



Veterans & Families – Listening Project

email: veteransnfamilies@yahoo.com

www.vflp.org.uk



Welcome to our

August 2022

Newsletter

Hello!

Hope that you
have been
enjoying the

lovely sunshine and warm summer weather. Summer is one of our favourites seasons. It's warm, laid back, and may-be it's a perfect time to plan for the future. So we have put some information together for you to read, and pass-on to others, it may well maximize your summer this year.

V&F-LP are planning to open on the

Monday 12th September 2022

10:00am – 1:00pm



Supply of accessible homes to receive vital boost

From: [Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities](#) and [Eddie Hughes MP](#)
Published 29 July 2022

New homes will be more accessible for older and disabled people as the government today confirms plans to raise the accessibility standard.

- Government responds to consultation on raising accessibility standards in new homes
- Confirms next steps on plans to raise minimum accessibility requirements
- Leading stakeholders welcome “positive step”

New homes will be more accessible for older and disabled people as the government today (29 July) confirms plans to raise the accessibility standard following full consultation of proposals.

The raising accessibility standards for new homes [consultation](#) proposed staying with the existing framework for accessible housing, reconsidering the way existing standards are used or raising the minimum standard. We are now committing to raising the minimum standard, giving people the dignity and security they deserve in their homes.

Raising the minimum accessibility standard will require all new homes to have step-free access to all entrance level rooms and facilities as well as further features to make homes more easily adaptable over time, supporting people to live independent lives.

Since 2010 we have given councils over £4.5 billion to deliver almost half a million home adaptations. Current planning rules already mean councils must consider the needs of older and disabled people when planning for new homes.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/supply-of-accessible-homes-to-receive-vital-boost>



**FIZZIN'
WITH
FLAVOUR**



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Anzac Portal

Sharing our military and service history through the experiences of Australian veterans

Look through the Anzac Portal to uncover the experiences of the people who have served Australia in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations. The hardship of overseas service extends to the family and friends they leave behind. We commemorate their service and sacrifice.

£6 million funding to improve housing and support for vulnerable tenants

Vulnerable tenants living in supported housing with little support will see significant improvements as councils are given funding to drive up standards.



From: [Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities](#) and [Eddie Hughes MP](#)

Published 3 August 2022

- Funding for councils to improve conditions for vulnerable tenants living in supported housing
- Today's allocations follow pilots which successfully tested new enforcement measures including a property inspection regime and creation of new multi-disciplinary teams to speed up enforcement
- Increased enforcement will drive up housing standards and level of support for vulnerable people and ensure unscrupulous landlords are deterred

Vulnerable tenants living in poor-quality supported housing with little to no support from providers will see significant improvements as government helps councils crackdown on unscrupulous landlords.

Birmingham, Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Hull councils will receive over £6 million from the government's £20 million Supported Housing Improvement Programme to carry out more frequent and thorough inspections of supported housing.

Supported housing provides accommodation alongside care, support, or supervision for residents who may have experience of homelessness, mental health issues or domestic abuse. Schemes should provide them with the skills and confidence needed to enter longer-term accommodation and live more independent lives.

Many residents receive good quality, tailored support but the government is aware there are instances of supported housing landlords providing unacceptable levels of support while charging extortionate rents.

The government wants to ensure that people in supported housing who need help with turning their lives around – for example after a crisis such as rough sleeping or homelessness – can do so in decent accommodation and with the right support. This programme funds councils to use enforcement measures, such as inspections, to improve quality and value for money in the provision of supported housing by landlords.

Supported housing should provide suitable, safe, hazard-free accommodation which meets tenants' needs, and also the right support, for example supervision, advice, or help with life skills, to help tenants live independently in the community. Poor performing landlords will need to improve and provide better accommodation and support for their vulnerable tenants, such as carrying out support reviews with the tenant and referring them to specialist agencies if needed.

Those failing to do so face enforcement action. Councils have the power to issue penalty charge notices, prohibition orders that could stop part or all of the building being used, and to prosecute where poor accommodation standards risk the health and safety of residents.

Today's announcement follows successful pilots in the 4 council areas, which helped them carry out over 1,000 property inspections of supported housing. An independent evaluation found the pilot schemes had a positive impact on councils' ability to manage their local supported housing – they were able to establish innovative and effective ways of working, take action to improve standards and ensure costs are reasonable. From: [Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities](#) and [Eddie Hughes MP](#)

50 WAYS TO WAKE YOUR HUMAN

A Collection of Cat Cartoons by Scott Metzger



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Veterans & Families – Listening Project
email: veteransfamilies@yahoo.com
www.vflp.org.uk

V&F-LP is an independent member of ASDIC.
The association of Ex-Service Drop-in Centres,
Linking Veterans' Drop-ins together across the
United Kingdom.



M6toll

Mobility Exemption Pass

Information & application form

Toll exemption for disabled customers

Are you eligible for a Mobility Exemption Pass?

If you are disabled or an organisation which transports disabled persons you may be entitled to toll exemption for your vehicle when using the M6toll motorway (the "M6toll"). Please check the criteria in sub-paragraphs (A) and (B) below to see if you and your vehicles are eligible for exemption before making an application in writing using the Mobility Exemption Pass application form.

(A) A vehicle is an exempt vehicle when it is being used, or kept for use, by or for the purposes of a disabled person who satisfies sub-paragraph (B) if-

- (i) the vehicle is registered under the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994 (the "Act") in the name of the disabled person; and
- (ii) no other vehicle registered in his or her name under the Act is an exempt vehicle under this sub-paragraph (A).

(B) A disabled person satisfied this sub-paragraph if-

- (i) he or she is in receipt of, and is claiming, a disability living allowance by virtue of entitlement to the mobility component at the higher rate;
- (ii) he or she is in receipt of a mobility supplement, or
- (iii) he or she has obtained, or is eligible for, a grant under-
 - (a) paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the National Health Service Act 1977;
 - (b) section 46(3) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978; or
 - (c) article 30(3) of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972; in relation to the vehicle.

Organisations, which operate a vehicle used for the carriage of disabled people, are eligible for toll exemption if the vehicle is recognised by the Secretary of State for such purposes.

If you're unsure call our Customer Services Team on 0870 850 6262

Please note that a Blue Badge (formerly Orange Badge) cannot be accepted as proof of entitlement.



Remembering the Guinea Pig Club



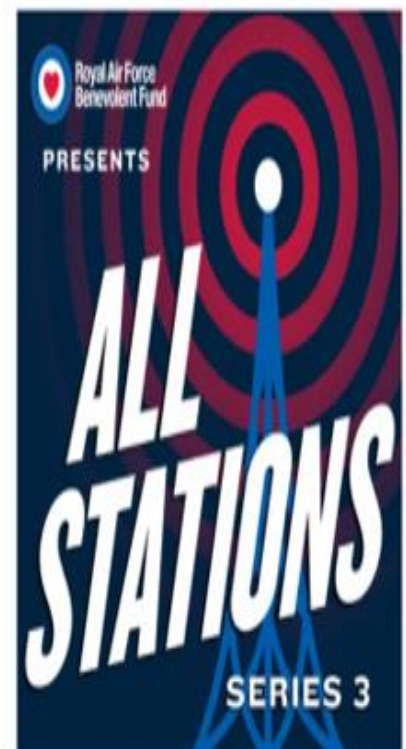
Join us and listen as we explore the history and legacy of the Guinea Pig Club on its 80th anniversary.

The Guinea Pig Club were a group of young airmen who survived fiery crashes during the Second World War. Plastic Surgeon Sir Archibald McIndoe formed a social group of brave men and encouraged members not to hide their injuries and live full, active and happy lives.

In Series Three of All Stations, we listen to the real-life stories from the Guinea Pig Club members, as we learn of their triumphs against the obstacles they faced.

Series three is presented by historian Victoria Taylor, Writer Jed Mercurio, Actress Fiona Dolman and many others, including our RAF Benevolent Fund Ambassador Mike Goody. Find out more about all our supporters who have contributed to the Series Three Podcast,

here.



The Guinea Pig Club

<https://www.rafbf.org/guinea-pig-club/supporters>

Kingsclear Memory Cafe



8am to 10am - Last Thursday of Every Month

Join us for our Memory Cafe to hear from our team and guest speakers providing information and advice around living well with dementia. It is an opportunity to ask questions and share experiences in a safe and supportive environment.

Get in
touch

Call us on freephone 0808 223 5516
Email to book a place j.barr@caringhomes.org
Park Road, Camberley
Surrey, GU15 2LN

Kingsclear
CARING HOMES

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V&F-LP is an independent member of ASDIC.
The association of Ex-Service Drop-in Centres.
Linking Veterans' Drop-ins together across the
United Kingdom.





☆ *Reminder* ☆

September

12

☆ *Open* ☆

☆ *10:00am - 1:00pm*

We look forward to seeing you on

Monday 12th September

10:00 am onwards, until 1:00pm.

As always, we thank you for your continuing interest as well as support for our Armed Forces Veterans & families.



Thank you
VETERANS
HONOURING ALL WHO SERVED



Take care

From the team V&F-LP

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