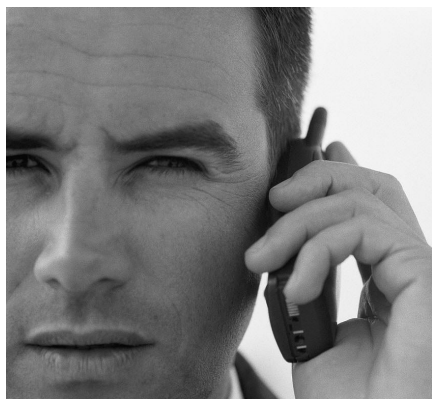




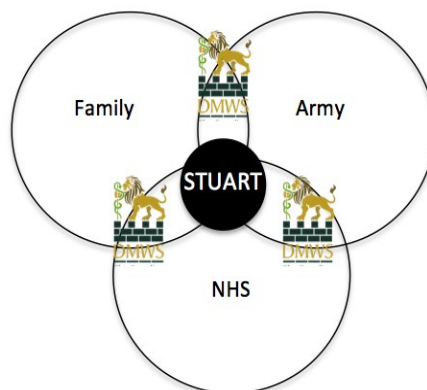
DMWS Welfare Officers are there to support members of the Armed Forces Community facing periods of ill-health, twenty four hours a day and seven days a week. Our staff are highly trained and offer time, support and reassurance to all. Stuart's story demonstrates that our service users are always at the very centre of our work and that no problem is ever too big or too small.



1. Stuart is a 20-year old serving soldier. He was admitted to a Mental Health Unit with acute anxiety and suspected Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. He had no family in the area to support him.
2. Stuart was suspicious of the medical and military staff and as a result, often presented as aggressive. He was visited by DMWS and after time, admitted that he was scared and knew he needed help.
3. DMWS arranged for Stuart's family to stay near the MH Unit, to ease his anxiety. He was diagnosed with PTSD and became frightened that he would be sent back to his Garrison alone.



4. DMWS liaised with Stuart's Commanding Officer, who was unaware of the severity of his condition and gave assurances that he would not be ordered back to camp.
5. This assurance helped Stuart to re-establish trust in his chain of command. DMWS arranged a meeting with his Personal Recovery Officer.
6. Stuart's condition caused him to be very anxious about the meeting. DMWS worked with him in the lead up to the meeting and accompanied him to it.



7. During the next five months, Stuart attempted suicide on four occasions. DMWS were there to provide non-judgemental support to him and his family each and every time.
8. DMWS provided a vital link between the military, the clinical staff and Stuart's family. He was introduced to peer support and later began a volunteering role to increase his confidence.

*"I just wanted to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for all the help and support DMWS gave me and my family over the past months. I am still volunteering and have decided to take a course in furniture making. I am looking forward to the future, which is something I couldn't have said earlier this year. Thanks again to you all"*

