



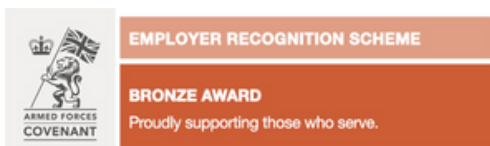
Armed Forces Gambling Support Network



Proudly supporting our armed forces community

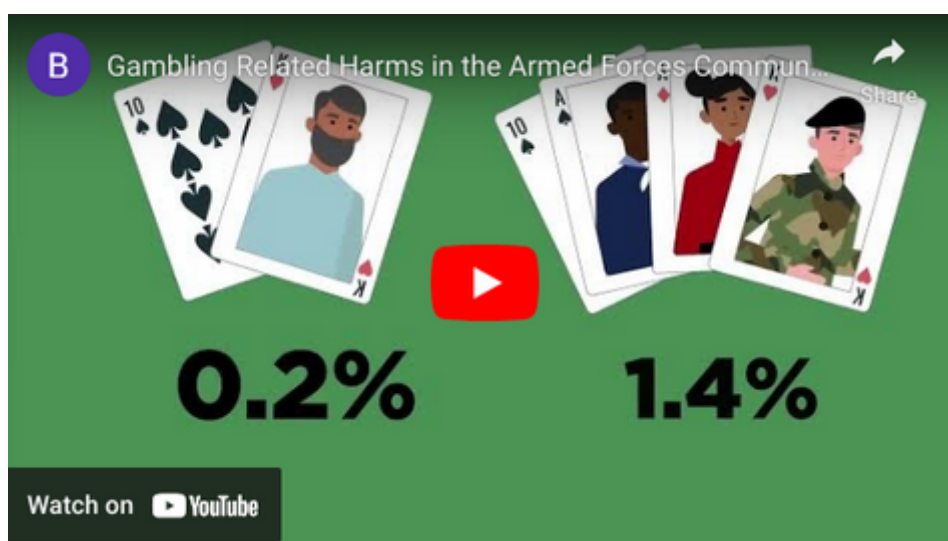
Gambling Related Harms has been identified by the Ministry of Defence as one of the most significant issues facing the UK Armed Forces. Veterans are eight times more likely to have gambling issues adversely impacting them and those around them than the UK population. Our vision is to reduce the risk and incidence of gambling related harm amongst the military & veterans' community by creating an enduring support service for armed forces personnel, veterans and the colleagues, friends, and families of both.'

Armed Forces Gambling Support Network - AFGSN

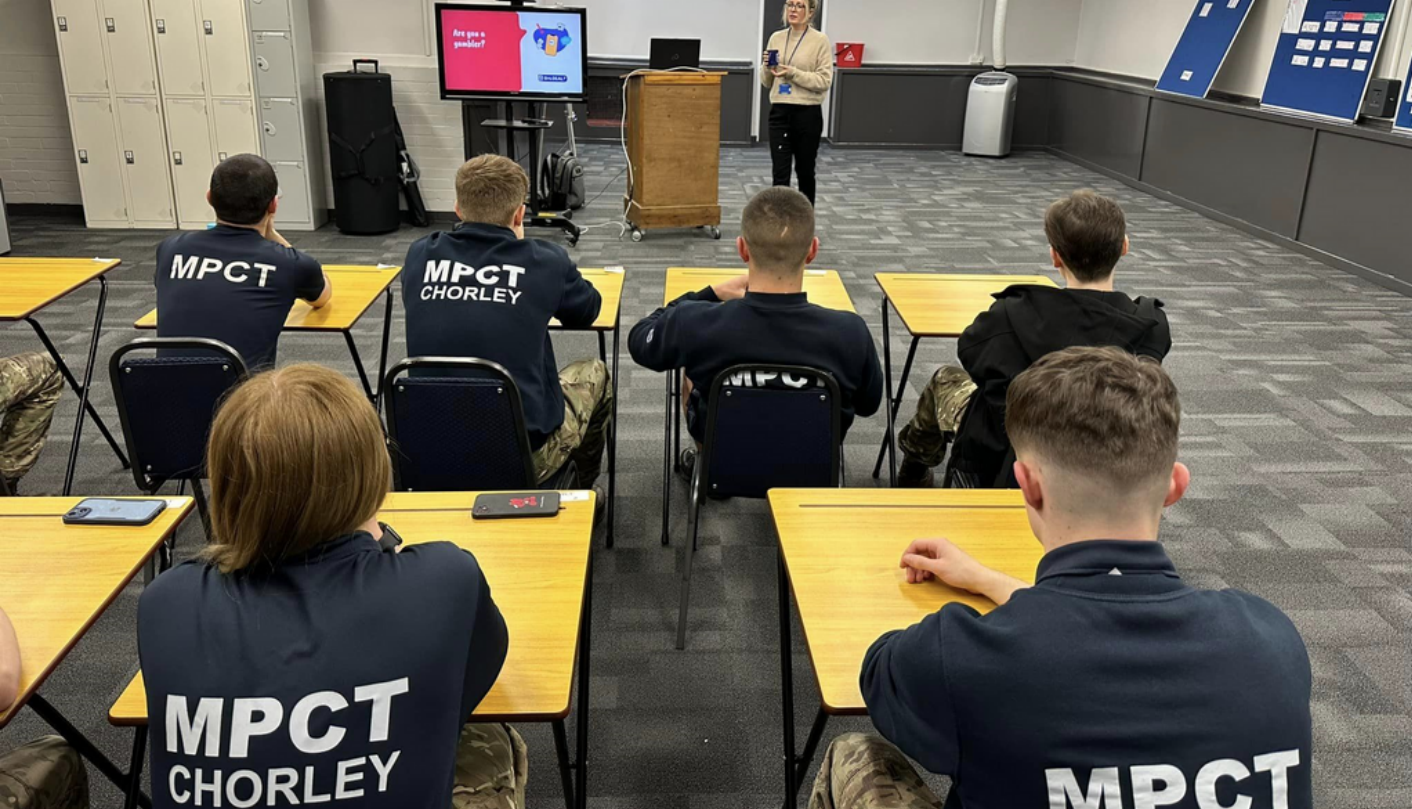


Strategic Objectives:

1. To increase the awareness of the dangers and harm associated with gambling amongst members of the whole force community.
2. To support the identification of early signs of such harms and to signpost support pathways and self-help tools.
3. To remove any perceived stigma – and organisational obstacles/barriers in seeking support.
4. To facilitate support, access to treatment, treatment, and post treatment support in an Armed Forces ‘friendly’ environment.
5. To ensure the impact of harm associated with gambling is known and understood by organisations supporting service. personnel/veterans with other challenges such as homelessness, mental health, and the criminal justice system so such support can be holistic.
6. To create a recognisable ‘brand’ and create a holistic/unified feel to the service, making it easier to understand, access and navigate.
7. To provide the Armed Forces community with an enduring and overarching network of gambling support services – via the Armed Forces Gambling Support Network.
8. To target our efforts regionally – Beacon Counselling Trust will strategically support the wider AFGSN nationally.



Gambling Related Harms in the Armed Forces Community



The **'Battling the Odds'** project aims to reduce the number of individuals within the armed forces community impacted by gambling harms and increase the number accessing varying levels of support by raising awareness, providing early intervention and education to those in the armed forces community. The **'Battling the Odds'** project will adopt a public health approach to tackle gambling related harms within the armed forces community whilst also being in line with the National Strategy to Reduce Gambling Harms.

To do this the project will raise awareness of these harms through the delivery of the **'Bet You Can Help'** programme within the armed forces community. This is a two tiered training programme which applies an every contact count methodology to equip the armed forces community with the skills, attitudes, knowledge and confidence to identify gambling harms in the armed forces community and provide early interventions to prevent the escalation of harm.

Learners will also be given the tools and information to refer or signpost those in need to support to appropriate, specialist services. The first tier of the programme is the **'Bet You Can Help Now!'** one hour introductory session which provides an overview of gambling related harms.

The programme's second tier is the **'Bet You Can Help'** Level 2 award accredited by the Royal Society for Public Health and regulated by Ofqual.

The 'Battling the Odds' project has three main elements:

- 1) Delivery of the **'Bet You Can Help'** gambling related harms training programme, featuring a module created specifically to address gambling harms within the armed forces community.
- 2) Development of a seamless referral pathway from multiple touchpoints within the armed forces community to the appropriate level of specialist support (BCT) for anyone at risk of or experiencing gambling related harms.
- 3) Raising awareness of gambling related harms through direct engagement with the armed forces community to reduce stigma of the issue and screen those within the community to identify any harms and provide appropriate levels of support.

 THE ARMED FORCES
COVENANT FUND TRUST





Part of this process will include developing seamless referral pathways into Beacon Counselling Trust's confidential treatment and support service to ensure the individual accesses the appropriate level of support and is able to access any partnering agencies to ensure a holistic service is provided i.e. debt advice, aftercare services, families project.

To ensure no gaps in support BCT operate a looped model of care to ensure service users can access support at any stage of their journey should relapse occur.

Our Target Audience:

- Serving Armed Forces Personnel and Reservists
- Cadets
- Armed Forces Families
- Partners and Spouses (Armed Forces Families)
- Parents and Siblings (Armed Forces Families)
- Veterans
- Veterans Under 25 (Early Service Leavers) (Veterans)
- Veterans 25 - 65+
- Children (Armed Forces Families)
- 11-18 (Armed Forces Families-Children)
- Parents (Armed Forces Families)

The 'Battling the Odds' project will support any member of the North West armed forces community from cadet and recruit right through to discharge and veterans.

Evidence suggests veterans are eight times more likely to experience gambling related harms so we feel it is important to support those who have left service also.

We also offer an educational programme specifically designed for young people which would raise awareness of gambling harms for cadets.

The project also would offer support for families as we know the impacts of an individuals gambling on families member can be severe, we offer both treatment and holistic support for anyone affected by another person's gambling through our therapeutic treatment offer and our families focused provision.

We aim to engage and offer support to not only the armed forces directly but also external organisations who give focus to this community in their work, such as Royal British Legion and SSAFA.

As gambling harms can present itself at any touchpoint in the life journey of a member of the armed forces BCT feel it important to ensure that whole community has access to support and intervention.

- Veterans are 8 times more likely to suffer gambling harms
- Up to 5% of RAF personnel believe gambling is an issue for them
- Members of the Armed Forces may relate to risk taking situations differently than the general public
- Traumatic events are key links to gambling related harm



Armed Forces Gambling Support Network Partners

Scotland

RCA Trust

Phone: 0141 887 0880

Email: info@rcatrust.org.uk

Website: <https://www.rcatrust.org.uk>



North West England

Beacon Counselling Trust

Phone: 0151 226 0696

Email: armedforces@beaconcounsellingtrust.co.uk

Website: <https://beaconcounsellingtrust.co.uk>



South West England and Wales

Ara Recovery for All

Phone: 0330 1340 286

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Website: <https://www.recovery4all.co.uk>



South East England

Breakeven

Phone: 01273 833 722

Email: info@breakeven.org.uk

Website: <https://www.breakeven.org.uk/>

Breakeven

London

BetKnowMore

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Email: info@betknowmoreuk.org

Website: <https://www.betknowmoreuk.org>





BEACON COUNSELLING TRUST
Reg. Charity No. 1140011

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Social media: @BCTNorthWest



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