

REASONS TO BECOME A DONATING MEMBER TO THE POLICE TREATMENT CENTRES (PTC)

You have to be injured on duty to receive treatment.

No. You can attend for treatment following an injury sustained outside work for example a sporting injury/slip/fall

You have to have an injury to attend.

No. If you have a condition such as arthritis which would benefit from Physio and an exercise regime we can help.

All treatment is residential.

No. If you live within a reasonable travelling time of the PTC you can attend as an outpatient for physio.

Residential Stays have to be for two week blocks.

No. Although Clinical advice recommends that a two week stay is the best period of time to gain maximum benefit from a course of treatment, the PTC can and does consider applications for shorter stays if that best suits your personal circumstances.

You can only receive treatment whilst a serving officer.

No. Once you retire you are still eligible for one week's treatment a year where capacity allows.

I still have to pay a donation as a retired Officer in order to apply to the PTC for treatment and admission.

No. Assuming that you were a donating officer to the PTC whilst in service, this makes you eligible to apply for admission for treatment in retirement. We would of course be delighted if you wished to make a donation to the PTC or to fund raise on our behalf, but there is no compulsion to do so, and although some NARPO Branches generously make donations to the PTC, retired officers do not as a matter of course donate to the PTC.

You have to have an illness or injury to attend.

No. We can support you following trauma or stressful times in your life which is impacting on your work.

There is a long waiting list.

No. We generally admit patients within six weeks and often more quickly. If you can come at very short notice it can be almost immediately if we have a cancellation.

You have to be seriously injured to be treated.

No. We can treat a large range of injuries. In the case of less serious conditions we often find officers attending for physio quite late on in their recovery whereas in fact early intervention can often bring about far more significant results. If your condition is affecting your ability to perform the activities of daily living, or your job, to the full then you should consider applying for treatment.

You have to attend your nearest treatment centre

No. The application form allows you to express a preference to attend either St Andrews; Castlebrae; or either Centre. However, allocation will depend upon a number of factors for example: capacity at each centre; and the urgency for treatment. By selecting "Either" you may be allocated admission for treatment sooner than if you expressed a preference solely for a specific Centre. Where possible we respect your preference.

Non-physio treatments require a residential stay.

No. There are cases where this may be appropriate. After a consultation with nursing staff a treatment programme will be arranged, normally consisting of a weekly appointment for a six week period.

You cannot attend for treatment if you need help with dressing or eating.

No. We have three self-catering cottages and a number of double occupancy rooms which are available to patients who need to attend with a family member or companion to help with dressing and eating.

Do I need to be a member of the Federation to sign up to the PTC?

No. You do not.

I can't afford to donate to the PTC

Yes. Donating to the PTC costs £1.30 each week (£5.63 per Calendar Month). Once admitted to the PTC all treatments (including physio), food, accommodation and all services and facilities in each Centre are absolutely free. The question is not whether you can afford to donate; it is rather whether you can afford not to donate a sum each week that is less than a price of a "posh" coffee.

The amount deducted from my salary appears to be more than £1.30 each week.

Yes. Some Forces wrap all donations up within an overall contribution to a Benevolent Fund for example; the PTC only receives our designated contribution of £1.30 each week.

Is the donation tax efficient?

Yes. All Forces pay through the Charities Aid foundation (CAF), making the £1.30 per week tax efficient. Therefore of the £1.30, you will only donate £1.04 with the balance coming from HMRC.

Do you have any plans to increase the donation rate in the future?

We believe that the weekly donation rate of £1.30 represents outstanding value for what you get at the PTC on admission for treatment. To ensure we maintain our reputation as a Centre of Excellence, we will inevitably have to increase the donation rate at some stage in the future (it has been held at the current level since 2011), however, we can confirm that unless the financial situation changes dramatically in the near future, we do not have any plans to increase the donation rate in 2015.

Can I bring my family with me if I apply during the school holidays?

Yes. It clearly depends on capacity and vacancies, but the three PTC cottages if available can be booked for families to stay in whilst the eligible officer is booked in for treatment.

Is there any other news that I should know about?

Yes. There is lots going on at the moment, we are currently reviewing all of our practises and procedures to ensure that we are fit for purpose, and amongst a variety of other initiatives, are assessing how we deal with psychological issues to make sure that we are well placed to provide support and treatment to the growing number of officers affected by this issue.

Finally the PTC is proud to announce that we have just received a £500,000 grant from the Cabinet Office. This is welcome news and all donating officers can be assured that all of this money will be invested straight back in to the PTC, developing and improving our real estate and facilities, and ensuring that the PTC remains a centre of excellence to provide treatment for serving and retired officers, when they most need it.