

Feedback Summary

Surrey Armed Forces Covenant Conference 2023

15 March 2023 – ATC Pirbright

Brief Summary:

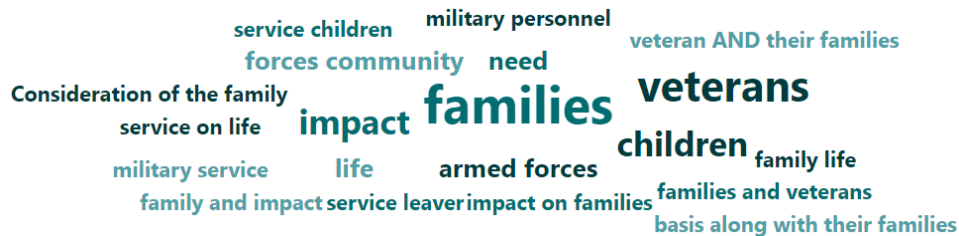
- Highest number of bookings recorded, with over 100 people registered before the agenda was announced
- 150 attended
- 100% of those who provided feedback said they found the conference informative.
- Responses received highlight that the speakers and their personal stories were the most valued element of the conference.
- Lack of time was the biggest challenge

Feedback received via email:

- I thoroughly enjoyed the agenda yesterday and from chatting to people in the breaks and afterwards, I wasn't the only one!
I have made some new contacts which are going to pay dividends with supporting the veteran community.
- We are wondering if possible the Video re how it is to be a military spouse could be made available to us or if you could reach out to here for permission for our service to be able to show this when we are doing our Veteran Aware/AFC training to our teams etc? We found this quite a powerful and frank video and feel that our staff would benefit from seeing this
- It was great to interact with so many people at lunch.
- Still reflecting on your cracking conference.
- Just a note to personally thank you and your fantastic team for a brilliant day yesterday. It was thoroughly enjoyable and informative and I am enormously envious of the support you are able to muster. And meeting Johnson Beharry was the icing on the cake!
You have given me hope for the future!
- One of the best to date. I think personally that having so many different contributors from school children to veterans was a really interesting part of the conference, it painted a fascinating picture of the army through different sets of eyes.
- Very well organised with amazing speakers, especially moving contributions from those serving, veterans and families of service people, very humbling experience with lots to ponder over.
- The event could not have gone any better, thanks to all your hard work to bring so many disparate people together from around the county and beyond! You joined dots superbly between different organisations and roles associated with the Civil-Military relationship. I have to say that all of the morning's speakers were superb and made the time before lunch quite emotional. All of the speakers generated a great deal of interest and the need to follow-up in some areas.

Responses via online Feedback Form:

What key point will you take away with you from the conference?



The impact on families and veterans

The struggles the armed forces community face

The power of the personal stories

There are several issues affecting serving military personnel ,families and veterans where they are discriminated in our society that need to be addressed.

That we need to do everything we can to accommodate military leavers in to civilian jobs and inspire other organisations to do the same!

Some of the inspiring stories from the day were really insightful.

The struggles servicing personnel face on a daily basis along with their families

The value of hearing differing viewpoints

The significant improvement in the offer to veterans over recent years

The schools talk

Consideration of the family and impact of military service on life after service for all not jus the service leaver, but their spouse and children

Fantastic work that is taking place, network collaboration.

Surry is doing really well at addressing veterans' issues

Resilience

knowledge of the wider impacts on an officers life e.g. service children

The value of Reserve Forces

Everyone who has served is a veteran AND their families are considered

That Surrey are doing all the right things for the Armed forces community which is great to see.

The impact on the children and the partner

The need to maintain, enthusiasm, interest and commitment to all elements of the Armed Forces community, particularly those that influence family life.

Actions speak louder than words.

that the AFC (or at least its application) is evolving and adapting and dare I say improving with time as more stakeholders adopt its principles

What did you like most about the event?



Foreword thinking presentations & consideration of children's support

Morning speakers

The speakers were excellent.

Johnson Beharry guest was incredible

I particularly enjoyed the personal testimonials from those who are serving or have served learning and families about the issues affecting them.

The speakers from the Forces were amazing, especially the two amazing 15 year old's, the military spouse, the Chelsea Pensioner and Johnson Beharry

Johnson Beharry's life story

The stories from serving personnel sharing they journeys, the children, the military wife, the Head Teacher of Kings International and of course Johnson Beharry was the highlight.

The varied programme

You wonderful cohort of speakers!

most of the content

Johnson Beharry's inspiring talk, However all the speakers were inspiring and gave real insight into life across the board for all service personnel

All the guest speakers, absolute privilege to hear real stories of their lives, great to hear the children's accounts and then finished by Johnson Beharry's heroism.

Varied speakers

the life stories were amazing

the speakers

Journey through the Services and Keynote Speaker

variety of speakers throughout the day

the personal stories that everyone told

Guest speakers bringing it to life

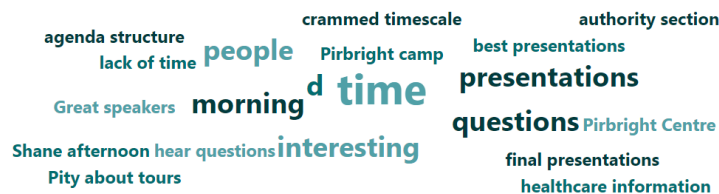
speakers, hearing real life stories

The spectrum of subjects covered and the honesty of the presentations and discussions.

Keynote speaker and openness and forth righted views of the speakers

The Speakers, both in person and online, were very impressive and put practical experience of the AFC and military life on front of providers who may not have experienced military life

What did you like least?



Needed more breaks!

Lack of opportunity to ask questions/ hear questions. Great speakers but Shane afternoon slots so rushed

The poor time management, agenda structure and the chiring. Some of the best presentations were at the end when it had overrun and people were leaving. The presentations could have been more evenly spread out through the day

The lack of time

Nothing springs to mind . Pity about tours around ATR Pirbright Centre

There should have been more breaks in the morning - it was a lot to sit through and ran behind

Some of the interesting speeches were rushed - perhaps too much packed in to an agenda

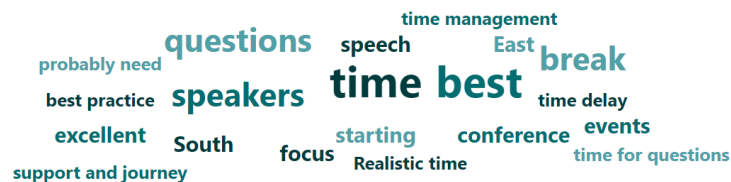
Nothing

Entering Pirbright camp

NHS and local authority section, as most of us were already aware, the cramped timescale id not help.

in context of the conference was not sure why the ICS was being explained but it was interesting to me
Nothing - it was amazing.
Nothing
Long morning session
All seemed rushed.
n/a
I liked everything
the fact that it went over time and people were unable to ask questions
nil
took a while to get into the camp, but ID at all was checked
The slight problems caused by over running and the impact on those delivering the final presentations.
Strategic healthcare information was not relevant to me.
Its a year until the next one

Suggestions for next conference:



Short tea break AM & PM

Allow more time for questions
Realistic time management of items
I think too much is put into the agenda as last year we also ran out of time.
Invite defence Secretary to give key note speech and answer questions about both situation of serving personnel ,families and veterans.s
There was a big focus on Government and public services organisations - it would be great to highlight larger corporates who can engage with the Armed Forces too
More interactive conference - break away for workshops at some point in the day to enable more discussion in groups. More focus needed for longer speeches and opportunity for more questions.

I have attend nearly all if not all of the conferences and this years was most definitely the best. The raw personal stories make if so you never forget the overall message of the covenant, and they are the part I will never forget truly humbling.
No, it was all very good. Very well organised.
More of the same, but with wider South East participation!
no
Allow more time for starting as queues to get in led to start time delay and then speakers over ran - they probably need more time
Keep up the excellent variety of speakers.
Needed at least one morning break
More life stories
n/a
Another Keynote Speaker
More of the same it was fantastic. I have had the privileged to attend many of these events and this one by far was the most outstanding!!
It would be good if you get get Veterans in to talk about there difficulties and the support and journey they went through being supported by a charity - those who struggled with housing, mental and physical injuries that have come through the other side highlighting what support they had from start to finish.
None
It would be good to hear more about best practice within the County, as we heard from the GP.
Pirbright is an excellent choice, given its facilities.
It might be nice to produce a directory of relevant contacts throughout the South East so that conversations may continue post event

Other comments:



As times overran it was difficult to manage to speak with many people and see all the displays, so missed out on many things

Being a former Army Reservist I feel slightly disappointed about the lack of support one receives. They seem to cast you away once you have completed your service career. The MOD should have a body to check the well being of former serving Army Reserve personnel many of which have served on operations which may have impacted upon this. They need to keep a record of these Army Reservists so local services can support them.

Brilliant day!

I am a Carers Practice advisor for Surrey county council, my job is to ensure that no one is left behind often this is the case with Carers especially someone caring for a veteran, I would very much like to talk about this at your next Conference if you could spare a 5 minute slot for myself and my colleagues to give some ideas about making carers visible.

I do hope these conferences continue, they are a very valuable research and keep the AFC current even in times of relative peace for our armed forces

I thought that it was an excellent, well balanced and very well organised conference with much to take away in terms of information and issues to be addressed, some of which are beyond the County to address. particularly those relating to MoD processes.

Thanks for having us, it was really worthwhile

Thanks. Great opportunity to learn more

This was a well prepared conference enjoyed by all who attended.

What an inspiring day, thank you! I was so touched by the personal stories that were shared, but also picked up some really great tips, advice and contact details

Your staff did a fantastic job, well done to all concerned.

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