

Cross Party Group on Armed Forces and Cadets

Meeting Minutes

Date: 27th November 2019

Location: Conference Room B, Ty Hywel

In attendance:

Name	Title
Darren Millar AM	Assembly Member for Clwyd West
Ian Williams	Office of David Rowlands AM
Joseph De Lacey	Alabare
Emma Ashmead	NCC
Lisa Rawlings	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Jack Sargeant AM	Assembly Member for Alyn and Deeside
Andrew Malcom	DCUP
Ed Stubbs	Office of Jack Sargeant AM
Philip Dent	SCIP Alliance
Annabel Ingram	Army Families Federation
Rachel Macmanus	Help for Heroes
Millie Taylor	SSCE Cymru
Colonel Nick Lock	160th Infantry Brigade & HQ Wales
Colonel Nick Beard	RFCA Wales
Peter Evans	Welsh Government
Imogen Beardsworth	Alabare
Mike Hedges AM	Assembly Member for Swansea East
Mark Isherwood AM	Assembly Member for North Wales
Russell George AM	Assembly Member for Montgomeryshire

Apologies:

Name	Title
Lisa Thipthorp	RAF Families Federation
Councillor Liz Roberts	Conwy County Borough Council
Llyr Gruffydd AM	Assembly Member for North Wales
Rob Nichols	Care After Combat
Mike Bailey	Veterans Welfare Service
Dave Price	Welsh Veterans Partnership
Brigadier Jock Fraser	Naval Regional Commander

Alun Davies AM	Assembly Member for Blaenau Gwent
Heather Ferguson	Age Cymru

Summary of Meeting: Cross Party Group on the Armed Forces and Cadets - 27/12/2019 - Conference Room B

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Updates from last meeting -

> 21 of 22 local authorities in Wales responded to the group regarding guaranteed interview schemes for veterans. All local authorities bar Anglesey County Council and Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC have either introduced the scheme or are in the process of considering the scheme. Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC did not reply to the group and Anglesey County Council have decided against introducing the scheme.

> The group agreed to write to all Police Forces and Health Boards in Wales to encourage each organisation to introduce the scheme.

>The group agreed that a delegation from the group should meet with representatives from Anglesey County Council to discuss the introduction of the scheme.

> The Chair thanked the Welsh Government for leading the way by introducing guaranteed interviews for veterans.

3. Presentation from Millie Taylor on the All Wales Project Officer for Service Children in Education.

>Mille Taylor outlined the work being done by SSCE in Wales and spoke and spoke about the specific challenges facing service children in the education system.

>After writing to schools asking them to identify service children, SSCE found that each school has 1 or 2 service children on average.

>It was noted that there is no single definition of a service child used by all stakeholders and that due to various factors there is no exhaustive data on the number of service children in Wales.

>The group agreed to write to the Minister for Education to request an update on the Government's plans to collect data on the number of service children in Wales

- The group agreed to write to the Minister for Education to ask for clarification on the Welsh Government's definition of service children.
- The group agreed to write to the First Minister with a letter of support for further funding for the work being undertaken by Millie and her team.
- The chair thanked Millie for her presentation.

4. Presentation from Philip Dent on Service Children's Progression Alliance.

- Philip Dent told the group about the research being undertaken by the SCiP Alliance. Numerous challenges have been identified since research began.
- Very little research on the progression of service children's educational career's has been conducted before.
- Universities could consider service children as a part of disadvantaged groups when during the application process.
- The group agreed to write to the Minister for Education to ask what action is being taken to promote and support service children's progression into higher education.
- The group agreed to write to the Minister for Education to ask what data the Welsh Government could collect on the number of service children progressing on to higher education.

5. AOB

- The date of the next meeting was set as the 11th March 2020.
- Annabel Ingram from Forces Families Jobs provided an update on the recently launched jobs website for the armed forces community.
- Rachel Macmanus updated the group on Help for Heroes 40,00 Strong campaign which concentrates on medical discharges.
- It was agreed that the Welsh Government would provide an update on the deliver phase of its scoping exercise at the next meeting.