



19/04/16

news release

NEW FUNDS FOR MATTHEW PROJECT TO SUPPORT VETERANS

The Matthew Project has been awarded £76,000 to continue supporting servicemen and women and veterans in Norfolk and Suffolk who struggle with drug and alcohol misuse. The *Outside the Wire* project is based at the Britannia Veterans Centre, Norwich, which was recently opened by General Sir Lord Dannatt.

The new funding has enabled the team, who are all veterans themselves, to continue to support service users to reduce their alcohol or drug taking, tackle mental health problems, including PTSD and help them cope with everyday situations. The project aims to work with veterans and their families as they readjust to 'normal' civilian life.

Andy Wicks, manager of The Matthew Project's *Outside the Wire*, said, "Being veterans ourselves, the team understands the challenges our service users face. Knowing that we've had similar experiences makes them more comfortable to talk about their problems."

Outside the Wire can help veterans and current serving personnel of Her Majesty's Armed Forces and their families through tough times with services including 1:1 sessions and family support work all across Norfolk and Suffolk.

He added, "We're thrilled to be part of the Britannia Veterans' Centre as it's made it really easy for people who have served their country in the armed forces to access whatever support they need."

- More follows -

If you have been affected by the substance misuse of a loved one with an armed forces connection, please contact 01603 611708 between 9am and 5pm or email andy.wicks@matthewproject.org for more information.

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About The Matthew Project

The Matthew Project is a charitable organisation supporting individuals affected by substance misuse, be it their own or that of others. They offer professional advice, information, counselling, support, care and education to young people, adults and veterans across Norfolk and Suffolk.

For more information, please call James Marlow or Lisa Hallett on 01603 626123