Woundcare4Heroes goes from strength to strength

CLAIRE STEPHENS Complex Wound Manager, Founder and CEO, Woundcare4Heroes he Woundcare4Heroes charity was launched on 14 June 2012, with a mission to support wound care provision for injured veterans across the UK, while supporting NHS clinicians with educational programmes in the field of ballistic injury. Fundraising initiatives, operational service scoping, and educational event planning began while awaiting our charity registration number, which arrived in September 2012.

Woundcare4Heroes actively participated in the 2012 Wounds UK Conference in Harrogate, delivering a well-received session on ballistic injuries and exhibiting at the event to raise awareness of our charity, as well as forge links with specialist nurses across the UK.

The charity's operational division became live on 7 January 2013 to initiate service plans at charity hubs in Birmingham and Cardiff. A secure telemedicine database is currently under development that will facilitate data sharing across the country with the aim of incorporating 3D imagery. This database will provide a platform for future communication and research opportunities in this area of care.

An injured veteran has taken on the role of Veteran Liaison to keep track of, and communicate with, our veterans. Woundcare4Heroes is also assisting the Westminster Veteran Covenant in the scoping of recommendations for wound care provision for veterans.

A major audit to collect data relating to the wound care treatment pathways for injured Armed Forces personnel on leaving the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, is also being undertaken. It is hoped that the results of this audit will aid in the further streamlining of consistent wound care service provision across the country. Woundcare4Heroes is also proud to be a strategic partner to two National Institute of Health Research Healthcare Technology Co-operatives projects, relating to trauma and dressings. Woundcare4Heroes held its first educational event for the Territorial Army in Chester in February 2013, delivering plenary sessions and hands-on workshops. We are also proud to be delivering wound care sessions at the upcoming 14th International Trauma Care Conference (Park Inn Hotel, Telford, 22–26 April 2013).

An event is also being planned to celebrate our charity's first anniversary at Worcester Racecourse on 14 June 2013. The event will be opened with a Red Devils parachute display followed by an evening of fundraising and celebration.

Fundraising remains a key focus for the charity and we have a range of merchandise, activities, and events in the pipeline. We are always happy to hear from anyone who wishes to support or organise a fundraising event.

Woundcare4Heroes would like to thank everyone who has supported us to date.

Please visit our website's news and events pages for further updates. The website can be accessed at: www.woundcare4heroes.org.uk

Fundraising support is available by emailing enquiries@woundcare4heroes.org.uk