

New Veterans' Employment Community app offers a unique space for those who have served to help themselves or to help others

JobOppO's new and unique Veterans' Employment Community platform was launched recently to offer a safe space where service leavers and veterans can come together to help themselves, and each other, find meaningful employment.

JobOppO House provides a trusted meeting place for veterans to discuss everything to do with

employment and employability, while exchanging experience, tips and introductions to their own networks. The transition from military to veteran can be unsettling for most and challenging for some, but the support doesn't end when the boots come off – far from it.

The target audience for JobOppO House are veterans and service leavers – regardless

of when or where they served. The strength of JobOppO House comes from an empathetic understanding and a willingness to assist those around them. JobOppO House is not just about getting a job, it's as much about establishing a place to help those who have also worn a military uniform.

As a guest on our recent podcast said; **"I've never heard of a veteran refusing to help another veteran find a job when they leave."**

This is why we have built JobOppO House. As well as those seeking to support others, the community welcomes veterans who are unemployed, underemployed or thinking about a career change as well as those still in uniform and planning for a long, mid or short-term transition to Veteran Street.

JobOppO House will enable veterans and service leavers to mix with others who have been where they are and are keen and willing to offer support and advice, as well as enabling them to better understand and articulate the skills they have to offer. As well as supporting one and other, "OppOs" can move across to the exclusive jobs board on www.JobOppO.co.uk when

they're ready to take the next step and start researching and applying for positions. When they have found the right job for them, they will be encouraged to send the elevator back down and assist those behind them.

Dominic O'Sullivan, the JobOppO House Community Manager and former RAF PTI, said: **"What's really important is that our OppOs can talk in a safe environment with people they automatically trust. It's not an open forum – all OppOs will be asked to confirm their military service when they apply to join."**

JobOppO House focuses on providing education, insight and introductions into certain sectors, sectors the team at JobOppO understand to be the most receptive and attractive to their community – all designed to create a network of like-minded people free from employers and recruitment agencies.

One of the Original OppOs and part of the beta testing set, RAF Warrant Officer Martin Kenworthy, said: **"In August I entered my final two years in the Royal Air Force, having served for 34 years. I was really struggling to know what I wanted to do next."**



JobOppO House has been established to provide a safe place where Veterans & Service Leavers to discuss the challenges and opportunities that surround Veteran Employability and Employment, post military service. To join the Community people must have served and want to help themselves, or others, find THE job, not just A job. JobOppO House, driven by Dom our Community Manager, will facilitate conversation and action to support our Community on the ground, but also provide the vehicle to assist our JobOppO's mission to "change the narrative around veteran employment."



"I attended a CTP Workshop which helped with the CV side of it, but I still could not pin a new career path down, which was starting to make me anxious."

"The opportunity arose to help with the trial of JobOppO House, and through a few conversations with the several OppOs, I now understand that I have many transferable skills and can look at a wide range of new career options."

"The big thing for me is the realisation there are like-minded individuals within JobOppO House that have already walked a similar path and are happy to share their experiences."

JobOppO's Director of Veteran Engagement and Army veteran Garrath Williams explains his thoughts behind JobOppO House: **"We are pleased to offer JobOppO House as an agenda and algorithm free community to empower our empathetic and supportive community to help themselves and to help others. We recognise the challenges and opportunities change from as soon as you sign off – and more so the longer people have been out. But you're long time a veteran!"**

To join JobOppO House, veterans and service leavers can quickly download the app from the App Store or Play Store, and once they have answered a few simple questions about their service history they will be given keys to their own fantastic and supportive Veterans' Employment Community.

Adhering to our pledge to follow the Kiss (Keep It Simple Stupid) Model, the "vision" for JobOppO House is naturally straightforward. Once in JobOppO House all OppOs will be added to The Hall where they will meet the JobOppO Team, get to learn more about why we have built JobOppO House and asked to introduce themselves;

OppOs will then be shown around the House, read a few rules and asked to fully engage – to support themselves and THEIR Veterans' Employment Community.

JobOppO House has 2 floors. The ground floor is about Employability and there will be "rooms" where OppOs can be introduced to Armed Forces Champions from certain sectors or organisations, access the NAAFI Break with JobOppO Podcast series, meet potential mentors and gain access to our exclusive and comprehensive 6 module Employability Skills

Development Series – all with a view to making themselves more employable

Upstairs will be about Employment. There will be 12 rooms to match our preferred employment sectors. Each room is hosted by a designated and verified Sector Champion and OppOs will find sector guides, shared content relevant to finding employment in that sector as well as the ability to chat with other OppOs who have insight or opinion to offer.

Those wishing to search or apply for employment opportunities can easily follow directions to the JobOppO website where they can access the Jobs Board made up of 100s of exclusive opportunities at veteran friendly employers.

"We are thrilled by the early positive feedback JobOppO House has received" Garrath said, "creating this community seemed like the right thing to do given the changes the pandemic has forced upon us and the need to work together to highlight the skills, knowledge and attitudes veterans can and do offer the civilian workplace. We look forward to welcoming OppOs from all around the

world to join those from the UK, Canada, Australia, the US, the Middle East and South America that are already in JobOppO House."

JobOppO House a unique community for a unique community.

