

Cross Party Group on Faith meeting

Faith on the frontline... Supporting our veterans

Conference Room 21, Ty Hywel on Tuesday 3 March from 12:15-13:15

Present:

1. Darren Millar, Conservative AM Clwyd West (co-chair)
2. William Graham, Conservative AM South Wales East (co-chair)
3. Mike Hedges, Labour AM Swansea East
4. Russell George, Conservative AM Montgomeryshire
5. Jim Stewart, Public Affairs and Advocacy Officer, Evangelical Alliance Wales (secretary)
6. Kieran Webster, Chaplaincy Leader, Wales Homes for Veterans, Alabaré (speaker)
7. Andrew Lord, Chief Executive, Alabaré
8. Pierre Cornlouer, Alabaré)
9. Carol Wardman, Bishops' Adviser for Church and Society, Church in Wales
10. Stanley Soffa, Chair of the South Wales Jewish Representative Council
11. Chris Cooke, Freedom Church
12. Philip Manghan, Catholic Education Service Adviser for Wales, Catholic Church
13. Ed Holland, Director, Holland Heritage
14. Revd Carl Gidney
15. Chris Heavyside
16. Peter Evans, Public Affairs Manager Wales, The Royal British Legion
17. Elfed Godding, General Secretary, Evangelical Alliance Wales
18. Craig Lawton (assistant to Suzy Davies AM)

Apologies:

1. Bethan Jenkins AM
2. Simon Thomas AM
3. Mohammad Asghar AM
4. Janet Finch-Saunders AM
5. Peggy Jackson, Church in Wales
6. Peter Dewi, Free Church Council
7. Christine Abbas, Baha'i community
8. Lisa Gerson, Jewish community
9. Colin Heyman, Jewish community
10. Sally Thomas, Cytun
11. Carys Moseley, Presbyterian Church
12. Bishop John Davies, Bishop of Brecon and Swansea

This Cross Party Group does not make a distinction between group members and external guests with places for meetings being allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.

Minutes

1. William Graham AM welcomed everyone, noted apologies from AMs and asked everyone to briefly introduce themselves.
2. The Chair noted that there were no matters arising from the previous meeting.
3. Kieran Webster from the charity *Alabaré* was introduced and gave a presentation on *Faith on the frontline...supporting our veterans*.
4. The presentation was followed by a time of discussion and Q&A.
5. Action points from the meeting were:
 - a. To write to Welsh Government Minister responsible for housing, asking what work they are doing to ensure the sustainability of supported housing schemes for veterans which are currently funded via LIBOR related grants.
 - b. To write to faith and denominational leaders to make them aware of the faith based services which are available for veterans in Wales.
 - c. To write to Welsh Government Minister for Health and Social Services, asking what work is being undertaken to ensure that any regulations which are developed as a result of the Social Services and Well-being Act adequately reflect the need to meet the spiritual needs of service users.
 - d. To write to Welsh Government Education Minister to request that religious education is not eroded in any new Welsh curriculum which arises following the work of the Donaldson Review.
6. The meeting was closed by Darren Millar AM with details of the next meeting to be circulated via email by Jim Stewart.