

**8 July 2021**

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**Subject: ICB Self Assessment against the Armed Forces Covenant**

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**Executive Summary**

This paper is applicable to each of the 4 JLHW strategy theme areas, however there is specific reference in the strategy to:-

- Improve join-up of services through community healthcare, primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare (including specialist services, for the armed forces and their families, pharmaceutical services and healthcare in the justice sector)

The purpose of this paper is to provide a progress report on the work currently under way in the ICB to self-assess against the Covenant requirements and to articulate the plans to ensure BSW is a high performer in each duty area. It sets out:-

- I. The background and context of the Armed Forces Covenant which confers a Duty via the NHS Constitution onto NHS and other public bodies *“to have ‘due regard’ to the unique obligations of and sacrifices made by the Armed Forces principle that it is desirable to remove the disadvantages arising from being a member of the Armed Forces community; and principle that special provision may be justified”*
- II. The context in B&NES, Swindon and Wiltshire, recognising the high proportion, particularly in Wiltshire, of people residing in BSW who are serving, have served or are family of those who are or have.
- III. Offers assurance regarding the ICB’s work to improve it’s employer practices relating to Armed Forces personnel and it’s ambition to achieve Gold level Employer recognition.
- IV. Identifies areas relevant to the self-assessment which may inform future developments such as the HealthWatch Military personnel Survey and the Warwickshire County Council training module.
- V. Sets out the ICB’s self-assessment against the Armed Forces Covenant and identifies actions to improve compliance.
- VI. Describes the next steps and plan to convene a working group across BSW to drive the actions.
- VII. Acknowledges BSW ICB’s role in local, regional and national forums and networks and commits to greater participation.

**Proposal(s)**

It is recommended that the Board:

- i) Notes the content of the report.

**Reason for Proposal**

Awareness and assurance regarding the ICB's work to embed the Armed Forces Covenant Duty.

**Emma Higgins**

**Associate Director, Wiltshire ICA Programme and Delivery Lead**

**(Head of Combined Place as of 15/7/24)**

**BSW ICB**

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