



Y&H VAPC QUARTERLY – Sep 18

	<p>Integrated Referrals: Ex-Forces: York City promoting best practice through LGA with a model that aims to identify benefits of asking the armed forces question to recipients of adult social care to provide identification of their community and provision of data and so lead to financial savings, better social outcomes and compliance with the AF Covenant and Care Act. It links to NHS and GPs.</p>
	<p>New Website: Totally revamped and much more user friendly with some great resources, including e-learning self-teach packages and well worth some time to browse through it and use to combat myths and encourage positive progress.</p> <p>Veteran ID Cards: Min DPV - veterans will keep military ID to maintain emotional connection, allow service leavers to be identified easily, aiding transition to civilian life. Charities, Veterans UK, local authorities and GPs will benefit as they will not have to conduct time-consuming checks to identify veterans.</p>
	<p>AF Cov Fund Trust: 29 grants totalling £415,217, under Local Grants priority. This round included great local projects supporting community integration by encouraging Armed Forces and Civilian communities to come together. A great opportunity to raise awareness within local community of the role of the armed forces.</p>
	<p>Defence Committee: Its latest report into AF Cov says “..new arrangements must be kept under review, so that momentum is maintained on .. pledges. We therefore recommend that an element of independent scrutiny must be built into monitoring the Covenant” – this is the space we operate in. Summary, conclusions and recommendations, full report:</p> <p>Military-Suicides: Myths continue, but reality is rate among males aged 16-59 years in UK general population in 2016 (latest data available) was 18 per 100,000 compared to UK Armed Forces rate of 8 per 100,000 in 2017 i.e. military are significantly lower.</p>
	<p>Mental Health Services: A new leaflet summarising the available services and options has been released. This should greatly improve access for veterans.</p> <p>GP Access: RCGP launched a scheme that should improve ex-forces registration at GP Surgeries and so access to primary care, it details Q&A for practices. Background here based on pilots in Yorkshire/Midlands. Veterans should be strongly encouraged to register with their GP by Read Code in accordance with this charter. All Members could check their local surgeries are displaying a poster like this example and website. Initiative also being extended to hospitals – good news - make others aware of it.</p>
	<p>Homelessness: Legislation significantly reformed - Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, wef 3rd April, 2018 - duties on local authorities to intervene earlier, irrespective if applicant has 'priority need' or 'intentionally homeless'. Revised code of Guidance for LAs, with information specific to Armed Forces community - five key changes</p>
	<p>Veterans – Attitudes: Interesting SSAFA report about what their veterans feel, what society thinks and shows mismatch with You.Gov related survey, summarised in Daily Telegraph item. There are supporting parallels that indicate some real areas where advocating would deliver better understanding.</p>