



Minutes: London Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committee Meeting

Venue: - RAF Benevolent Fund, 67 Portland Place, LONDON, W1B 1AR

Thursday 28th September 2017

Time 11.00 – 15.00

Present	Apologies	Observers / Guests
Lynn Verity (LV) – Chairman	Jules Eaton (JE)	Jane Taylor – Co-ordinator for the Centre of Veterans Health – King Edward V11 hospital
Jim Blake (JB) – Deputy Chairman		
Gill Grigg (GG)		
Alex Jablonowski (AJ)		
Penny Long (PL)		
Julie Thain Smith (JTS)		
Roger Hood (RH)		
Paul Clabburn (PC)		
Ken Courtenay (KC)		
Heather Nicholson (HN)		
Bob Money (BM)		
Jim Evans (JME)		
Andrew Ross (AR)		
Marion Knight (secretary MK)		

ITEM 1: Introductions	
<p>1. The Chairman welcomed Jane Taylor, co-ordinator for the Centre of Veterans Health – King Edward V11 Hospital to the meeting and Jim Evans (JME) as a co-opted member of the committee. The Chairman explained that Dr Peter McAllister had also been asked to attend the meeting with a view to becoming a co-opted member but had been unable to attend</p>	

<p>ITEM 2: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>1. Apologies for absence were accepted from committee member JE</p>	<p>ACTION</p>
<p>ITEM 3: – JANE TAYLOR – CO-ORDINATOR FOR THE CENTRE OF VETERANS HEALTH – KING EDWARD V11 HOSPITAL</p> <p>1. Jane outlined to the committee members her role at the hospital and the support the hospital offers veterans and highlighted the Military Grants Fund, Pain Management Programme, the work of the veteran’s pain clinic and the research branch of the hospital</p> <p>2. The Chairman thanked Jane for attending the meeting and agreed she would raise the profile of the centre at the Chairman’s Conference</p>	<p>LV</p>
<p>ITEM 3: DECLARATION OF INTEREST</p> <p>1. The Chairman reminded Committee members that they must declare any interest arising out of their personal/business life which could conflict with VAPC business.</p>	
<p>ITEM 4: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <p>1. Item 4 – Chairman to outline a possible question for Baroness Sue Garden to ask the Minister, regards the proposed Statutory Instrument. RH also suggested the committee ask the Baroness how she might interact with the Committee on a six-monthly basis. The Chairman asked GG to approach the Baroness, which she agreed to do and GG suggested she invite the Baroness to a Committee meeting in the future</p> <p>2. Item 5 – There has been no contact with Tom Brake. KC to follow up about whether he still holds the same role in the Liberal Party following the General Election results The Chairman informed the Committee that there has been no movement on the Statutory Instrument (SI) but hoped there would be further progress announced at the Chairman’s Conference</p> <p>3. Item 9 – Chairman asked for the spelling of university to be corrected</p> <p>4. Item 10- Chairman had engaged with all the VA&PC committees with regards to the mentoring project and AJ explained there had been two interested applicants</p> <p>5. The minutes were passed as a true and accurate record of the meeting of the 7th June 2017. MK will arrange to send to Norcross</p> <p>6. The Committee agreed VA&PC minutes should be published on the VA&PC website. PC and MK will undertake this action</p>	<p>LV & GG</p> <p>JB & GG KC</p> <p>MK</p> <p>PC & MK</p>
<p>ITEM 5: – REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE SUB-GROUPS</p> <p>AWARENESS & COMMUNICATION: JIM BLAKE – (refer to the sub group’s report to the Committee)</p> <p>1. JB went through the Awareness sub group report with the Committee which had been circulated prior to the meeting</p> <p>2. PC suggested that, having received a previous positive response from the Mayor of London with regards to the work undertaken by Kent University and London VA&PC, a further letter should be sent to the Mayor of London to progress this matter to the next stage. The Committee agreed to this approach</p> <p>3. The Committee discussed how they could help Kent University move this work forward. The proposed seminar may be one way forward, however PC believed that the Committee would be better placed to make decisions with regards to a</p>	<p>PC & LV</p>

<p>seminar after his next meeting with Ed Kirton Darling in October 2017</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. PC thanked JB and JTS for attending the recent London Armed Forces Covenant conference as a lot of Ed's questions had been answered 5. The Committee agreed that best practice guide for London Boroughs based on the Kent University work would be of value and this could be something which could be rolled out countrywide via the other VA&PCs. This could be a debated at the proposed seminar and PC explained that Kent University had a facilitation team and they could be approached with regards facilitating a seminar 6. AR suggested the Mayor's office could help with the publication and audit etc and KC endorsed this suggestion <p>ADVOCACY - GILL GRIGG: (refer to the sub group report)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GG went through the Advocacy sub group report with the Committee (which had been circulated before the meeting) with specific reference to the fact that the pension issue outlined in her report had now been resolved. PC suggested this was a good story to be published on the website and GG agreed she would write something for the website 2. LV asked GG to see whether the Committee could get invitations to the London Assembly Memorial Service on the 11th November 2017 <p>ASSISTANCE: - PENNY LONG</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PL explained that there was no report this quarter as the NHS forum meeting had been cancelled and the meeting was now planned for the 11th October 2017. 2. PL told the Committee that London Poppy day at Waterloo station was on the 2nd November 2017 	<p>GG & PC</p> <p>GG</p>
<p>ITEM 6: DECEMBER MEETING AND CHRISTMAS LUNCH</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The meeting will be on Wednesday 13th December 2017 at the Naval Club. GG will send details to MK 2. John Pritchard is till involved in the arrangements for the lunch and the cost will be approximately £40.00 	<p>GG</p>
<p>ITEM 7: AOB</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LV explained there would be a further advert inviting applications for members of the London VA&PC. LV explained the Committee would benefit from applications and from former RAF servicemen those who have a medical background 2. LV explained all current observers would be co-opted and they could apply formally to join the Committee when the advert was published 3. PC asked whether the London VA&PC had fallen off the contact list for the London Armed Forces conferences. JTS explained that she did not think there was a need for an invite and agreed to personally follow up to ensure the Committee received communication in the future 4. LV explained that 2021 was the centenary years for VA&PC's and suggested some ideas at how this might be commemorated such as a royal mail stamp, commemorative trees to be planted at the National Arboretum, a service of thanks giving at St Georges Chapel, Windsor Castle and a possible reception at the House of Lords. All committee members agreed that these were good ideas and should be raised by the Chairman at the Chairman's Conference 	<p>JTS</p> <p>LV</p>

<p>ITEM 8: – STRATEGY CREATION WORKSHOP</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RH explained the purpose of the London VA&PC Business plan was to define the strategy for the next 2 years 2018-2020 and the purpose of this session was to decide on who would work on certain elements of the strategy, the desired outcomes and timeframes for achievement 2. Agreed the main objectives for the next two years were to improve Veterans employment housing and health prospects and to celebrate the centenary in 2021 3. RH went through proposals and the Committee members debated these proposals 4. The Committee agreed LV, KC and GG would be on the Policy and Government Affairs sub group, PL, Jules (JE), JTS would be on the Health sub group, Employment would consist of AJ and HN and Jim (JME) and Housing would be PC, AR, and BM. RH, GG and PL would be on the Centenary sub group. PC and JB would be responsible for communications and JB would also act as a “sounding board”/co-ordinator for all sub groups 5. RH agreed to send out the slide pack with revisions following the Committee’s discussions during this session 6. The Committee agreed that there may be a requirement for the whole Committee to work on bigger pieces of work. It was also agreed to explore new ways of holding meetings to negate the need to meet in person 7. MK to distribute up to date contact list 8. JB vice chair of the London VA&PC Committee will act in a supervisory role for the sub groups 	<p>RH</p> <p>MK</p>
<p>ITEM 9 – PROPOSED DATES FOR NEXT YEARS MEETINGS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Suggested dates for next year’s meetings were Wednesday 14th March, Wednesday 13th June and Wednesday 5th September. GG to organise venue and confirm 	<p>GG</p>