

## VAPC Meeting 3rd May 2017 Record & Actions

### Attendees:

Col (Rtd) Tony Phillips MBE (Chairman)  
John Topping (Secretary)  
Mr Robert Mortimer  
Mr Andrew Melville  
Capt Peter Mason  
Dr David Jolliffe CB  
Maj (Rtd) Duncan Bell  
Rick Short  
Lt Col (Rtd) Alan Skidmore  
Lt Col (Rtd) Peter Shields MBE QGM

### Apologies:

Craig Gadd  
Tim Cole  
Andrew Palmer  
Ms Alison Carter  
Sqn Ldr (Rtd) Mick Walters  
Sqn Ldr (Rtd) Mike Chambers MBE  
Lt Col (Rtd) Tony Stevenson  
Cllr Alex Baxter  
Alex Bentley  
Mrs Helen Singleton  
Russ Egan

### Observer/Guests:

Nil

### Absent

Nil

### Item

### Discussion

#### 1. General Items

**a. Introductions and apologies.** - The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**b. Minutes of last meeting.** - The minutes of the last meeting had been circulated.

#### **c. Matters arising.**

i. - Discount cards still not settled. There appears to be 2 main cards with only 1 on the Government Web Site.

#### **Action;**

Members were asked to check in their local areas and this would be an Agenda item at the next meeting.

ii. – Website. It was agreed that John Topping would take over the responsibility for the Y & H VAPC website.

#### **Action:**

Chairman to forward all details of how to access and manage the site.

#### 2. Report from Chairs meeting 20<sup>th</sup> Apr 17/CAC/CAG

#### **a) SI/TOR/Constitution/Expert committee.**

i. Expert Committee – There still needs to be assurances that it protects the role of the VAPC and its independence of action. The Statutory Instruments (SI) still awaits signing off. The opinion of Regional Chairs has softened as long as independence and access to Minister was retained and existence could not be decided simply by MoD edict; The SI was a key protection from that.

ii. The SI, Terms of Reference (TOR's) etc. are being fleshed out by a sub-committee with membership including a High Court Judge and other high level personnel.

iii. Volunteers are needed for the VAPC Sub-groups.

iv. Within the Yorkshire and Humber region the need to highlight local sub-groups to obtain low level intelligence gathering is important. Use the Elevator Pitch in the reference pack as a guide to obtaining this information.

v. Phoenix was discussed and the Health Group asked to report back at the next meeting

#### **b) Communications/Reporting Cycle.**

i. The MOD would like to synchronise the reporting cycle and report on actual outcomes. Next Annual Report is required by August 2017.

ii. Both our Internal and External communications needs to be reappraised against our stakeholder analysis.

Internal.

iii. Web site needs to be utilised. John Topping volunteered to do this. Chairman needs to let John have all access details and information regarding content, updating etc.

#### **Action: Chairman/John Topping**

External.

iv. It is improving but more action required with relation to the Armed Forces Covenant groups

#### **c) Recruitment/Training /Succession Planning.**

i. Members are appointed on a 3 year cycle. Chairman confirmed who had been appointed up to December 2019 and welcomed Captain Peter Mason as a new member. The Chairman is elected for 9 years then it is open competition for the new Chairman.

ii. All training will be centralised at Norcross and Glasgow. Networking was highlighted as very important but there would be no annual members meetings.

### **3. Report from Y & H VAPC Local Authority Seminar.**

i. The Chairman took everyone through a Power Point debrief which is available from the Chairman if members require a copy.

#### **Action: Chairman.**

ii. The use of Survey Monkey to undertake low level surveys at no expense was highlighted. It does provide evidence which could support anecdotal evidence.

**4. Y & H VAPC – Future Plan and Agenda item 8. VWS Monitoring & Welfare items.**

The Chairman presented the report via Power Point.

i. A side discussion took place on referrals to DCMH. Duncan Bell expressed concern about the lack of leadership in a soldiers mental health issues. It was agreed that this should be an Agenda item at the next meeting

ii. Doctors referral pack, Police forces and other health issue were discussed and it was agreed to invite Jim Kambatta to our next meeting.

**Action: Chairman**

iii. Board and sub-committee – where do we focus our future efforts for each sub-committee?

iv. Policy & Government affairs sub-group to review stakeholder map, external relationships and the AF team.

v. Need to identify and count areas of collaboration/non-collaboration, best practices must be measured.

vi. Communications – Leaflets too expensive, raise outcomes and expectations. Web site to be developed. Local papers are a free use of advertising. The need to test the appetite of veterans towards central forums.

vii. Health. NHS vis a vis AF network engagement. GP awareness – how do we measure this? Integration of stakeholders – how? Health inequalities due to lack of a holistic approach. CCG's – are they a better place to go to influence the GP's?

**Action:** Focus targets and KPI for each sub-group over 2 years were discussed. Chair was to write these up for more detailed discussion with sub-group leads and subsequent Members focused action.

viii. Direct Support – VWS, how do we ensure that they are not cheery picking monitoring visits. Referrals not made under the correct procedure, terms of reference need clarifying. Consent forms for individual to attend needed.

**Action: Chairman and Peter Shields**

**5. Miscellaneous Items**

**a) Chairs digest**

This was circulated prior to the meeting and the Chairman to members to key points- we still need to join up the 'dots'. Veterans Gateway postponed until 20<sup>th</sup> June.

**b) Members Resource Pack**

All members now have copies of this resource and a short discussion took place on the important parts of the pack.

**C) Armed Forces Covenant – The Way Ahead.**

Members to look at the AFC Web Site – collaborative bids are the priority.

**6. Any Other Business**                      Concerns were expressed concerning outsourcing at Norcross

**7. Dates of next meetings**                      18th October 2017 and later dates to be confirmed.

**SUB GROUPS/VAPC APPOINTMENTS**

<b>Policy &amp; Government Affairs</b>	<b>HEALTH</b>
<b>Tony Phillips (Chair/Sub-Group Lead)</b> <b>Alex Bentley</b> <b>Tim Cole</b> <b>Andrew Palmer (Business Lead)</b>	<b>Alex Baxter (Vice Chair/Sub-Group Lead)</b> <b>David Jolliffe</b> <b>Alison Carter</b> <b>Robert Mortimer</b>
<b>Communications</b>	<b>Direct Support</b>
<b>Andrew Melville</b> <b>John Topping (VAPC Secretary)</b>	<b>Pete Shields (Sub-Group Lead)</b> <b>Helen Singleton</b> <b>Duncan Bell</b> <b>Rick Short</b>