

CVA at the WM Cyber Hub

Early-Stage “Home” Model

Overview

Cyber Veterans Alliance (CVA) will be initially based at the West Midlands Cyber Hub (WMCH), providing a credible physical anchor for its early growth.

WMCH will act as a **founding host**, offering space for regular events and access to the regional cyber ecosystem. This enables CVA to launch quickly, build momentum, and establish a consistent community presence without significant overhead.

CVA will remain **independently governed and veteran-led**, with a national scope from day one. The Hub supports delivery, but CVA retains full ownership of its direction, brand, and network.

This model creates **mutual value**:

- CVA gains a stable, high-quality environment to build its community
- WMCH benefits from engagement with veteran networks and defence-aligned expertise

Over time, CVA is expected to grow beyond a single location, with WMCH acting as its **founding base rather than a limiting boundary**.

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Role of WMCH

The West Midlands Cyber Hub provides an ideal **early-stage physical base** for CVA.

It offers:

- a credible and accessible venue
- alignment with regional cyber activity
- infrastructure for events and community-building

Positioning

CVA is:

Physically hosted at WMCH, but independently governed and veteran-led.

This ensures:

- operational support without loss of identity
- independence in decision-making
- ability to scale nationally from day one

How the Model Works

Years 0–2: Incubation Phase

WMCH acts as a **launch partner and host environment**, providing:

- Event space for regular meetups
- Light-touch support and coordination
- Visibility within the regional cyber ecosystem

CVA delivers:

- Community building and engagement
- Event programming and content
- Network growth and external relationships

Key Principles

1. Independence

- CVA maintains its own governance, brand, and direction
- No dependency on WMCH for identity or decision-making

2. Mutual Value

- WMCH benefits from:
 - access to veteran networks
 - defence-linked credibility
 - increased activity and engagement
- CVA benefits from:
 - a stable and credible base
 - reduced startup friction
 - access to ecosystem connections

3. National Scope from Day One

Although based at WMCH initially:

- CVA is not regionally limited
- online community and membership are UK-wide
- future expansion to other locations is expected

4. Evolution Over Time

As CVA grows:

- additional locations and partnerships can emerge
- WMCH remains a founding hub, not a constraint

Why This Matters

This model allows CVA to:

- start quickly without heavy infrastructure costs
- establish credibility early
- focus on building a high-quality community rather than logistics

At the same time, it preserves the conditions needed for:

- long-term independence
- national relevance
- strategic partnerships beyond a single region

Final Framing

Cyber Veterans Alliance is:

A veteran-led cyber practitioner network, initially anchored at the West Midlands Cyber Hub, designed to retain and connect defence cyber expertise while building a trusted, independent community for long-term collaboration and impact.