

## VAPC Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018 Record & Actions

### Attendees:

Col (Rtd) Tony Phillips MBE (Chairman)  
John Topping (Secretary)  
Mr Robert Mortimer  
Mr Andrew Melville  
Dr David Jolliffe CB  
Sqn Ldr (Rtd) Mick Walters  
Alex Baxter  
Alex Bentley  
Capt Peter Mason  
Tim Cole

### Apologies:

Andrew Palmer  
Ms Alison Carter  
Mrs Helen Singleton  
Sqn Ldr (Rtd) Mike Chambers MBE  
Andy Campbell (VWS)  
Lt Col (Rtd) Peter Shields MBE QGM  
Maj (Rtd) Duncan Bell  
Rick Short  
Lt Col (Rtd) Alan Skidmore  
Craig Gadd

### Observer/Guests:

Nil

### Absent

Nil

### Item

### Discussion

#### 1. General Items

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

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

i. Guest speakers. Unfortunately during the Rail problems there were no speakers available. Next meeting Steve Lowe from project NOVA will be invited.

#### **c. Annual Report/Recruiting 2018.**

i. The Annual Report was touched on at the last meeting. The Chairman brought members up to date

ii. We have had one resignation, one new applicant and one member who needs to extend. Members were encouraged to identify any potential new members.

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

i. Again it was identified that there are too many military charities. Mick Walters briefed members as to developments at 'homes for veterans'. They now have 15 houses available, a healthy bank balance and during the year they had helped 50 veterans.

ii. Robert Mortimer reported that the RBL had become the overarching Chair of all military charities.

**Action point.** Robert to report back with details of this new initiative and which charities are involved.

iii. Negative publicity was discussed and how the alleged bad news stories sometimes lacked credibility. Not always possible to refute these allegations.

**Action point.** Policy and Governance group to investigate negative press.

iv. Andrew Melville attended a Northumbria University presentation about the Northern Hub and that alcohol abuse amongst service personnel highlighted that veterans had difficulties in navigating the system. A summary of the project with a link to the full report is at: <https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/business-services/engage-with-us/the-northern-hub-for-military-veterans-and-families-research/current-projects/>

v. Veteran's mental health teams could help in this area. What are the main priorities? All 13 VAPC's represented on the Veterans Gateway so should coordinate our input.

vi. Independent Medical Health Group. The Chairman reported on compensation items. Highlighted that MSK injuries are the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest claim area.

vii. Alex Baxter reported on NE Lincolnshire Local Authority initiative. One major building had been identified as capable of accommodating all partners involved in implementing the AF Covenant. It contains a coffee house etc. and is able to sign post veterans to the various agencies.

**Action Point.** The possibility of holding our next meeting in this building in Cleethorpes is to be investigated and the Chairman is to approach VWS to confirm.

**e. items from Quarterly Newsheet;**

i. The Chairman took members through salient points.

**Action Point;** John Topping to publish on the website.

**2. Management Plan – Future Direction 2018 - 2022**

**a. Review Make Up of Sub-Groups.**

i. The following are now the Sub Groups; Direct Support, Health and Policy and Governance

**b. Discuss detailed tasks, allocate responsibilities.**

i. Roles were discussed and agreed. Vision statements etc. are required based on our core values. Chair emphasised this was a "living document" that could be developed and amended.

ii. Strategic priorities need to be identified. Health sub group to look at 'finding the forgotten, read codes etc.

iii. Homelessness – there is an issue and the narrative needs developing, e.g. joining the dots!

iv. Messaging for the Armed Forces forums will be an Agenda item at each meeting.

**c. SWOT Analysis.** To be carried out. Sub Group Leads to organise individual meetings to develop KPI's etc. Stakeholder analysis is also to be carried out; Chair issued example formats to health sub-group.

**Action Point:** Leads to organise individual meetings and be prepared to report progress at next meeting.

**3. Developing Collaboration in our Region.**

**a. Collaboration Initiatives: 2 x Local Appointments.**

Guest speakers for the next meeting will be asked to attend.

**b. Resettlement: 4 Mechanised Brigade and HQ North East.**

To be an Agenda item at the next meeting. An attempt will be made for Maj. Anselm to speak on the transition process.

**Action Point:** Chairman

**4. Various.**

**a. SERVES Scheme and Mentors Required.**

i. This is a Barclays Bank inspired scheme and they are keen to expand it throughout the UK. Providing mentors is critical.

ii. Policy and Governance sub group to lead and Chair to ask Andrew Palmer if this is an area he can provide expertise.

**Action Point:** Chairman to provide link. (Afternote: It seems this has been renamed VETS; link: <https://www.veteranemployment.co.uk/> )

**b. Central Issues – SI And Website.**

i. Statutory Instrument has now be confirmed.

ii. Website to include a photo and short synopsis of members interests/careers etc. Please keep it short & relevant to VAPC role.

**Action Point.** Mugshots and briefs to be sent to John Topping for up loading to web site.

ii. SSVC can provide support to produce videos see attached link.

**Action Point:** Chairman to provide Link.

**5. VWS Monitoring & Welfare Items.**

Andy Campbell's welfare Report which was circulated prior to the meeting was discussed.

i. It was asked if the report could highlight the maximum time a claim had been waiting and why? We need to understand better the reasons for delay, appeals and general discontent so we are better armed to manage perceptions and support genuine need. Rather than the target achievement, we would like to know a bit more about the reasons behind the small numbers of longer delays etc.

ii. Members were reminded that we represent veterans and not

serving personnel.

**6. Any Other Business**

**Blighty Bear.** Alex Baxter reported on a North Lincolnshire LA initiative using Students to build a giant bear to promote the Armed Forces with significant success.

**7. Dates of next meetings**

9<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018

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