

Joining forces to deliver services to improve health

VIC will be working alongside other agencies to deliver a £9million contract for community health and care services in Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale.

The three-year contract, which begins in the summer, has been awarded to Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust as the lead provider working in collaboration with local partner agencies.

A procurement exercise, managed by

NHS Heywood Middleton and Rochdale Clinical Commissioning Group, established that the new and unique partnership, led by Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, involving local organisations, was the strongest bid to meet the needs of local people.

VIC Chief Executive Liz Hamilton said: "As an organisation we have been working in the Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale areas for a number of years.

"We are delighted that the awarding of

this contract means our work can continue and will be able to expand to help even more veterans who maybe do not access the services they are entitled to."

VIC has been running outreach and projects in those areas since 2012.

Director of Commissioning at Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale CCG Ian Mello, said: "We were impressed with Pennine Acute's strong submission and their innovative approach to partnership working which will make the

teams more 'in touch' with their patients.

"These community and neighbourhood contacts will be used to provide a greater depth of knowledge and understanding of the clients thus making their health care more bespoke."

Steve Taylor, Divisional Director for integrated and community services at The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, said: "We are delighted to have secured this opportunity to work with local GP practices and local organisations in this unique partnership to

deliver our shared ambition of truly joined up health and care services for the people and families of Rochdale borough."

Other agencies involved in the project are: Age UK Rochdale, Bury and Rochdale Doctors on Call, GP Care Services Ltd, Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale Borough Wide Provider of HealthCare Services Greater Manchester Carers Trust, Link4life, Rochdale Borough wide Cultural Trust and Rochdale Housing Initiative.



Cheque presentation

CARING students who went on a trip to the First World War battlefields raised money to help today's veterans.

The trip to Belgium made by students from Alder Grange School, Rawtenstall,

was thought provoking and left the students with many memories.

On their return, they also raised money and presented a cheque for £150 to Veterans In Communities.

Millie Haworth, 14, said: "We held an assembly in school and also a number of fundraisers, non-uniform, we sold poppies and badges, made cakes and had a movie night."

Chief Executive Liz

Hamilton said: "We are very grateful to the students for the hard work they put into raising the money.

"It will be put to good use supporting the work we do with veterans to help them return, belong and prosper in their communities.



Overcoming Barriers

MEMBERS of the Wallasey area Royal Naval Association learnt more about the Overcoming Barriers project and about VIC when Outreach Workers Steve Butterworth and Claire Wright delivered a talk to a packed audience.

Veterans filmed for project

A NUMBER of veterans have been interviewed by Community Reporters as part of Overcoming Barriers, the veterans' initiative in Greater Manchester.

Outreach Worker Tony Stubbs, and others, carried out interviews at the VIC Centre about veterans' experience of accessing NHS services and any difficulties they had found.

There are also plans to film the

peer support offered by VIC through all our activities.

This will be included in the work being carried out as part of Overcoming Barriers project whose final report will be sent to NHS England to shape the future of health services for veterans.

Veterans can give feedback using the SMS texting service by texting IN to 60013.

For more information contact VIC on 01706 833180.



Raising awareness

VIC was one of 12 organisations invited to take part in a Time to Talk Day held at Greater Manchester Fire Training School.

Outreach worker Claire Wright and VIC member Chris Squires organised a presentation and display stand at the event.

We were invited to attend after several members of VIC attended a veterans' mental health first aid course. The event, to raise awareness of mental health issues, was organised by charity Time To Change.

Simon Weston talk

FALKLANDS veteran Simon Weston will be giving a talk and answering questions at Darwen Library Theatre on June 8 and tickets can be booked through VIC.

Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth has negotiated a discount off the normal charge of £20 per ticket.

Anyone who wants to attend should contact Steve on 01706 833180.

World record bid by veteran diver

A VETERAN will be making his second attempt to claim an underwater diving endurance world record and four charities, including VIC, will benefit by hopefully £1million.

Ex-Royal Engineer Mark Colman, 48, will be attempting the feat in June 2017.

The attempt will take place, exactly five years to the day since he unofficially broke the record. Unfortunately he was not able to provide the necessary proof to Guinness World Records even though he spent four days, four hours and 22 minutes underwater in 2012.

VIC Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "I have known Mark for over seven years and know some of the reasons behind this personal challenge, it was very disappointing for all those involved especially Mark when his first attempt wasn't recognised even though he was and still is the unofficial world record holder.

"Mark is a great role model and when he



Debby Richardson

contacted me to ask whether VIC would like to be one of the four charities, I felt honoured that he considered us as it was such worthwhile cause. We wish him all the best and have offered him as much support as we possibly can."

Mark, from Tenbury Wells, said: "I am 50 next year and so this is my last chance to get the record. I want to stay underwater for five days. Guinness allows a five minute break every so often with an endurance challenge, but I want to stay in the water the whole time."

To follow Mark's progress check out his blog <https://worldrecord-dive2012.wordpress.com/page/2/>

Canal walk for VIC

AFTER learning about the work of VIC, members of Church and Oswaldtwistle Rotary Club offered us the chance to raise money at an event.

On Sunday May 15 at 9am, Walk 4 Your Charity will be held along the banks of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, organised by the Rotary Club.

We are asking people to contact VIC if they would like to be sponsored to complete either 10k or 5k for VIC. To register contact 01706 833180.



BBC Radio Lancashire presenter Sally Naden visited VIC to broadcast live. Photos by Liz Henson Photography.



Our Chief Executive joined the Singing Group... can you caption this picture?



“My sincere thanks to the person or people who were responsible for placing a memorial tablet in memory of my Uncle Private Wilfred Trickett killed in WW1 in 1918.

I am sure you will know to whom to pass on my family's sincere thanks for this wonderful gesture; it has been very much appreciated.

Wilfred Trickett was killed 20 years before I was born, so obviously I never knew him. My father talked about him, his elder brother, a great deal, and I have always carried his memory all my life. My wife and I have visited his grave in Northern France at Abbeville, on at least three occasions, and as you can well imagine, his grave is always immaculately tended thanks to the tremendous work that the Imperial War Graves Commission do in this respect.

My family's grave is in Bacup Cemetery, and each Christmas my wife and I go to place a wreath on it. Imagine our surprise, a delighted surprise, to find this small stone tablet in memory of my Uncle Wilfred when we visited this last Christmas Eve.

So a huge thank you to all concerned. ”

Michael Trickett

Pte Trickett initially received a head wound on July 31 1917 while in France with the 7th Battalion Kings Own Loyal Lancasters. He was brought back to England and was in hospital at Knowsley Park, after recovery he was attached to the 1st Lincolnshire Battalion and returned to France. His body was found close to a level crossing, on the railway line from Abbeville to Le Trapout. He was taken to nearby No2 Stationary Hospital in France, but, on July 1 1918, he was pronounced dead, aged 22. He was buried in Abbeville Cemetery in the soldiers' ground.

VIC FC



WE HAVE formed our own football team to play in a local league.

VIC member from Darwen Alan Taylor asked if we would like to put a team together and he now manages our six players. The team is playing in the Blackburn with Darwen Social Inclusion Football League and matches are played at Blackburn Rovers Indoor Centre.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "The team did extremely well in their first games especially as they had not played together before and had never even had a kick-about together.

"They played six 10-minute games one after another so it was pretty exhausting. We had two brilliant goalkeepers in

Mark Culshaw and Chris Squires.

"Many people join the forces because of the physical activity and they often get the chance to play football. This is another good project for VIC; it gets veterans active and taking part in a competitive sport."

The team will be holding proper training sessions and is appealing for veterans and members of the community, aged 16+ to join the team.

The next match will be on March 18 and every month after until June

Outreach Worker Claire Wright is appealing for sponsorship for a kit and has approached local businesses.

For more details contact 01706 833180.

Pendle Hill in the mist

THE weather didn't stop VIC walking up Pendle Hill even though the mist meant there was no view from the top.

Five members of VIC braved the steps to climb the hill, but, because of the conditions, Operation Manager Bob Elliott said: "I wanted to see the view from the top to say that I had done it. Now I am going to have to climb it again with VIC later in the year.

Members also went on a stroll around Jumbles Reservoir, Bolton. The walk was arranged in Bolton so that it could be accessed more easily by members in Greater Manchester.

A full programme of outdoor activities is available on our website.

Allotment

OUR allotment in Helmshore has been cleaned up ready for planting this year.

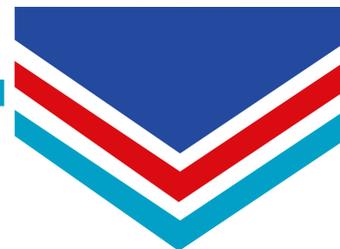
We are appealing for a shed and polytunnel and have been given a greenhouse which Outreach Worker Claire Wright has found paving flags to stand it on.

Anyone wanting to help on the allotment can contact Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth on 01706 833180.

Advice

THE VIC Centre is now being used on a weekly basis by four outside agencies offering advice sessions.

On Thursday morning the centre is used by Shelter and Citizens' Advice and on Fridays by Calico and the Wellbeing Service.



ROSSENDALE

Outreach Services MONDAY-FRIDAY

11am-1pm
VIC Centre, Bury Road, Haslingden,
BB4 5PL.

WEDNESDAY

10-12 noon
Central Methodist Church, Burnley Road,

Bacup, OL13 9AH.

Tai Chi

TUESDAY

2pm
VIC Centre, Bury Road, Haslingden,
BB4 5PL

Singing Group

THURSDAY

6.30-8.30pm

VIC Centre, Bury Road, Haslingden,
BB4 5PL.

Art Group and drop-in

TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS

11am-3pm VIC Centre, Bury Road,
Haslingden, BB4 5PL.

Walking Group

Walks will be held on the 2nd and 4th
Thursdays. Weather permitting.

HEYWOOD, MIDDLETON AND ROCHDALE

Outreach Service THURSDAYS

10am-12pm
1 Riverside, Rochdale OL16 1UB.

WEDNESDAY - every week

11.30am-1.30

Lighthouse Project, Warwick Mill,

Middleton M24 1AZ

Walking Group

Walks will be held on the 2nd and 4th
Thursdays and are combined with the
Rossendale walking group.

PENDLE

Outreach Service

TUESDAY

10am-noon
Pendle Rise Shopping Centre, Nelson,
BB9 9SL.

VIC – 01706 833180

Chief Executive Liz Hamilton

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07961 554 006

Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth

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Outreach Worker Claire Wright

clairewright@veteransincommunities.org

Volunteer Outreach Worker Tony Stubbs

tonystubbs@veteransincommunities.org

Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell

darrenhorsnell@veteransincommunities.org

Volunteer Outreach Worker and Music Project

Co-ordinator Peter Webster

peterwebster@veteransincommunities.org

Combat Stress Helpline

0800 138 1619

NHS Military Veterans Psychological Therapies Service (NW)

0161 253 6638

The Royal British Legion

0808 802 8080 (7 days a week 8am-8pm)

SSAFA

email Lancashire@ssafa.org.uk

01772 260 462

Rossendale Citizens' Advice

03444 889 622

The Samaritans

01706 830999

Mental Health Helpline

0800 915 4640 Mon to Fri 7pm - 11pm

Sat & Sun 12 noon to 12 midnight

Royal Air Forces Association

01772 426930

Veterans UK Free Helpline

0808 1914 218

East Lancashire Single Point of

Access via GP or self-referral

01282 657116

Positive ART

One Stop Art Shop



VIC has its own arts and crafts shop based at 4 Bury Road, Rawtenstall, BB4 6AA near the junction with Bacup Road.

Opening times

Thursday	10am-5pm
Friday	10am-5pm
Saturday	10am-5pm
Sunday	11am-3pm

Tel: 07437874696

positiveart@veteransincommunities.org

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If you want to donate to support the work of Veterans In Communities please visit our website and click on the secure PayPal link

www.veteransincommunities.org

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