

Feedback Summary

Surrey Armed Forces Covenant Conference 2023

7 March 2024 – ATC Pirbright

Brief Summary:

- A brilliant response when the date was announced. Over 190 people had registered to attend the conference before the agenda was announced.
- The EDI theme of the day was felt to be sensitively and constructively handled.
- The additional time for networking built in to the day was positively received. More stands than in previous years and all were well attended.
- The team at Pirbright were outstanding and instrumental in the day running so smoothly.

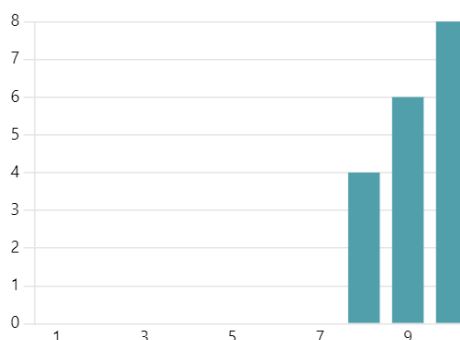
Some of the feedback received via email:

- Good to see our community come together to share such real insights – remarkably educational.
- It was an impressive event. The proceedings, general organisation, and catering were all very good.
- Such an amazing day with beautiful people.
- It was a fantastic day. Thoroughly informative and thank you so much for inviting me to speak.
- As ever I learned more than I imparted and was particularly impressed with the Pirbright Team and Caroline's excellent briefing.
- Thanking you for a most interesting, informative and enjoyable visit to Surrey Armed Forces Covenant Conference. I realise what a load of hard work goes into organising and hosting this event – so please accept my thanks and appreciation for you to you and your colleagues.
- The best ever, I learned so much. An outstanding day - very well organised – excellent speakers.

Responses via online Feedback Form (18 responses):

How informative did you find the Surrey Armed Forces Covenant Conference? Please allocate a mark out of ten by choosing the relevant number below?

9.22
Average Rating



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

Inclusion matters. We can all make changes to be more inclusive and support those who serve.

How collaborative the county is.

Inclusivity

the variety of supporting agencies that are available

The diversity of the British Army today compared to the 70's, 80's and 90's

The strong and passionate support that Surrey provides to veterans

I really enjoyed inclusion before diversity presentation and hope to develop a similar presentation internally. Also for the carer's presentation 'think of their 5-9 before you think of their 9-5'

Many, but if I had to choose it would be around how much progress the army has made with inclusion and anti-discriminatory practice.

The honest and thought provoking way the speakers explained their emotional and physical journeys, highlighting the real, albeit slow, progress that has been made, which must continue.

How the armed forces has become more inclusive

the scope of people in the armed forces

I was not aware of Forces Connect, to help navigate the multiple services for people that have served

Diversity and inclusion

E & D and how we may have moved on but not enough

The Army's journey so far

Further insight into the personal accounts from serving and ex-serving armed forces and how my organisation can support in relation to the Armed Forces Covenant.

The work already being undertaken, which I was not aware of, around the importance of inclusion and diversity at Pirbright and the wider army in the South East. The day highlighted well the experiences and challenges faced by serving personnel due to their background, and what they have had to do to overcome these best they can. Really informative and interesting day.

We would really value your feedback and input. Please share below your suggestions or improvements for next years' conference.

More of the same!

Success stories from veterans who are being supported by various charities and organisations.

The event ran very well. Great motivational speakers, time for networking.

I can't think of any major improvements. Maybe it would be good to have a section on the opportunity open to volunteer with the NHS?

All good

The location is hard to get to, in the middle of no where, no hotels, excludes people with no id and is so hard with people who do not drive

I was looking forward to 'coping with and overcoming diversity' but the content didn't really follow that (although it was still very good!)

It was excellent, the room was very hot but otherwise everything was well organized.

Thought the whole day was perfect although I must admit the main room was a little warm

The entire day was amazing! There is only one tiny thing and that is how hot it gets in the upper rows, perhaps leave both doors open next time to get a bit of air flow. An extra big shout out to Caroline who spoke from Fighting with Pride, incredible person feels like the understatement of the year. Very large well done to everyone involved!!

A good day all round. Shared a lot of information in the networking breaks. Maybe not so long a queue for the tea somehow as it seemed to waste valuable time. I managed to connect with a lot of people who had previously only been 'names' on an email and it's given me a few ideas moving forward. My special interest are 'Veteran's Hubs' so it was interesting to see a short film there.

Bacon rolls on arrival 😊

It would be great to see if other key areas have been discussed to be included in the AFC, such as social services and any further housing options my team can refer to / access.

Perhaps opportunity for part of the day to be split in to small, seminar style sessions where there is a wider discussion on specific topics.

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