

THE EQUINOX CENTRE

A pioneering project bringing together veterans of the Armed Forces and students of Plymouth University Peninsula Schools of Medicine and Dentistry for the benefit of both.

Surprisingly, and sadly, given its proud military history and high concentration of serving and retired military personnel, Plymouth has no dedicated veterans' focus or facility. Many pensioner veterans live alone, making them vulnerable to isolation, loneliness and related health problems, but there is nowhere for them - or the wider veteran community - to 'call their own' or provide a fitting sense of dignity, pride and respect.



As a leading University, Plymouth is committed to making an enduring positive impact on our students and the communities we serve. A strong supporter of the Armed Forces Covenant, we want to redefine the way communities care for the veteran population by creating an innovative model underpinned by a sustainable business plan, rigorous evaluation and new approach to social inclusion and cohesion.



Plymouth veterans of the RAF, Army, Royal Navy and Royal Marines



Architect's impression of the Equinox Centre

WHAT IS THE VISION?

Plymouth University is joining forces with Project Equinox* to establish the pioneering Good Companions Veterans Centre (GCVC), a beacon of excellence in the South West providing comfort and companionship for ex-Service men and women whose lives might otherwise be blighted by loneliness and isolation.

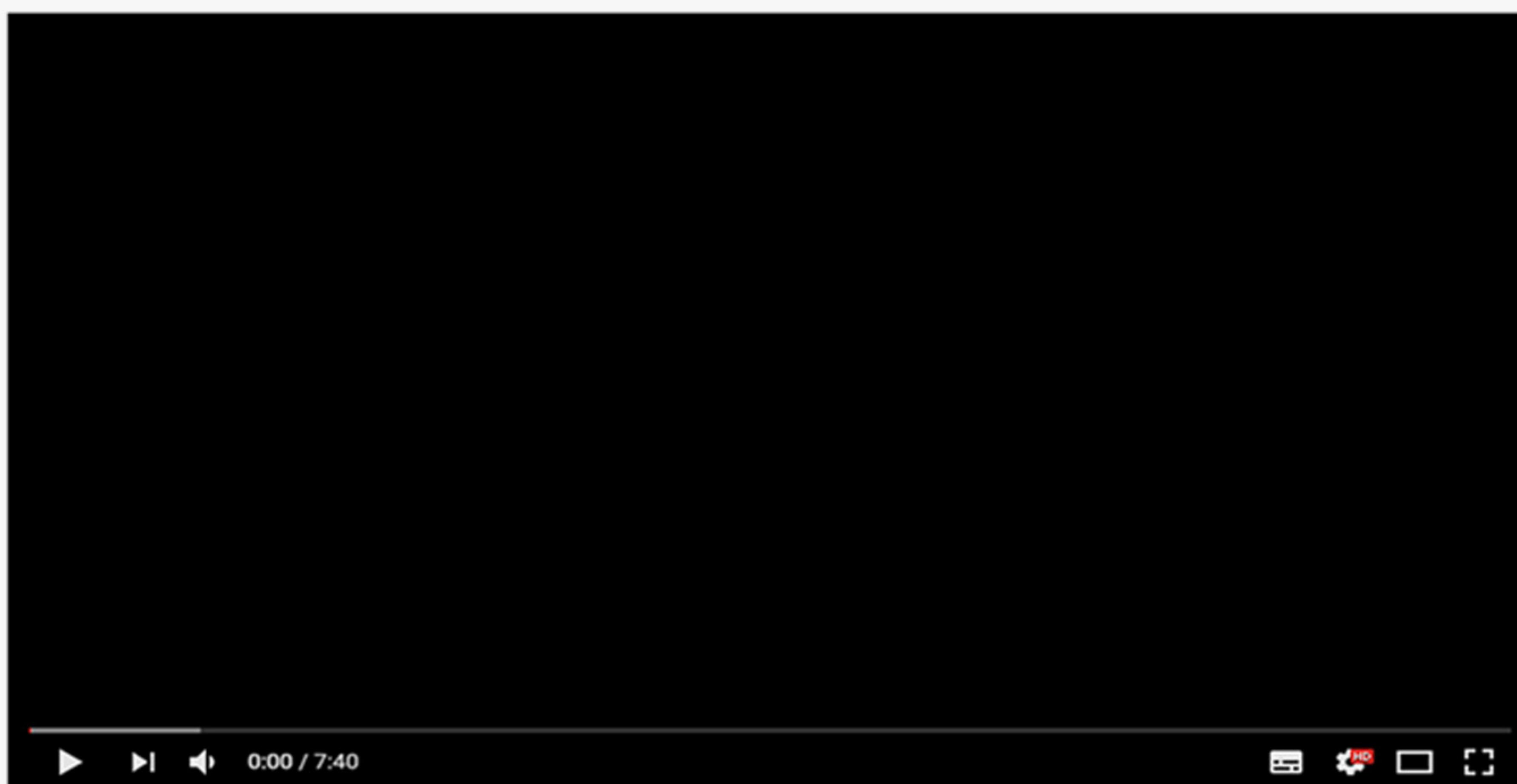
A national first, the Centre will set a new standard of care for veterans, enhancing their well-being while also enriching the experience of students of the Plymouth University Peninsula Schools of Medicine and Dentistry and Faculty of Health and Human Sciences.

With an ambition to open in 2019, the flagship project will provide:

- A dignified, affordable 'home for rest of their life' for 40 single veterans (tri-Service), where they can thrive among kindred spirits and enjoy a military ambience;
- Adjoined but separate living accommodation for 42 Year 2+ Plymouth University Peninsula Schools of Medicine and Dentistry students with a manageable 'social responsibility' towards the veterans through weekly one-to-one buddying, monthly entertainment evenings and excursions;
- A Healthcare Clinic, where resident veterans and those from the wider veteran community will be assessed and treated by supervised healthcare profession students of the University, including those from physiotherapy, optometry, podiatry and dietetics;
- A Veterans' Hall available to the whole veteran community for meetings and events, including high-profile gatherings;
- A vibrant café open to veterans, students and the wider community;



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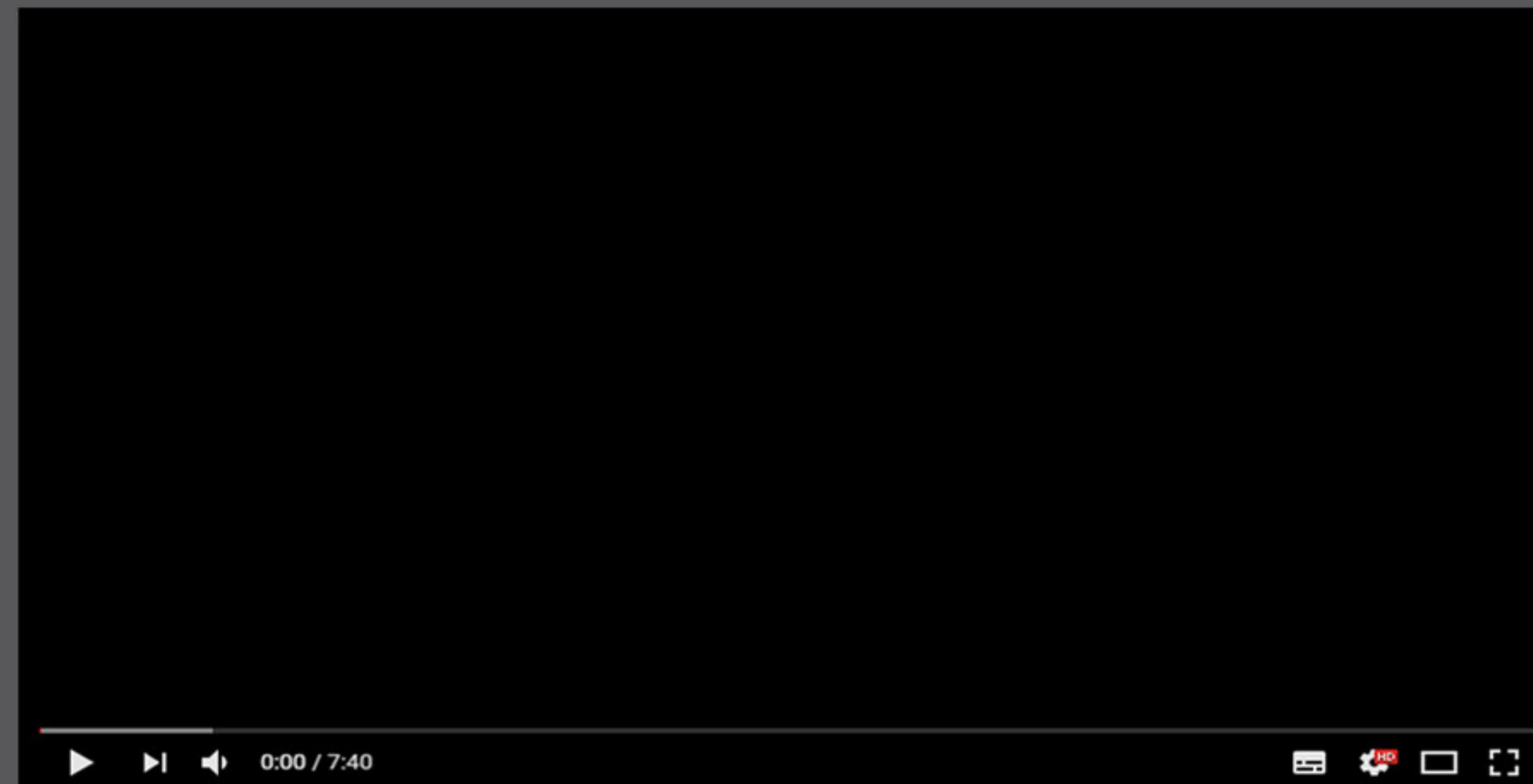
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"The GCVC seems to offer everything I'm lacking in my current existence - the company of others, young and old, communal spirit and camaraderie. I would relish the opportunity to take up residence in the Veterans' Home - it's a wonderful idea, and as a veteran in my own right, it would be my privilege and pleasure."

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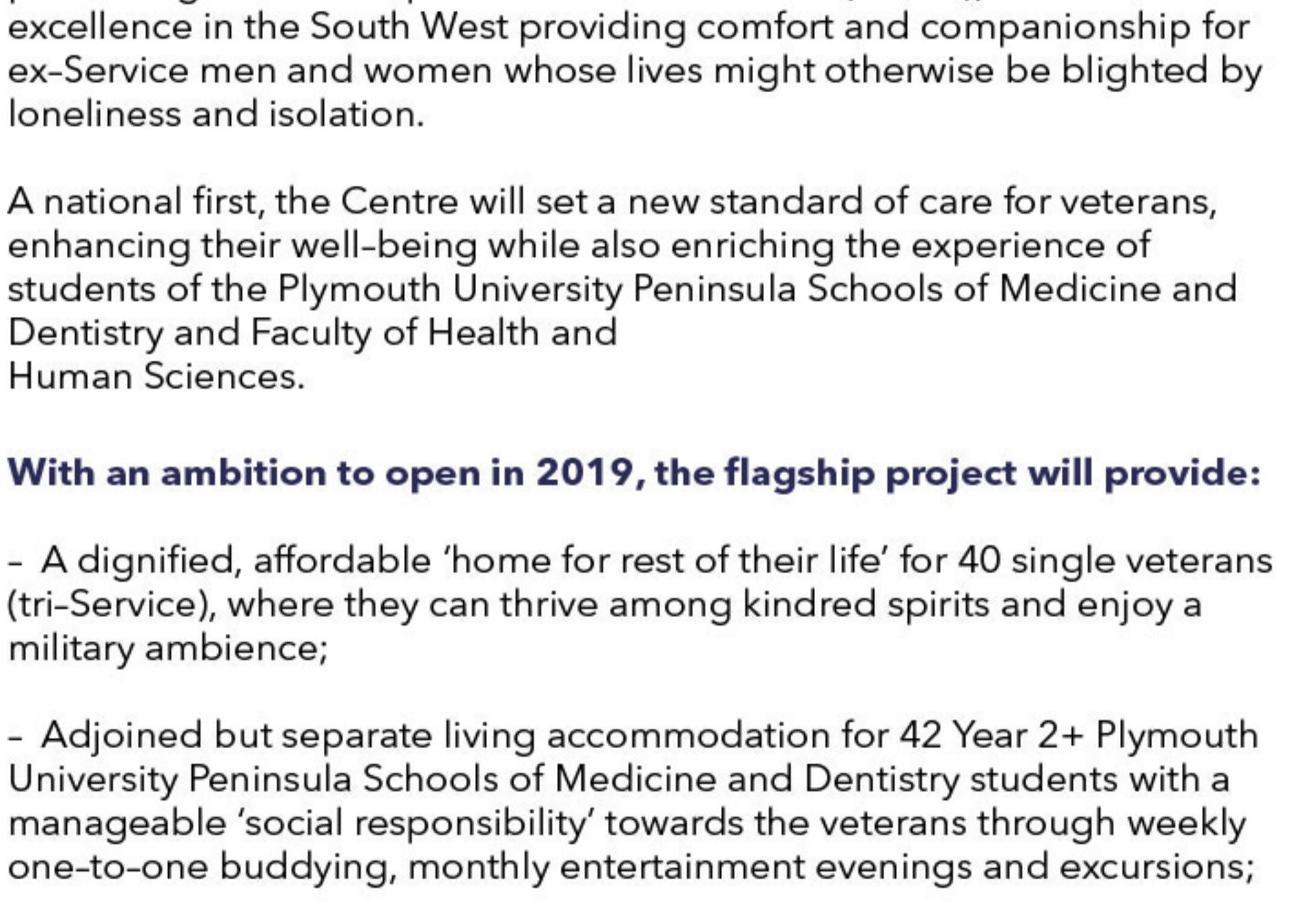
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