

VETERANS ADVISORY AND PENSIONS (VAPC) COMMITTEE – Annual Activity Report dated.....Up until 01 10 17

Annual Report fromNORTH WESTCommittee

Achievement against VAPC Objectives

Membership

We have continued to restructure the committee and now have included the DWP AF champion for the region: Vicky Jeffers, Professor Alan Finnegan of Chester University, Doctor Celia Hynes of Salford University, Councillor Ian Francis AF Champion Liverpool, Mr Andrew Ashley Taylor, corporate lawyer, Mrs Helen Ashley Taylor, trustee of the co-operative group, Ms Diane West local business.

We are working on representation for Greater Manchester, it is not clear who the Cumbria AF Champion is yetⁱ and the Lancashire AF champion was only appointed at the end of August, more to follow there. I have extended five people; Mike Taylor NHS senior manager, Chris Owen Regimental Secretary Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, Mike Oliver, Officers association Regional Representative, Mr Stanley Rawcliffe, Blackpool Coastal Housing and Chris Thomas Greater Manchester AF Hub and Wigan Borough Council, I have three co optees Ms Jozi Brown, Cumbria CVS and Mr Michael Grell (Secretary) and RAFA ,Ms Sam Wilkinson Cheshire, This leaves Ms Shauna Dixon formerly NHS CE Bury, Mr Darren Clifford Lancaster City Council, Myself, Mr John Mansergh South Lakes Housing and Mr Andy Bacon NHS England. I am in the process of undertaking a skill audit to determine what additional sets we need before we advertise in order to develop the committee further. We have appointed Councillor Ed Nash OF Lancashire County Council to be responsible for the spread of best practice across firstly Lancashire Councils and then more wider regionally.

The key achievement has been the reorganisation of the team as above, unfortunately the progress has been negated by the loss of the County AF champions in Cumbria and Lancashire, and this has put us back six months, in that the sense these were two in post, experienced active councillors.

In Cumbria it is not apparent who will lead the task now and they were the optimised local authority group. Lancashire are a step ahead and have appointed a champion, he has yet to hold his first meeting – more to follow.

Engagement

We are not well enough known in our regional space – we seek to overcome this factor by engaging at the sub regional level or county level, this worked in Cumbria, works in Liverpool where one of our member runs the sub regional forum, I am optimistic that we will develop a similar capacity alongside the Greater Manchester combined authority. Lancashire in my assessment will be much more difficult given the disparate political composition situ, we will work with UCLAN and the College of Military, Veterans and Emergency Services to promote and expedite this idea.

At least the new champion is willing, grounds for optimism. Cheshire will fall much more naturally in to place given the three members of the committee involves Sam Wilkinson, Andy Bacon and professor Finnegan.

I, Chris Thomas and Shauna Dixon attend the NW NHS AF Forum.

We have identified that Cumbria has the most effective links with the third sector and are working up a plan to facilitate similar elsewhere across the region. Beginning in Preston, Lancashire.

Assistance to Veterans

To include any examples of personal assistance, wider reaching activities/events. We have assisted three people referred TO US directly to use and are in the process of addressing a complaint.

Veterans Welfare Service Engagement activity

This has not been good this year.

Oof the two meetings we have had it has become difficult to garner attendance, we will re invigorate this relationship into next year.

Consultation

Nil

Other activity

Because we have 43 Local authorities and the IoM, we determined that it would is impossible, to act in a similar way to that way that is in done in Yorkshire (23 local authorities) where the VAPC there address every forum and local authority

Hence the move to work sub regionally in our area of Operations. We are also working to promote activity in the Veterans activity in the GM and Merseyside spaces. More detail here is not yet for public consumption.

Plans for next year

To reinvigorate the AF networks in Cumbria and Cheshire, set up the county wide structures in GM and Lancashire, whilst maintaining success in Merseyside, develop working relations with the NW NHS AF network, identify and spread best practice in local authorities and the 3rd sector.

Other key points

Jg lighten

Signed: Chair

i I know as at 13 September, have a known but it is not public, I will write to her tomorrow.