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Clare Haughey MSP
Convener
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

19 March 2026

Dear Clare,

I am delighted to notify the Committee of the publication of “*Care, Community, Camaraderie*” - our Veterans Mental Health and Wellbeing National Framework. A link to the Framework is provided below:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/veterans-mental-health-wellbeing-pathway-national-framework/>

The Committee will be aware of the Armed Forces Covenant. The Covenant places a legal duty on specified public bodies to have due regard to its principles when exercising relevant functions in healthcare, education, and housing.

Within that context, the Framework sets out our Vision, Values, and Principles for high-quality mental health and wellbeing support for veterans. As well as acting as a central statement of what good looks like, the Framework will in turn inform the design of the forthcoming Veterans Mental Health and Wellbeing Pathway, which will set out how statutory and third sector services will work to ensure that the mental health and wellbeing needs of veterans can be met.

The core aim of the Framework, and the anticipated national Pathway, is to ensure that we create the conditions so that all veterans living in Scotland are able to access safe, timely and appropriate care and support for their mental health and wellbeing no matter where they live.

A central element of the Framework, and the Pathway, is the introduction of a “hub-and-spoke” model. This approach will provide national consistency, but still allow for local flexibility around veterans’ mental health and wellbeing support. A national digital hub will serve as the main entry point, for the veteran or with the veterans’ consent their representative offering an online referral route, self-help resources, and veteran-specific wellbeing and clinical guidance. This will be crucial in ensuring that each veteran only has to ask for help once, and does not have to repeat their story multiple times. Local “spokes” will connect statutory services with third-sector organisations, ensuring veterans can always access the right care and support, at the right time, wherever they live.

The model outlined by the Framework represents a very significant national change to both service delivery, and to how veterans can access support. This new model has been developed specifically to address concerns we have heard relating to the current consistency and

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accessibility of services for our veterans. The involvement of those with lived experience in the design process has been invaluable.

Work will now focus on implementing the Framework in practice. We will continue to work with veterans themselves, statutory partners, and the third sector, to phase the implementation of the national Pathway, so that our veterans are never without support at any stage of this process.

I hope the Committee finds this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Tom Arthur MSP
Minister for Social Care and Mental Wellbeing

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