

## VOLUNTEERING FOR VETERANS CHAPLAINCY SCOTLAND

Veterans Chaplaincy Scotland (VCS) is an initiative within Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland (WPCS), and therefore many aspects of how we recruit, train, deploy and support our volunteer chaplains is identical to WPCS. The attached notes **Volunteering for WPCS** give a good outline of what we are looking for, and how the process works in practice.

In recruiting VCS Volunteer Chaplains, we are looking for individuals who have experience or a good awareness of military service, and with the following qualities:

- Personal active Christian faith
- Comfortable working with veterans and the veteran community
- Pastorally sensitive
- Ecumenically open
- Has time available – flexible but perhaps 8-10 hours / month

VCS Volunteer Chaplains are required to undertake the WPCS Foundation Training Courses: The five essential modules for volunteer chaplains are:

- Introduction to WPCS
- Active Listening
- Building Resilience in the Workplace
- Confidentiality & Safeguarding
- Engaging in Organisational Cultures

These are ½ day courses which are run throughout the year.

In addition, VCS will offer its own focussed training modules on topics such as:

- Trauma and Moral Injury
- Mental Health First Aid
- TRIM

We recognise that the needs of those members of the veterans community who come to us for support will vary greatly. A good number will require sign-posting to specialised and qualified agencies and practitioners. We are not expecting our volunteer chaplains to have all the answers. We are keen, however, to recruit individuals with particular skills. We want to avoid being jacks-of-all-trades and masters of none. Your calling is important to VCS, and we are happy to explore how you would fit into the team.

## Volunteering for WPCS

Demand for our services is growing and we urgently need new volunteers to enter our training programme.

Volunteering with WPCS is undertaken by individuals from a variety of backgrounds and experiences, both ordained and non-ordained. Their motivation is to offer pastoral care and support to men and women in the workplace. While all volunteers come from a Christian background and will be sustained, supported and often sponsored by their sending church, they understand that chaplaincy is not about making converts, but offering respect, compassion and care to people from all cultural and belief backgrounds.

Across the country, our volunteers offer a confidential listening ear and where necessary, signpost people experiencing particular challenges in their lives to more specialised support. Chaplaincy is about being available and letting the individual set the temperature of the water before you venture in. You have to have an open approach to people and have to win the right to speak to them at any level.

Could you be that chaplain? With training and a team around you, could you help someone stay resilient through illness, bereavement, health or money worries?

As a volunteer you can gain confidence, a new insight into your own faith and develop skills which make a real difference to your own continued professional development. As one volunteer chaplain said: 'It makes my faith real.'

Within WPCS, we also recognise the importance of providing our volunteers with regular training, feedback and a say in any decisions that are made. We will also make a commitment to our volunteers to help them to develop their abilities as chaplains offering, those who so wish, the possibility of moving into full-time chaplaincy.