

Veterans Advisory & Pensions Committees (VA&PC)



Eastern England – Two Year Strategy

May 2016



Assisting veterans in the East of England to move into civilian life, ensuring VAPC retains independence and integrity

- In consultation and co-operation with other agencies provide support and advice for veterans and their families in the East of England
- Engagement with Community Covenant Boards is essential in ensuring this provision so we will also provide independent assurance and oversight that Boards in Eastern England function to satisfy the needs of veterans

Actions

- Engagement with all Community Covenant Boards in the Eastern region (Unitary Authorities of Luton, Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Peterborough, Thurrock and Southend-on-Sea and Counties of Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk)
- Establish EVAPC core responsibilities such that the Members who attend Covenant Boards speak with “one EVAPC voice”
- Determine how we measure the effectiveness of Covenant Boards
- Communicate clear core responsibilities to EVAPC Members
- Establish expectations for attendance at Covenant Boards
- Once we have decided core responsibilities and the measures we will be using, communicate these widely and openly to all Covenant Boards
- All EVAPC Members need a thorough understanding of the Community Covenant in order to champion it. Determine training needs for new and existing Members
- Undertake quality assurance of Veterans Welfare Service support to veterans by monitoring activity and carrying out joint visits.



Advising the Minister of State for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans and reviewing Government initiatives about the Veterans community

- By utilising the practical experience of EVAPC members and engagement with relevant agencies within the region, determine the effectiveness of the Community Covenant in Eastern England and communicate findings to the appropriate authorities
- Undertake reviews of Government initiatives which may affect Veterans in advance of their implementation

Actions

- We will act as the “eyes and ears” on the ground in Eastern England in relation to the Community Covenant reporting back to the Minister as required
- We need advanced notification of such Government initiatives so that we can review them effectively. In undertaking such reviews, all EVAPC members must be willing to review and respond to requests for comment within defined timescales
- An agreed “communications route” must be formulated among all EVAPC members so that any issues regarding Veterans in Eastern England is agreed by the Chairman before it is raised with higher authority. This will provide a “cold-eye” review of the issue as well as ensuring all Committee members speak through the Chairman, therefore ensuring a common voice.



Communicating Veterans welfare concerns and other issues to MPs, Veterans Welfare Service, Local Authorities, Health Sector, Media, COBSEO, Transition Partnership and the Confederation of British Industry and Chambers of Commerce

Developing relationships with local and national charities to support and enhance the assistance they provide

Supporting and advising large organisations and the public and health sectors with implementing the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant and Community Covenant to ensure best practice

- As members of Community Covenant Boards, EVAPC will be in an appropriate position to engage with relevant agencies. This does not tie the EVAPC solely to the Covenant Boards and members may engage with other agencies wherever necessary in support of Veterans welfare issues

Actions

- The “core responsibilities” of EVAPC members in their engagement with Community Covenant Boards will ensure that members speak with “one EVAPC voice”
- In engaging with other agencies, this should be with the support and approval of the Chairman and undertaken on a needs basis
- Where possible, increase the awareness of the VAPC in general (although further clarification of strategic aims is required)
- Engagement with the media by any EVAPC member on Veterans issues must always be sanctioned by the Chairman. This is because we are all listed as Government appointments hence speaking on any Veterans issue may be interpreted as Government policy



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- Mr JL Jelley MBE JP (Chairman)
 - Lt Col RE Toland (Vice Chairman)
 - Mr AJ Barnard
 - Mr MR Berry
 - Dr IM Calder
 - Mrs K Green
 - Mr T Heslin
 - Lt Cdr D Mincher RN (Rtd)
 - Maj T Ormiston
 - Mrs D Preston
 - Lt Col PK Robinson
 - Mr I Stewart