

## VAPC Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018 Record & Actions

### Attendees:

Col (Rtd) Tony Phillips MBE (Chairman)  
John Topping (Secretary)  
Andrew Palmer  
Lt Col (Rtd) Alan Skidmore  
Maj (Rtd) Duncan Bell  
Ms Helen Singleton  
Lt Col (Rtd) Peter Shields MBE QGM  
Rick Short  
Dr David Jolliffe CB  
Alex Bentley  
Tim Cole  
Dan Isherwood (VWS)

### Apologies:

Sqn Ldr (Rtd) Mike Chambers MBE  
Mr Andrew Melville  
Alex Baxter  
Capt Peter Mason

### Observer/Guests:

Gary Collins  
Steve Lowe  
David Barlowe

### Absent

Craig Gadd

### Item

### Discussion

## A minutes Silence was held for Robert Mortimer

### 1. General Items.

**a. Introductions and apologies.** - The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies confirmed. Guest speakers. Steve Lowe and David Barlowe, our two guest speakers were introduced along with Gary Collins a potential new member

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

- i. Outstanding items were dealt with. The SWOT analysis needed to be carried out, misconceptions on homelessness and negative Press coverage. The sub-group would be consulted.
- ii. The information shared by a member at our last meeting Royal British Legion initiative with regards the leading Charity status was felt to be inaccurate and was therefore to be disregarded.
- iii. Robert Simpson, an MoD GP, and SO2 Transition to be invited to the next meeting.
- iv. **Action Point; Chairman**

### **c. Recruiting 2018.**

i. Members were encouraged to source new members as in the next few years many members would be reaching their final terms of office.

ii. Members were asked to volunteer to provide input in to new members training. Any volunteers to Chair ASP please.

iii. Members were reminded that our website need short, sharp articles to let the public know exactly what we are up to. Reports to be submitted to the Secretary with any appropriate photos who will then prepare them for insertion on the web site.

**d. Members reports from external events.**

i. Andrew Palmer reported that he had held meetings with Barclay's Bank with regards their SERVES/AFTER Project initiatives. This project appears to be an excellent opportunity for veterans gain employment. There was significant scope to support developing these initiatives regionally; Chair was to arrange a meeting with our Business Lead, Andrew, to explore opportunities further (**Afternote:** Andrew also offered to advise on developing the homelessness narrative as well as capturing/sharing best practice, master messages and using case studies to support). **Action: Chair.**

**e. Management Plan**

- i. It has been reduced to 1 page.
- ii. Members encouraged to look at it in detail.  
From the discussion about SERVES/AFTER it was also decided there was scope to build on Barclay's possible wish to sponsor a joint event with ourselves. Andrew also mention the IoD and Deloitte's initiatives as other opportunities for joint collaboration projects. There was scope to include this with a Business Seminar – see later Minute.

**Action Point;** Andrew was to be prepared to advise on collaborating with Alans development of a Business Seminar to ensure synergy with supporting AFTER/SERVES – see later Minute item.

**2. Social Proscribing/Mental Health.**

**The NHS is introducing Transition, Intervention and Liaison (TIL)**

- a. Duncan Bell provided a case study of a veteran losing an appeal due to no psychiatric report.
- b. A veteran from the Falklands with a back injury directly attributable to the operation took 4 months to obtain a scan.
- c. The Armed Forces Covenant (AFC) need positive perception management.
- d. If policy needs changing this needs to be brought to the attention of the Minister in a managed fashion. Some Local Authorities do not understand or interpret the AFC incorrectly. The message does not seem to be drifting downwards. Alan Skidmore is to provide is to provide background examples on the lack of passage of information and the wrong interpretation.

**Action Point;** Alan Skidmore.

e. Businesses need to be targeted and a seminar organised. Alan Skidmore volunteered to lead the project to develop a business engagement seminar along with Tim Cole, Rick Short and John Topping. The seminar should be planned for Spring 2019. To kick off Chair was to produce terms of reference (TOR) to Alan. **Action: Chair.**

f. Dr David Joliffe is to explore the GP's understanding of veteran's medical requirements.

g. Dan Isherwood informed members that a two-year contract had been awarded with regards TIL/CTS with Dr Lawrence Atkins leading the project.

**Action Point;** Dr David Joliffe is to ascertain in the interaction and report back to the Committee.

### 3. Developing Collaboration in our Region.

#### a. Local Authority.

i. David Barlowe presented a PPP which has been circulated to all members. He had received 2 years funding from the Military Covenant Fund.

ii. Members were asked to promote the websites and particularly both the conference being organised on Thursday 28 June at the Humber Bridge Country Hotel, Barton-upon Humber and the veterans survey which can be found on ERYC and Hull CC websites.

iii. The stakeholder analysis need to be carried out as a matter of urgency. (**Action:** Governance Sub-Group). In addition **all Members** were asked to advocate vigorously in their areas that all Veterans should ensure their GP has them registered under NHS Read Code, as well as decaling veterans status when seeking any statutory (i.e. Local Authority) support. This was important to get accurate data for resource and support allocation.

**Action Point:** Chairman.

iv. On the forthcoming census veterans will have to declare the service status.

#### b. Project Nova.

i. Steve Lowe made a PPP highlighting the positive effect the project had on reducing re-offending from veterans.

ii. He estimated the prison population of veterans was 6,000. He also made an important distinction about how data was gathered which showed it was flawed and could be higher.

iii. It was pointed out that some military were being discharged without referral to NOVA. As with above, members should exhort all those in the criminal justice system to declare their status so additional and NOVA support can be accessed. We should look at how we may use our website to help. Humberside police were illustrated as "Best Practice".

iv. A project was being undertaken with 4 Bde.

#### 4. Various.

##### a. VAPC TOR's and Handbook.

i. The only amendment to the Members Handbook previously circulated for comment was that Counties need breaking out into identifiable areas.

**Action Point:** Any more amendments to Chair ASP please.

##### b. VAPC Centenary

i. Members were invited to give the matter some thought as to what input was required and options available.

##### c. GDPR.

i. The main point is that a positive opt in is required and needs documenting.

j. Before anything can be done the Data Control Officer for the VAPC's needs to be confirmed. It had been the opinion of the Board Of VAPC Chairs that this post should be the responsibility of MoD, or Veterans UK although it was possible they would require all VAPCs to have their own; we await MoD decision on this. In the meantime, to keep us GDPR compliant, protocol will be issued and then members will be asked to opt in to being communicated with.

**Action:** All Members to return form to Secretary please.

##### d. Veterans Gateway.

i. Veterans have a representative on this committee.

##### e. Myth Busting and dragon Slaying.

i. A 'key fact' document is being produced which will be circulated to all MP's. This will be in advance of 2 policy papers from MoD; one about Transition and the other will be a Veterans Strategy, both due out at the end of the year, We have not so far been consulted on either but Board Of VAPC Chairs has asked MoD to consult us

#### 5. VWS Monitoring & Welfare Items.

Dan Isherwood's Welfare Report was circulated and was discussed. He also indicated that, although only recently into post, he now had another opportunity so would be replaced in the near future but assured the VAPC that we would not be left with any gap in support.

i. Universal Credits will be a major challenge to ensure that veterans are not disadvantaged and required to pay back money.

ii. Pension claim numbers were discussed, and outstanding issues described. There is a 12-month backlog on appeals. Dan would provide a breakdown of % outcomes.

**Action Point:** Dan Isherwood

iii. GP's response times and resource issues at Norcross were highlighted,

iv. It was pointed out that there was a lack of dialogue between claimants and Norcross with the progression of their Claim/Appeal. It was suggested that a lot of the conflict between claimants and

Norcross could be illuminated by just letting the claimant know where he was with regards their claim.

**6. Any Other Business**

**Alex Bentley.** Alex pointed out that in other countries veterans were allowed to have a vehicle number plate identifying that they were a veteran. Alex will provide details at the next meeting along with costings.

**Action Point:** Alex Bentley.

**7. Dates of next meetings**

5<sup>th</sup> September 2018 and 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019

<b>SUB GROUPS/VAPC APPOINTMENTS</b>	
<b>Policy &amp; Governance</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>John Topping (VAPC Secretary)</b> <b>Andrew Melville</b> <b>Pete Mason</b>	<b>Alex Baxter (Vice Chair/Sub-Group Lead)</b> <b>David Jolliffe</b>
	<b>Direct Support</b>
	<b>Pete Shields (Sub-Group Lead)</b> <b>Helen Singleton</b> <b>Duncan Bell</b> <b>Rick Short</b>