

Cross-Party Group Annual Report.

2016 and 2017

Cross Party Group for the Armed Forces and Cadets

1. Group membership and office holders.

Chair: Darren Millar AM. Re-elected as Chair on 13th February 2018

Other Assembly Members who attended and had representatives attend included:

- David Melding AM
- Nathan Gill AM (Former AM)
- Altaf Hussain AM (Former AM)
- Andrew RT Davies AM
- Lee Waters AM
- Mark Isherwood AM
- Angela Burns AM
- Mohammad Asghar AM
- Russell George AM
- Caroline Jones AM
- Suzy Davies AM
- David Rowlands AM
- Gareth Bennet AM
- Alun Davies AM
- Neil Hamilton AM

Secretary:

- Mia Rees, PA to Darren Millar AM, 2016 – January 2017
- Paul Pavia, PA to Darren Millar AM, January 2017- June 2017
- Kathryn Sharpe, PA to Darren Millar, June 2017 – Present

Other external attendees and the organisation(s) they represent:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Lieutenant Colonel Jonah MacGill	160th Infantry Brigade and Headquarters Wales
Lieutenant Colonel Jim McLaren	Royal Marines
Warrant Officer Barbara McGregor	Royal Navy
Air Commodore Adrian Williams	Air Officer Wales
Colonel Nick R Beard	Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Wales
Dr. Neil J. Kitchiner	Principal Clinician & Honorary Research Lead for Veterans' Mental Health, Veterans' NHS Wales
Phil Jones	Wales Area Manager, The Royal British Legion
Ty Harrison	The Royal British Legion
Simon Waller	UK Veterans One Voice
Carolyn Webster	
Clare Collins	Senior Lecturer in Mental Health Nursing University of Chester
Richard Mottershead	Veterans Welfare Service, Veterans Welfare Manager, Veterans UK
Mike Bailey	CAIS- Change Step
Geraint Jones	Welsh Veterans Partnership
David Price	Change Step
Dave Ireland	HQ 160 th Infantry Brigade and Headquarters Wales
Colonel Lance Patterson	Naval Regional Commander RN

Cdr Steve Henaghan	VAPC and SAFA
Adrian Warner	Veteran Welfare Service MOD
Mike Mailey	The Royal British Legion, Wales
Peter Evans	The Royal British Legion, Wales

2. Previous Group Meetings since the last AGM

Meeting 1.

Meeting date: 16th March 2016: 12.00 – 1.15pm

Attendees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Lieutenant Colonel Jonah MacGill	160th Infantry Brigade and Headquarters Wales
Lieutenant Colonel Jim McLaren	Royal Marines
Warrant Officer Barbara McGregor	Royal Navy
Air Commodore Adrian Williams	Air Officer Wales
Colonel Nick R Beard	Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Wales
Dr. Neil J. Kitchiner	Principal Clinician & Honorary Research Lead for Veterans' Mental Health, Veterans' NHS Wales
Phil Jones	Wales Area Manager, The Royal British Legion
Ty Harrison	The Royal British Legion
John Skipper	Veteran
Simon Waller	UK Veterans One Voice
Carolyn Webster	AMSS
Clare Collins	
Richard Mottershead	Senior Lecturer in Mental Health Nursing- University of Chester
Mike Bailey	Veterans Welfare Service, Veterans Welfare Manager, Veterans UK
Darren Millar AM	Chair, Welsh Conservative AM for Clywd West

Mia Rees	Group Secretary
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Summary of issues discussed:

- ‘Veterans in the Criminal Justice System’: Presentation from Ty Harrison from Royal British Legion, and PhD research feedback from Richard Mottershead
- Phil Jones from the Royal British Legion: Mesothelioma Update and Royal British Legion Manifesto
- Clare Collins: Veterans health needs assessment work in Wales and a discussion of preliminary findings
- Darren Millar: Change Step

Meeting 2.**Meeting date:** 21st September 2016: 12 – 1:15 pm

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
John Skipper	Veteran
Richard Mottershead	University of Chester
Nick Beard	Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Wales
David Price	Welsh Veterans Partnership
Ty Harrison	The Royal British Legion
Dave Ireland	Change Step
Col Lance Patterson	HQ 160 th Infantry Brigade and Headquarters Wales
Kieran Meredith	AMSS
Cdr Steve Henaghen	Naval Regional Command RN
Adrian Warner	VAPC and SAFA
Mike Mailey	Veterans Welfare Service MOD
Peter Evans	The Royal British Legion Wales
Neil Kitchiner	Veterans' NHS Wales
Sam Gould	AMSS
Nathan Gill AM	UKIP Regional AM for North Wales Region
Lee Waters AM	Labour AM for Llanelli,
Andrew RT Davies AM	Welsh Conservative AM for South Wales Central
Darren Millar AM	Chair, Welsh Conservative AM for Clywd West
Mia Rees	Secretary

Summary of issues discussed:

- AGM Business: Election of Chair and Election of Secretary
- Colonel Nick Beard: Cadet Expansion Programme
- Geraint Jones: Change Step's work with veterans
- Colonel Lance Patterson: Update on the Assembly Armed Forces Scheme and the Armed Forces Pathway Scheme
- Issues from Mark Isherwood's constituent

Meeting 3.**Meeting date:** 25 January 2017: 12 – 1:15 pm**Attendees:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Darren Millar AM	Chair, Welsh Conservative Member for Clywd West
Paul Pavia	Secretary
Dr. Neil Klitchiner	Principal Clinician & Honorary Research Fellow, Veterans' NHS Wales
Col. Lance Patterson	Deputy Commander, 160th Infantry Brigade
Geraint Jones	Director, Change Step
David Ireland	Mentor, Change Step
Steve Stokoe	South Wales Manager, Change Step
Lisa Leece	The St John & Red Cross Defence Medical Welfare Service (DMWS)
Lt. Col. Stephen Hughes	Reserve Forces and Cadets Association Wales
Peter Evans	Royal British Legion
Anthony Metcalfe	Royal British Legion
Commander Steve Henaghen	Royal Navy
Prof. David Rose	UNSWIS
Alison Griffiths	Help for Heroes
Seb Hargreaves	SSAFA
Annabel Ingram	Army Families Federation

Richard Mottershead	Senior Mental Health Nurse, University of Chester
Mark Isherwood AM	Welsh Conservative Regional Member for North Wales
Russell George AM	Welsh Conservative Member for Montgomeryshire
Nathan Gill AM	UKIP Regional Member for North Wales
Sam Gould	AMSS
Caroline Jones AM	Labour Regional Member for South Wales West
Air Commodore Dai Williams	RAF
Ben Lewis	Cardiff University

Summary of issues discussed:

- MOD Estates Update by Colonel Lance Patterson
- Change Step Funding Update by Change Step
- General issues update:
 - Gliding and Flying for Air Cadets
 - Royal Navy Reserve Facility
 - Review of the impact of Armed Forces Covenant in Wales
 - Commemoration of the 35th Anniversary of the end of the Falklands War

Meeting 4.**Meeting date: 24th October 2017, 12 – 1:15 pm****Attendees:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Darren Millar AM	Chair, Welsh Conservative Member for Clywd West
Kathryn Sharpe	Secretary
Dr. Neil Klitchiner	Principal Clinician & Honorary Research Fellow, Veterans' NHS Wales
Shelley Elgin	Help for Heroes
Air Commodore Dai Williams	Air Officer Wales
David Rowlands AM	UKIP Regional Member for South Wales East
Ian Williams	AMSS
Mark Isherwood AM	Welsh Conservative Regional Member for North Wales
Suzy Davies AM	Welsh Conservative Regional Member for South Wales West
Andrew R.T. Davies AM	Welsh Conservative Regional Member for South Wales Central, 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	Welsh Conservative Regional Member for South Wales East
Neil Hamilton AM	UKIP Regional Member for Mid and West Wales
Gareth Bennet AM	UKIP Regional Member for South Wales

	Central
Colette Musgrave	Army Families Federation
Alun Williams	AMSS
Paula Mitchell	Help for Heroes

Summary of issues discussed:

- Presentation on the Draft Report on the Inquiry into the Armed Covenant in Wales
- Update on the Armed Forces Scheme
- Presentation on Families of Veterans Support Service (FVSS)

Meeting 5.**Meeting date: 13th February 2018, 12 – 1:15 pm****Attendees:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Darren Millar AM	Chair, Welsh Conservative Member for Clwyd West
Kathryn Sharpe	Secretary
Geraint Jones	Change Step
Squadron Leader Brian Ramsey	RAF Specialist Engagement Team
Warrant Officer Stephen Perham	RAF Specialist Engagement Team
Annabel Ingram	Army Families Federation
Lisa Rawlings	Regional Armed Forces Covenant Liaison Officer, Gwent
Mohammad Asghar	Welsh Conservative Regional Member for South Wales East
Brigadier Jock Fraser	Naval Regional Commander
ML Dave Singletary	SSAFA
Angela Burns AM	Welsh Conservative Member for Carmarthen West and Pembrokeshire
Air Commodore Adrian Williams	Air Officer Wales
Colonel Lance Patterson	Deputy Commander HQ Wales
Colonel Nick Beard	CE RFCA for Wales
Dr. Neil Kitchiner	Principal Clinician & Honorary Research Fellow, Veterans' NHS Wales
Alun Williams	AMSS
Andrew RT Davies AM	Welsh Conservative Regional Member

	for South Wales Central and Leader of the Welsh Conservatives
Mike Bailey	Veterans Welfare Service MOD
Ty Harrison	The Royal British Legion
Peter Evans	The Royal British Legion
Mark Isherwood AM	Welsh Conservative Regional Member for North Wales
Gareth Bennett AM	UKIP Regional Member for South Wales Central
Heather Ferguson	Age Cymru
Alun Davies AM	Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services

Summary of Issues Discussed:

- AGM Election.
- Darren Millar was nominated by Angela Burns AM, seconded by Mohammad Asghar AM. Re-elected with unanimous support.
Darren Millar nominated Kathryn Sharpe for Secretary, seconded by Angela Burns.
- Address by Alun Davies, Cabinet Secretary for Local Government
- Presentation from Dr. Neil Kitchiner and Geraint Jones on the H4H Funded Peer Mentor Pilot
- Presentation from Heather Ferguson, Age Cymru 360 Project
- Update from Annabel Ingram, on the work of the Army Families Federation
- Update from Air Commodore Dai Williams on celebrating the RAF Centenary
- Brigadier Jock Fraser informed the group on arranging a AM visit as part of the Assembly Armed Forces Scheme

See Minutes for full details of all meetings

3. Professional lobbyists, voluntary organisations and charities with whom the Group has met during the preceding year.

- **Royal British Legion**
<http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/about-us/the-legion-near-you/legion-in-wales>

- **CAIS Drug and Alcohol Treatment**
<http://www.cais.co.uk/>

- **SSAFA**
<https://www.ssafa.org.uk/>

- **RFCA for Wales Centre Centre Block**
<http://wales-rfca.org/>

- **Veterans' NHS Wales – Cardiff and Vale Hub**
<http://www.cardiffandvaleuhb.wales.nhs.uk/veteranswales>

- **Young Dragons**
<https://youngdragons.wales/>

- **RAF, Wales**
<https://www.raf.mod.uk/rafvalley/>

- **160 Infantry Brigade**
<https://www.160walesbrigadea3.co.uk/>

4. Other activities.

The Cross Party Group facilitates Assembly Member engagement in the Armed Forces Assembly Scheme.

Since the last AGM the Scheme has organised a visit to **Cambrian Patrol**, an annual international military patrolling exercise that makes its participating units cover a 50 mile course in less than 48 hours while performing numerous military exercises placed throughout the Cambrian Mountains, and a visit to RAF Valley, a Royal Air Force station on Anglesey which provides fighter jet pilot training and hosts an RAF Mountain Rescue team.

In June 2017, the Cross Party Group hosted a special service of remembrance in the Senedd to mark the 35th Anniversary of the end of the Falkland's conflict. Both the Llywydd and Deputy Presiding Officer were present at the service, and First Minister gave an address to those who gathered.

Annual Financial Statement.

09.11.2015

Cross Party Group for the Armed Forces and Cadets

There are no expenses for this CPG

Group's Expenses.	None.	£0.00
Costs of all goods.	No goods purchased.	£0.00
Benefits received by the group or individual Members from outside bodies.	No benefits received.	£0.00
Any secretariat or other support.	No financial support received.	£0.00
Services provided to the Group such as hospitality.		
All refreshments paid for by [include name of group/organisation].		
Date	Description and name of provider	Cost
		£0.00
Total cost		£0.00

