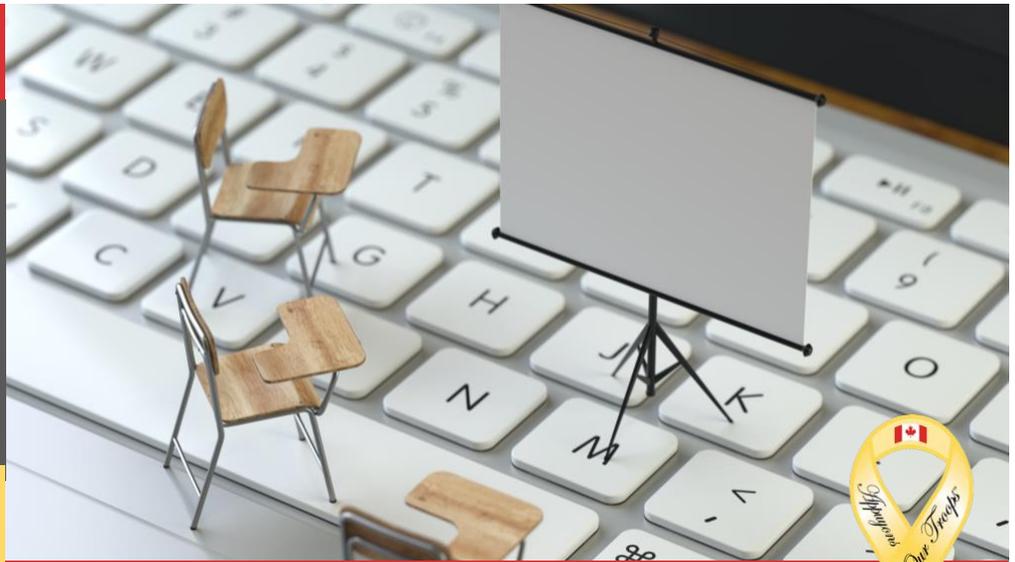
Webinar

Co-organized by Contact Group and The Northern Ireland Veterans Support Office

Chair:

Ms. Liz Brown (Northern Ireland Veterans Support Office) and Mr. Charles Winstanley (Contact Group Chair).

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RESPECT

Military Mental Health Sector Review and Case Management: Challenges and Opportunities

The objectives of the conference are to review recent developments in the British military mental health sector (with a particular focus on Northern Ireland for part of the event), including identifying the challenges and opportunities to address them. Also, to share details (and get feedback) on the Veterans Mental Health Information System proposed by the Cobseo/Contact Case Management Working Group and currently being studied by consultants.

To (re)-see this webinar and have more information: <https://www.contactarmedforces.co.uk/register-contact-online-conference-military-mental-health-case-management/>

Veterans' Mental Health in Northern Ireland

Three key strategies to improve the work on the mental health of Northern Ireland veterans. Although approaches are diverse, three strategies emerge: 1) **We need to know more:** we need to have a clear vision of the Veterans community; 2) **We need to know what is happening on the ground:** blocking silo work and proposing collaborative work between government, scientific research and community organizations; and 3) **We need to facilitate the provision and access of services:** to have quick and easy access to a range of services that are both acceptable and complementary.

Proposed veterans' mental health information system (VMHIS)

Discussion of a centralized system on the mental health of veterans. Returning to their field experiences, the panelists discussed the difficulties, but also the benefits of such a system. By providing a diverse **ecosystem** of Veterans' journeys on a single platform, this type of system provides a holistic approach to the challenges faced by Veterans and facilitates the exchange of information between all support services.

But this type of system raises several questions, including in terms of information security or information standardization.

UK military mental health & case management

This last panel discussed the professional experience and challenges of case managers. While tremendous progress has been made in recent years in veterans' mental health, much **remains to be done**. How can we simplify our services? How can we facilitate the understanding, access and navigation of veterans and their families? We need to be much more consistent and **collaborative** around data, data access and data sharing. We must also educate society at large about the benefits of military service or the veteran community may be marginalized. In addition, organizations must make a comprehensive mental health assessment to assess the risks to **the individual and others**.