



proudly present

HMPPS - CFO Veterans in Custody Support Officer Awards

2023

Winner's Edition



HM Prison &
Probation Service

THE ARMED FORCES
COVENANT FUND TRUST

FROM THE MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS, RT HON JOHNNY MERCER

"I wanted to congratulate all of the nominees for your outstanding work to support veterans in custody.

I know there are lots of veterans, charities and other organisations that champion the armed forces community and it is brilliant to see this level of collaboration in support of our veterans.

I recognise that many of you volunteer your own time whilst juggling other priorities across the prison estate, to support former service personnel, so I want to pass on my deep thanks for all that you do.

While the number of veterans in the criminal justice system is relatively small, many do require bespoke support to deal with the legacy of their service in the military. The government is fully committed to ensure that the right help is in place for veterans and through schemes such as the ViCSOs and Operation Nova which NHS England is commissioning to provide much needed health support for veterans in the justice system.

We all help veterans reintegrate into society and reduce reoffending. The government cannot achieve these ambitions alone and it is only through your continued efforts and commitment that we will transform the experience of veterans."

HMPPS - CFO VETERANS IN CUSTODY SUPPORT OFFICER AWARDS

Since 2016, HMPPS Creating Future Opportunities (CFO) has worked tirelessly to enhance the support given to veterans in the Justice System. This area of work is not mandated by policy, and CFO had the pleasure of building the foundations for veterans' support through the CFO subgroups model.

As a result of this work, in 2021, CFO was given the approval to take the national lead for veterans in prisons by the Director General, and since then, the delivery and networks have gone from strength to strength. Events like tonight prove this.

Veterans in Custody Support Officers (ViCSOs) are a testament to the prison service; the great case studies we have highlight this. We see the lengths ViCSOs go to, and it is extremely humbling to say that we have staff like you working for the prison service.

We understand that there can be frustrations around not seeing many developments but be assured there is dedication at every level to drive this forward just as much as there is on the ground.

Finally, tonight, we celebrate all ViCSOs and their hard work, not just the ones nominated. Each and every one of you is recognised and is a credit to the prison service.

Carrie Rogers

THE WINNERS!

Commendation Award

Eddie Tarry

Driving Support for ex-Military

Steve Elliot

Exceptional Listener

Chance Morgan

Going the Extra Mile

Darren Winterbottom

Flying the Flag for Innovation

Lindsay Beadnall

Most Supportive Prison for Veterans

HMP Stoke Heath

Partnerships and Engagement Award

Sarah Berry

Special Recognition Award

CFO Discovery Wing at HMP Risley and CFO Activity Hub at HMP Holme House





Name: Andy Fletcher - HMP Risley
Title: Governor
Nominated for: Commendation Award

What people are saying:

“Even after 40 years’ service, his enthusiasm, strive for excellence and passion is a force to be reckoned with.” “He genuinely cares about people.” “Fletch is a true leader... he is kind, genuine and a truly amazing man.”



Name: Chance Morgan - HMP Parc
Title: ViCSO
Nominated for: Exceptional Listener

What people are saying:

“Chance is an inspiration to others. He has overcome his own obstacles to help improve the well-being of others. Having this experience really helps when it comes to listening to veterans and shows the genuine understanding when issues arise.”
“He has sat and chatted with me and helped relieve my anxiety issues.”



Name: Chris Grace - HMP Risley
(Discovery Wing)

Title: Custodial Manager

Nominated for: Most Supportive Prison
for Veterans | Driving Support for ex-
Military

What people are saying:

“Chris has worked tirelessly to ensure the CFO wing at Risley is a big success.” “He has a great rapport with prisoners on the wing.” “Mr. Grace has supported me from day one. Always been there to listen and has always had a positive plan.” “My life has been changed through the support and kindness I've been shown and I'm going to be forever grateful that I have my life back and can see a bright future for me and my daughter.”



Name: Craig Perry – HMP Bullingdon

Title: ViCSO

Nominated for: Most Supportive Prison
for Veterans | Driving Support for ex-
Military

What people are saying:

“Craig goes above and beyond to help ex-servicemen.” “In his own time, he runs a Veterans' Day event each year to commemorate those who have served.” “Craig has a personal commitment to identifying and helping veterans.”



Name: Sarah Berry – HMP Berwyn
Title: Custodial Manager
Nominated for: Partnerships and Engagement Award

What people are saying:

“Sarah has worked tirelessly to re-establish positive relationships.” “She has worked with veterans, NHS Wales and Ministers to streamline referrals for much needed mental health support that will continue through the gate.”



Name: Dan Haynes & Steve Coppock –
HMP Featherstone
Title: ViCSOs
Nominated for: Going the Extra Mile

What people are saying:

“They arranged for the Veterans in Custody to have their medals and berets sent in to wear during the remembrance event. Dan also played The Last Post and The Reveille on his bugle.” “They also worked tirelessly alongside SSAFA to provide a VIC with housing, furniture and clothing following his release on Christmas Eve”.



Name: Darren Winterbottom – HMP Exeter
Title: ViCSO
Nominated for: Partnerships and Engagement Award | Going the Extra Mile

What people are saying:

“Darren produced a Veteran Induction Pack with support numbers for them and their families.” “He has been working in his own time to set up systems of support for officers and prisoners who are veterans, working to get the support of Rock2Recovery - a free counselling service to help veterans live with their mental health issues and PTSD. He is also in the process of arranging a Veteran Suicide Awareness course via Help for Heroes and has recently passed his instructor course in mental health first aid which he intends to deliver to our veterans.”



Name: Eddie Tarry – HMP Style
Title: ViCSO
Nominated for: Commendation Award

What people are saying:

“Eddie developed a Veterans Lounge; dedicated for staff and prisoner reflection and activity.” “He created roll boards listing consenting staff members’ grade and service for all visitors to see.” “Eddie’s commitment and passion to recognise and promote the staff’s diverse service and duty has been well received and respected.”



HMP Stocken



Name: Lindsay Beadnall - HMP Stocken
Title: Veterans Team
Nominated for: Most Supportive Prison
for Veterans

What people are saying:

“HMP Stocken has a can-do approach.” “With support from the governor Lindsey established the first ‘Armed Forces Breakfast Club’ in HMPPS.” “Stocken have established a support network not just for veterans but for their families too. The lived experience was evidenced from prisoners recently and how it has made them feel as individuals and wanting to continue it on release.”



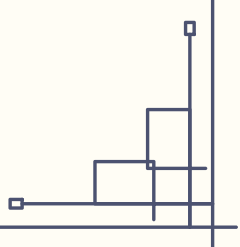
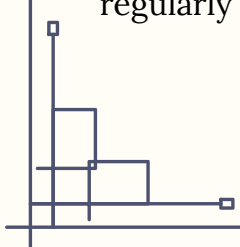
HMP Guys Marsh

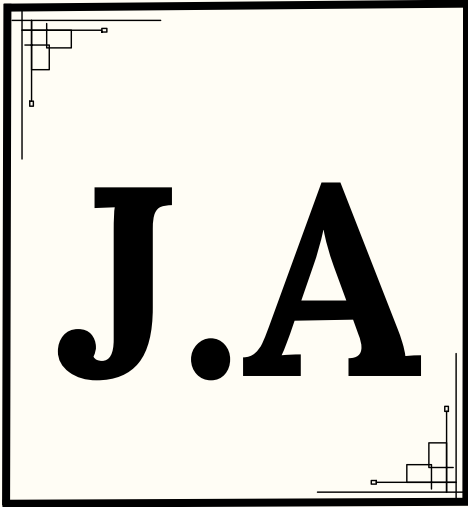


Name: Jon Simpson - HMP Guys Marsh
Title: Veterans Team
Nominated for: Most Supportive Prison
for Veterans

What people are saying:

“The Veterans Team covers the main roles within the prison. They have trained champions within Healthcare, Offender Management, Integrated substance misuse and Reception alongside dedicated veteran keyworkers.” “The Team run employment workshops, work closely with SSAFA, have regular drop ins and regularly support veterans’ families.”





Name: Jack Ashton – HMP Risley
Title: ViCSO
Nominated for: Flying the Flag for Innovation

What people are saying:

“Jack set up a pin phone system, with a number of key local and national charities, the posters and cards have been extremely well received.” “He continues daily to come up with new ideas to improve and support our programme.” “During periods of confrontation and confusion, he remained calm, professional and adapted to change; his resilience has been exceptional.”



Name: Jan Camara – HMP Hollesley Bay
Title: ViCSO
Nominated for: Partnerships and Engagement Award

What people are saying:

“Jan works tirelessly to arrange staff and prisoner veterans meetings and has always been a motivating force behind these.” “Jan has arranged for recognition and awards to be presented at the VICs meetings, which do not come across as being within a custodial setting at all. Allowing all that attend to feel appreciated and on a level playing ground with all that attend, without any judgement.”



Name: Jon Simpson - HMP Guys Marsh

Title: ViCSO

Nominated for: Going the Extra Mile | Partnerships and Engagement Award

What people are saying:

“Jon has been instrumental in improving the services available to veterans within the prison including establishing and training Prisoner Veteran Champions.” “His willingness to portray the picture without frills, but with sensitivity and professionalism is outstanding.”



Name: Lee Foster – HMP Hull

Title: ViCSO

Nominated for: Commendation Award | Exceptional Listener | Going the Extra Mile

What people are saying:

“Lee is always available to help with any problem a veteran may have, works hard at making sure we all have the best help he can give.” “Mr. Foster is always there to listen when you need an ear to bend.” “He goes out of his way for all inmates, not just us vets.”



Name: Lindsay Beadnall – HMP Stocken

Title: ViCSO

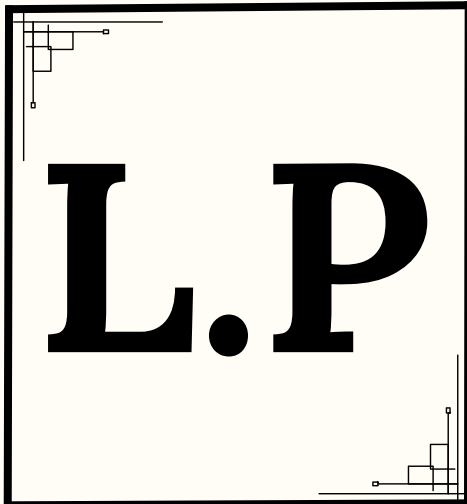
Nominated for: Driving Support for ex-Military | Going the Extra Mile | Partnerships and Engagement Award |

Flying the Flag for Innovation |
Commendation Award

What people are saying:

“Lindsay has worked incredibly hard to support veterans here in Stocken. I can honestly say that without her enthusiastic approach not only to arranging the breakfast club, but also acting as a link between us and forces support groups, we would not have a working veterans community. Thank you Lindsay - if I could, I would give you all the awards mentioned, you are an all round good person.”

“Lindsay is very approachable and helpful. I am due for release very soon, Lindsay has been in regular contact with myself and SSAFA to help organise support for me on release. Thank you for going that extra mile I will never forget it.”



Name: Luke Pearson - HMP Nottingham

Title: ViCSO

Nominated for: Driving Support for ex-Military

What people are saying:

“Mr. Pearson has been seen to be caring and supportive with staff and peers, this includes the prisoners that he encounters daily. Thank you Mr. Pearson.”



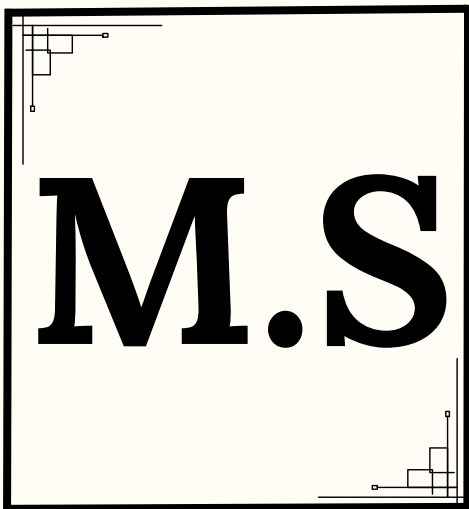
Name: Tracy O'Keefe, Mark Hoynes & David Jayne - HMP Holme House

Title: ViCSO Team

Nominated for: Partnerships and Engagement Award

What people are saying:

“The CFO Veteran staff have been very supportive of me, caring and encouraging during difficult times. They have rewarded my trust by supporting me to be the Red Band for the unit.” “The Team have engaged with the prisoners and non-operational staff who they work alongside in the Hub, dealing with any teething problems and advising of solutions to deal with them. Mark and David attend the weekly gym sessions with the prisoners - they organise and participate in the activities and project.”



Name: Matthew Skates - HMP Nottingham

Title: ViCSO

Nominated for: Going the Extra Mile

What people are saying:

“Matthew is a keen fundraiser and helped organise many successful events.” “He has spoken to GPs locally about their provision and is using this local data to formulate an information pack which will be available in different languages and will be neurodiverse-friendly.”



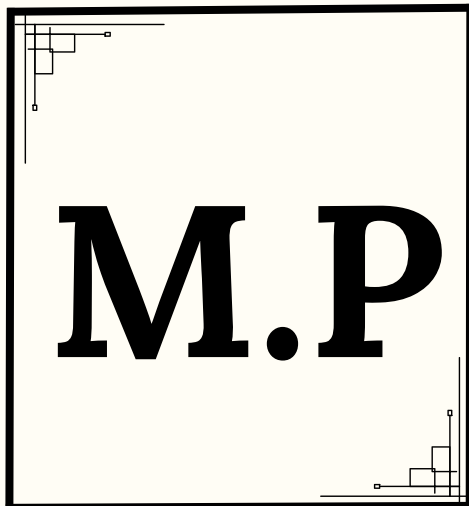
Name: Michael Hitch – HMP Durham

Title: ViCSO

Nominated for: Going the Extra Mile

What people are saying:

“Michael has only been the ViCSO since December. In this short time he has organised monthly group meets and is organising a veterans peer-to-peer programme.” “His commitment to keeping me in the loop when vets are transferring to HMP Holme House is a massive help to me.”



Name: Martin Patterson – HMP Risley

Title: ViCSO

Nominated for: Exceptional Listener

What people are saying:

“Mr. Patterson has supported me through a tough time and he's always given me positive advice.” “He goes out of his way to help and if he says he'll do something, he does it. He's honest and very approachable.”



Name: Annie O'Gorman & Richard Caldwell – HMP Forest Bank
Title: Prison Custody Officers
Nominated for: Going the Extra Mile

What people are saying:

“Annie and Rick have completed the Mental Health Awareness NVQ Level 2 in their own time to help identify PTSD during their 1-1 sessions with veterans, enabling them to get the support needed whilst in prison.” “Annie is one of the kindest and most intent listeners I have met in my career. She is well spoken of by every member of staff and prisoner in the establishment.” “Rick is modest in his work with veterans but his passion shines through in helping those that served for our country.”



Name: Scott Fyffe – HMP Stoke Heath
Title: Catering Manager & ViCSO
Nominated for: Most Supportive Prison for Veterans

What people are saying:

“Scott ensures that every veteran forum has a representative from either mental health, employment, community support groups or accommodation services. This enables the veterans to raise any concerns they have either as a group or on an individual basis.” “Along with his full time position as the catering manager he also ensures that every veteran has a means to communicate with him via the in cell technology. This has resulted in those individuals with complex needs addressing mental health concerns that they have never talked about before.”



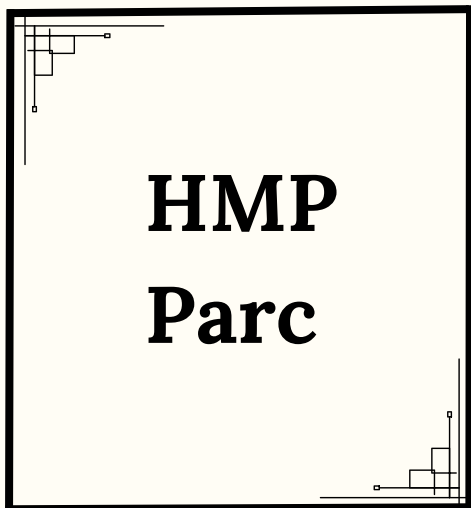
Name: Steve Elliott – HMP Kirkham

Title: ViCSO

Nominated for: Driving Support for ex-Military | Flying the Flag for Innovation | Commendation Award | Most Supportive Prison for Veterans

What people are saying:

“Steve works tirelessly to help all veterans in custody. He organises and attends the Remembrance Sunday parade and ensures everyone is briefed in great detail.” “He set up a comprehensive veterans package in an open estate including a breakfast club incorporating various external agencies.” “Steve is a very pleasant and approachable individual who treats everyone with respect, be it staff or prisoners.”



Name: Chance Morgan - HMP Parc

Title: Veterans Team

Nominated for: Most Supportive Prison for Veterans

What people are saying:

“Chance made ground-breaking changes and set up a veterans’ dedicated area on B3.” “He empowers all working with him to be motivated to develop a rehabilitative and inclusive mindset.” “Goes above and beyond.” “Has made a difference to every veteran in custody and supports them into the community.” “Has sat and chatted with me and helped relieve my anxiety issues.”



SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

The CFO Discovery Wing at HMP Risley and the CFO Activity Hub at HMP Holme House work with veteran cohorts. These spaces allow veterans in custody to engage in positive activities and make personal progress. As part of the HMPPS - CFO ViCSO Awards, Mark Nickson, Head of CFO wanted to take the time to recognise each and every person who works on these programmes.

The activities available include cooking, gym sessions and bike maintenance, as well as access to an allotment and veteran specific courses focused on mental health and wellbeing. Many participants have even been able to get employment ready thanks to their work in custody.

Some findings from the programmes so far include participants:

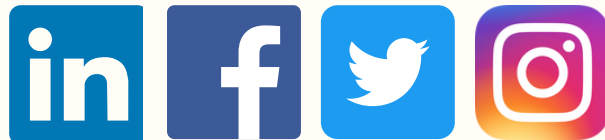
- having a sense of being valued and empowered
- having a sense of responsibility, purpose and hope
- having an experience that motivated self-reflection
- a sense of pride in being in a position to help others in their community

A fellow ViCSO heaped praise on the teams saying: “Having the courses run on the wing definitely has an impact on the wings and prisoners; they have a much better outlook on life and also know that we are here trying to help them with when they get out back in the community. With the course addressing these issues it takes a lot of the pressures the prisoner has and helps them to prioritise and deal with this.”



SHARING YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Follow us on social media



We will be sharing updates on our social media channels throughout the awards. If you are posting about the evening, please tag us using our profile name: **Co-Financing Organisation across all channels**. Whilst you are there, follow our accounts for updates on veterans and wider CFO services.

Teams channel



CFO have created a dedicated Microsoft Teams channel for sharing veterans updates with you. If you need access to the Veterans in Custody Support Officer Teams Channel, please email: **CFO-MOD@justice.gov.uk**

Photography and video



Filming and photography will be taking place throughout the event. We'd love to hear your stories about working with veterans and the CFO Team may approach you to ask you about your work.

If you would not like to be photographed or filmed, please identify yourself to a member of the CFO team.



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