

Army Basing Newsletter – January 2020

This publication aims to regularly update you on the Army Basing Programme (ABP) announced in 2013 stating some 4,000 additional Service personnel plus their families would relocate to Salisbury Plain by 2020.

Programme update

New healthcare and education facilities to benefit Service families are opening in early 2020, meeting the increased demand for local provision under the Army Basing Programme (ABP). The Early Years Centre in Tidworth offers 55 places for 0-5-year olds and the Medical Dental Centre in Larkhill is the first facility to offer shared MOD and NHS healthcare provision. The majority of ABP delivery behind the wire is now nearing completion, however construction continues at all garrisons on Salisbury Plain Training Area (SPTA), to provide the required garaging, stores and workshops. By summer 2020 around 130 new buildings will have been delivered across SPTA and at Aldershot for the ABP, from single living and working accommodation to technical and training facilities. The programme has demanded more than 200 alterations, refurbishments and demolitions.

Welcome to forces families

We would like to welcome the families who have moved into Wiltshire over the last year as part of the military rebasing project and explain how our children's services will provide help and support for them.

Wiltshire Children's Community Services are delivered by Virgin Care Services Ltd, and we provide health care for children and young people across Wiltshire. This includes:

- Health visiting services for preschool children living in Wiltshire
- School nursing services for children attending Wiltshire Schools
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Integrated Therapies (Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy)
- Learning Disability Nursing Team
- Children's Community Nursing Team
- Community Paediatrics
- Continence Service (Bowel and Bladder)
- Wiltshire Autism Assessment Service
- School age Immunisations Team
- Safeguarding Team

We have worked with outgoing services to ensure safe transfer of care where appropriate, if however you were expecting your child's care to be transferred and you haven't heard from us, please do get in touch with us so we can look into this for you. If your child was not receiving care or support before your move but there are now concerns please do discuss these with your child's Preschool/Nursery, School or Health Visitor who can refer to our services.

Alternatively, contact our Single Point of Access for advice at the number below. For most of our services you will need to be registered with a Wiltshire GP. If you have not yet registered with a GP, please do so as this will enable us to process your referral more quickly.

How can our Single Point of Contact (SPA) help you?

The SPA coordinates community health care advice and support for all children and young people in Wiltshire. The aim is to make sure that every child and family receive the right help, by the right people, at the right time to meet their individual needs.

A dedicated team of customer focused administrators provide advice and support on:

1. The range of services that we offer
2. Referral criteria for accessing our services
3. Other organisations available in Wiltshire that may be able to provide help
4. Guidance on the referral process
5. Managing appointments
6. Requesting repeat prescriptions and medical supplies

The SPA is supported by a team of experienced doctors, nurses and therapists representing our services who will:

- Provide clinical advice over the phone for families and referrers
- Signpost to other appropriate acute and community services
- Triage referrals (including a Multi-disciplinary Team triage for complex referrals)

If you wish to contact any of our services directly, our Single Point of Access Team, can be contacted Monday to Friday between the hours of 9am and 5pm, on 0300 247 0090, or via email on vcl.wiltshirespa@nhs.net. Our website, www.wiltshirechildrensservice.co.uk also provides information on how to access our services and support.

(Carolyn Alvis, professional lead for Care Coordination, Wiltshire Children's Community Services, Virgin Care Services Limited)

Wiltshire Council joins Forces Connect app



Wiltshire has joined an app that is used to connect members of the Armed Forces community to provide support and advice in their area. The Forces Connect app is designed to link users in four easy clicks to organisations offering help, support and services across a wide range of needs.

The app is free and aimed at all of the Armed Forces community – serving personnel, reservists, veterans and their families – as well as a useful resource for frontline public services staff. Initially commissioned by Forces Connect South East, an alliance of public services, the app has been made available to other local authorities that have received Ministry of Defence Covenant grant funding; and Wiltshire is the first of the south west's partners to join.

Councillor Richard Clewer, Cabinet Member for Military Civilian Integration, said: *“The app contains a wealth of useful up-to-date information for the Armed Forces community and it should prove to be a valuable resource.*

“We are regularly looking at new ways to ensure the Armed Forces are as integrated as possible in our county and have everything they need – and this app is another positive step.”

Councillor Chris Williams, Armed Forces Champion for Wiltshire Council, said: *“This is another resource that through the sharing of ideas across these covenant funded projects, we are able to make this available to our military community in Wiltshire, and I know that our partners in the south west are working towards joining the app.*

“Our Armed Forces community is an important part of our region where they make a significant and valuable contribution. Most live, work and thrive without need of extra assistance, however where they do need additional support, this mobile app will help them access organisations that can provide the help and advice they need in a quick and simple way.”

Bristol City, Cornwall, Devon, Gloucestershire, North Somerset and Somerset will be joining over the next few months, allowing easier access to local support.

(Article by Benjamin Paessler, Salisbury Journal, 7 February 2020)

For more information visit: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/mci-new.htm>

