



VOS ELIGIBILITY POLICY

ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSISTANCE

1. Those eligible for support by VOS are listed under Article 4 of the Articles of Association of Veterans Outreach Support. The Charity's Objects are specifically restricted to the following:

The preservation and protection of the mental health, wellbeing and the relief of need for Armed Forces Veterans (both Regular and Reservist) or former members of the merchant marines and their family members, insofar as they have charitable need, by the provision of a drop in service providing assessment, treatment, support, advice and advocacy.

This Article is amplified by the following definitions.

ARMED FORCES VETERANS

2. Former members of all ranks of all Branches of the Armed Forces of the Crown¹ or who have served under British Armed Forces Command, including the Nursing Services, who have received payment for one day's service.

3. Former members of the Reserve Services, the Royal Naval Reserve, Royal Marine Reserve, Territorial Army and the Royal Auxiliary Air Force, and Regular Reservists, who comprise the Royal Fleet Reserve, Army Reserve and Royal Air Force Reserve who have served for at least one day.

MERCHANT MARINE

4. Former members of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) and Merchant Navy, including fishermen, who have served afloat in hostile waters or on ships working under Admiralty Charter (including those in support of operations in Korea, Suez, Falkland Islands and the Gulf) or in any vessel that has been used in support of the UK Armed Forces for one day or who is entitled to a campaign medal issued to the Royal Navy, Army or Royal Air Force to those giving direct support under their command.

FAMILY MEMBERS

5. Family members include children, spouses and partners, including widows and widowers, and carers.

6. Children are defined as follows:

- The son or daughter (over the age of 18 years up to the age of 25, but in full time education, not as a mature student) of the person on whom eligibility is based;

¹ includes ex-members of the Forces of any territory comprised in the British Commonwealth and who have been members of the British Forces.



- The son or daughter having a physical or mental disability and being dependant on the person on whom eligibility is based.
7. A 'spouse' or 'partner' is defined as anyone who:
- is married or was previously married to the person on whom eligibility is based;
 - is in a civil partnership or was previously in a civil partnership with the person on whom eligibility is based;
 - is in or was previously in an established cohabiting relationship with the person on whom eligibility is based;
 - was married to the person on whom eligibility is based, who has since died (widow or widower);
 - was in a civil partnership with the person on whom eligibility is based, who has since died;
 - was in an established cohabiting relationship with the person on whom eligibility is based, who has since died.
8. A carer is defined as:
- a family member who is providing or has provided an ongoing caring responsibility for the person on whom eligibility is based.

SERVING PERSONNEL

9. Personnel who are still serving, especially those in transition out of the Armed Forces, are not excluded from support.

OTHER CASES

10. Individual cases from the supporting civilian community that are outside the scope of the Armed Forces Covenant and that do not specifically meet the criteria of this policy, such as (but not limited to) Expeditionary Forces Institute and Naval Canteen Service (Afloat) and other defence civilians and contractor staff, will be considered for support at the discretion of the management.

COMORBITIES

11. Individuals are not excluded from VOS therapy and support (including wellbeing activities) if they have a comorbidity with drug/alcohol misuse. However they cannot participate in activities or therapy if deemed under the influence of drugs/alcohol. For these individuals a risk assessment will always be conducted and stored on the clinical management system.