

Minutes of the Cross Party Group for the Armed Forces and Cadets

Tuesday 24th October 2017

Conference Room B, Ty Hywel

Attending:

- Darren Millar AM –Chair
- Kathryn Sharpe – Secretary
- Dr Neil Kitchiner – Principal Clinician and Honorary Research Fellow, Veterans NHS Wales
- Shelley Elgin – Help for Heroes
- Air Commodore Dai Williams – Air Officer Wales
- David Rowlands, AM - Regional Member for South Wales East
- Ian Williams, AMSS for David Rowlands
- Mark Isherwood AM – Regional Member for North Wales
- Suzy Davies AM – Regional Member for South Wales West
- Andrew R.T. Davies AM – Leader of the Welsh Conservative Group
- Karen Rees, Barnardo's Cymru
- Annabel Ingram – Army Families Federation
- Ant Metcalfe – Royal British Legion
- Brigadier Jock Fraser – NRC WWF
- Mohammed Asghar AM – Regional Member for South Wales East
- Neil Hamilton AM – Leader of the UKIP Group
- Gareth Bennet AM- Member for South Wales Central
- Colette Musgrave - Army Families Federation
- Alun Williams – AMSS Support Staff, Caroline Jones AM
- Paula Mitchell - Help for Heroes

Apologies from:

- Caroline Jones AM
- Colonel Lance Patterson – 160th Infantry Brigade
- Dave Hammond -RFCA
- Richard Mottershead – Higher Colleges of Technologies
- Simon Thomas AM –Member for Mid and West Wales
- Lee Waters AM- Member for Llanelli
- Llyr Gruffyd AM –Member for North Wales
- Sebastian Hargreaves –SSAFA
- Huw- Irranca-Davies AM – Member for Ogmore
- Laura Tranter – Public Health Wales

- David Rose – UNSWIS
- John Skipper
- Mike Bailey – Veterans Welfare Service
- Peter Evans – Royal British Legion

1. Chairs' welcome, introduction and apologies

2. Presentation on the Draft Report on the Inquiry into the Armed Covenant in Wales – Darren Millar AM

The Chair led a discussion on the draft report on the Inquiry into the Armed Covenant in Wales. The executive summary of recommendations were each read in turn so that the group could discuss.

The recommendations were amended and agreed.

It was also agreed that the amendments should be grouped into theme and that key amendments should be highlighted.

Action:

For the Chair to redraft the Report recommendations according to priority and theme

3. Update on the Armed Forces Scheme

The Chair briefed the group on the recent Assembly Armed Forces Scheme's visit to RAF Valley.

He also provided an update on current plans under way for the RAF Centenary Celebrations to be held at the National Assembly in April 2018.

There was discussion on the need to plan a Royal Navy event, as there have been no navy experience dates so far. The army and RAF have both had two events each to date at the Assembly.

Commodore Dai Williams raised a celebration event at the Lloyd George Museum on 1st December which is being held to mark the Act of Parliament that created the RAF.

Action:

For Brigadier Fraser's office to contact the Group's secretary to plan a Royal Navy Assembly Armed Forces Scheme for AMs.

4. **Presentation on Families of Veterans Support Service (FVSS) – Karen Rees**

Karen Rees from Barnado's Cymru gave a presentation on the Families of Veterans Support Service.

Karen outlined the project which is the result of Covenant funding.

The presentation was followed with a question and answer session. This included FVSS's involvement with Public Health Wales, the number of ACE's of referred children to the service and the effect of imprisonment on children. Karen outlined the work that is being done in conjunction with HMP Parc and the Endeavour Unit.

5. **AOB**

The Chair gave an update on Change Step on behalf of Geraint Jones.

Annabel Ingram from the Army Families Federation (AFF) updated the group on a briefing produced by AFF on the Service Pupil Premium.

Ian Williams, AMSS for David Rowlands, raised the issue of the condition of war memorials.

Ant Metcalfe raised the issue of police withdrawing support from remembrance.

Action:

For the Secretary to circulate the AFF Briefing.

For the Chair to write to the Welsh Local Government Association on behalf of the group to express concerns over war memorial maintenance.

For the Chair to make an additional recommendation on the maintenance of war memorials.

For the Chair to write to Welsh Chief Constables regarding concerns over policing commemorative events and parades.