

## LEARNING ACTIVITY 12

### PSTD & Mental Health - Enlisting & Basic Training

#### Discussion leading to creative writing

1. What things might have disappointed young recruits after they joined up? Why might their hopes and expectations not have been realised?
2. What aspects of life in the forces do you think veterans remember with affection and pride? What would be the good memories of serving in the Army, Navy or RAF?
3. Some of the veterans found writing poems about their life useful in understanding their first experiences in the military. The students from St Matthew Academy wrote a short poem which they included in their Radio Interview in **Learning Resource 6a**. Could you write a poem about the reasons why someone might sign up to the Army, RAF and Navy? Would it be about adventure like the poem in the students piece or about serving your country or just starting a new life to get away from home? What would be the things that made you want to join up? Or you could write a poem about the experience of being in the forces for the first few weeks and whether you were excited and enjoying life or disappointed.

To help inform this activity, you can listen to/watch/read **Learning Resource 6b** which contains extracts of veterans being interviewed about their experiences of enlisting in the armed forces and of their basic training.