

# Family Support Group



*A family canal boat trip in 2013*

Veterans in Communities (VIC) is an ex-services charity based in East Lancashire. Established in September 2012, VIC supports ex-service personnel, their families and members of the uniformed services who have experienced difficulties re-integrating with the community on returning to civilian life.

VIC offer support to the families of serving and ex service personnel. This also includes members of other uniformed services.

In 2013 VIC Family Support Group was started in recognition of the challenges and struggles that the partners of ex-service personnel and the partners of the uniform services may face.



*A canal boat trip March 2014*



*A group trip to Imperial War Museum*

They too can experience some transitional issues after their partners leave the services due the different life style associated with service life. These difficulties can be similar and different to their partners.

Support for partners has become very topical during this period of massive redundancies taking place across all three services. Families are finding themselves requiring new homes, employment, schools, GP's etc. VIC is able to offer a local information service alongside a peer support network that has experienced this transitional process. The need for a Family Support Group will inevitably increase as the UK move towards a larger Reservist Armed Services that will be living alongside their civilian counterparts. They can experience isolation from the support networks available to families within the Regular Armed Services.



*A family fishing day in Heywood*

Many armed service families suffer from marital and family breakdown and one of the services of the Family Support Group is to advise and provide information on single parenting issues. Other information can include; benefit claims, school holiday services, life skills, and local community services they can access.

The Family Support Group works closely with other charities and organisations specialising in these specific areas.

VIC has often been approached by the family members of serving personnel while out and about in the community who require some advice, information and support, often whilst their partners are on deployment.

VIC members are able to give support, reassurance and information to them from a personal perspective offering a level of peer support that families in the armed services are used to when they lived in services accommodation.



*Family day tug-of-war*



*Family Support group joining in with the weekly art group*

We offer family friendly activities and events. A get together specifically for partners and children on request and separate support visits.