



PRESS RELEASE

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Norwich & Central Norfolk Mind Appoints High-Profile Patrons

Norwich & Central Norfolk Mind welcome two high-profile patrons to support the organisation to deliver its vision and business objectives. Lady Dannatt MBE and Sherriff of Norwich William Armstrong OBE have pledged their support to the local mental health charity by signing up to the prestigious role.

As patrons, Lady Dannatt and William Armstrong will help to promote the services of Norwich & Central Norfolk Mind within the local community and beyond. They will also champion the need for good mental services in the area.

Lady Dannatt trained to become a Relate Counsellor and qualified in 1999 and since then has worked extensively in Germany primarily, but also in Norfolk, Wiltshire and Dorset, wherever army postings led. She is Vice President of the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Association in London and currently she regularly sits on the SSAFA Adoption Panel which she very much enjoys. She is also working Patron of the Army Widows Association, and is closely involved with a number of Mental Health charities both in London and Norfolk. From 2014-2015 she was High Sheriff of Norfolk and made mental health issues the focus of her year in office. Lady Dannatt said: "There is still a long way to go of course, but it is my absolute intention that the stigma of mental illness may yet be removed during my lifetime. Stigma means 'mark of shame' and that simply is not acceptable in the 21st Century. I will work in every capacity open to me to eradicate the stigma of mental illness."

William Armstrong became Coroner for Norwich in 1995 and retired as Senior Coroner for Norfolk in September 2013. He is president of the Norwich Branch of Cruse Bereavement Care, a patron of Nelson's Journey and the Mancroft Advice Project and Hebron Trust. He is also president of the Norfolk Community Law Service and a trustee of Voluntary Norfolk. He said: "I feel privileged and delighted to be taking on a role in encouraging and promoting the vital work of Norwich & Central Norfolk Mind in supporting those with mental health difficulties, advocating for them and seeking to secure the fair treatment and justice to which they are entitled."

Amanda Hedley, Chief Executive of Norwich & Central Norfolk Mind commented: "We are absolutely delighted to welcome Lady Dannatt and William Armstrong as our new patrons. It is a real honour to have two such high-profile, distinguished and knowledgeable figures who are committed to supporting us to promote our vital services and help us to break the stigma around mental health."

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