

Meeting of the Yorkshire and Humber Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committee (Y&H VAPC) Held on 18 January 2012
At Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Yorkshire and the Humber
Record of Discussion, Decisions and Actions

<p>Attendees: Col(Retd) Tony Phillips MBE Maj (Retd) Duncan Bell Ms Alison Carter Dr David Jolliffe Mr Robert Mortimer Mr Peter Shields MBE QGM Mrs Helen Singleton Mr John Topping Mr Alexander Baxter Mr Alex Bentley Mr Tim Cole Mr Peter Heys</p>	<p>Apologies: Flt Lt(Retd) Ian Johnstone RAF Mr John Anderson</p> <p>Absent: Mrs Helen Owen Mr Dave Chapman</p>
Item	Discussion
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair outlined what a great first year it had been. Y&H VAPC being recognized as one of the top two in the country. Well done to all concerned. First some admin points. We will spend time this morning looking at the Community Landscape, see how we as a committee fit in, and after lunch we can spend time looking at the three year plan and decide on some action points. A power point presentation to be shown. Action: Chair to circulate a copy of power point. Welcome back to Peter, our only serving member of the group after operational deployment to Afghanistan and also Libya. VAPC membership stands at 16; we had one resignation, and have not seen a couple of members for a while. Chair has sought permission to recruit five new members, and is awaiting outcome of the request; Action: All: everyone asked to think about potential candidates to encourage applying. After note: Authority received to recruit. Ian has done a great job of collating data, once forwarded to him, for the Annual Report. Much appreciated. Our job would be speeded up if everyone could go on electronic media, however we appreciate it is not always possible. <p>Power point slide, worked through looking at our Mandate and Doing right by our service veterans.</p>
Emerging Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The landscape is cluttered with many third sector organizations. We need to concentrate on larger third sector organizations, as funding will diminish and hard edged competition for funds may ensue and delivery from the partners could diminish along with reduced funds. COBSEO– is a website worth taking a look at and is a good indicator of accredited organisations. An important role of the committee is to look at what policy changes we should be recommending to government. In our first year we have fed up to SPVA- however we need to see if we can feed into the group more. Chair wished to gather more intelligence and get a better feel of what issue of concern there were at grass roots. Action: PlInfo Lead would develop process to achieve this. Armed Forces Forums (AFF) (Replacing Welfare Pathway forums) are up and running in parts of our region. VAPC Members are already represented on some AFF. Action: VAPC Representatives to be prepared to attend AFF. Action: Chair to contact HQ 15 (NE) Brigade and request VAPC be invited as Members of all AFF.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VAPC Members volunteered for AFF (slide 10 att PowerPoint) as Follows: <table border="1" data-bbox="379 174 1442 383"> <tr> <td>Fylingdales David Jolliffe</td> <td>AFC Harrogate Alex Bentley</td> <td>CRR Tim Cole</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 Yorks Alison Carter</td> <td>RAF Leeming Peter Heys</td> <td>Catterick Garrison Duncan Bell</td> </tr> <tr> <td>150 RLC Pete Shields</td> <td>38 SR Rob Mortimer</td> <td>4 Yorks Rob Mortimer</td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action: All above will await formal invitations to attend AFF. Members noted that Ripon and Linton on Ouse did not appear to be covered and Chair will discuss with 15 Bde. 	Fylingdales David Jolliffe	AFC Harrogate Alex Bentley	CRR Tim Cole	4 Yorks Alison Carter	RAF Leeming Peter Heys	Catterick Garrison Duncan Bell	150 RLC Pete Shields	38 SR Rob Mortimer	4 Yorks Rob Mortimer
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Objectives and Developments for 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Covenants – Grants: The Chair quoted Twenty two bids in total, of which only 6 were fully funded, 8 needed more work and 8 were rejected outright. There is a risk of funds being available but not utilised and Action: All Members were asked to forward ideas, promote LAs to engage schemes for veterans benefit and help form stronger bids. Next bids deadlines: 24 Feb, 22 Jun & 19 Oct 12. VAPC LA Group: continue to ID and promote best practice between LA in developing Community Covenants and encourage/assist those behind the curve; decent action plans were key. 4 x members had contributed to NYCC Joint Strategic Needs Analysis on Health and Wellbeing, securing input to strategic plans for veterans benefit. Engagement of 3 Sector – Measures of VAPC effect; John suggested the use of a Performa, with five questions and a space for comments. This would also help obtain, what the needs of the veterans are. This could be completed after invites to high profile events. Stated that SPVA had carried out a customer survey, could possibly use the questions, from this survey and information obtained. Chair asked for any volunteers to join the public Information Group, Action- Anyone interested to let Chair know. Influence NHS Delivery- Discussions took place around the lack of knowledge of GP around veterans. Possible look into raising awareness with practice managers, if the GP's are difficult to reach. We have some examples of good practice in the region, we need to capture these and share them wider. Talked to the maps showing Veterans in receipt of pensions, which were circulated at previous meetings. Homeless Veterans – Discussion around the thirty six self contained flats at Catterick, were veterans can stay for up to 18 months. Veterans in Custody – Rob to look into this issue is there a problem in field. Need to look at ways of preventing Veterans ending up in custody, including training and employment opportunity. Again a suggestion about best practice was put forward. Some examples of this in Alex's area. Welfare Provision within the Region- Action Any evidence for SPVA in this area send bullet points to the Chair. 									
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was extensive discussion about our first year achievements, the issues raised above and around other issues of interest previously raised in Committee. It was agreed the current 3 year plan was relatively extant but that the Tasks and Objectives were too detailed and in their current form did not focus sufficiently on the 3-4 core objectives upon which Members thought we ought to tackle. Action: Chair to synthesize agreements into more succinct Task & Objectives and update 3 Year Plan accordingly. 									
DONM	Date of Next Meeting – Wed 2 May 2012 , 11:00 - 15:30hrs at RFCA, York and <u>subsequent one on Wed 5 Sep 12.</u> After note: dates were booked with RFCA Y&H by Chair after Meeting.									

ACTION LOG

Serial	Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Notes	Completed Date
Meeting 4, 8 June 2011					
COMMITTEE STANDING ORDERS					
3.1	Members are to ensure they are familiar with the VA&PC Processes as set out in the Appointment Packup.	All Members	Ongoing	Of paramount importance is understanding how to deal with enquiries of a Welfare Nature.	Tx to Standing Orders
3.3	Members are to provide monthly updates of their activities to their Sub Group leads. Sub Group Leads are to collate these and pass to the Secretary	Members and Sub Group Leads	End of Each Calendar Month	Simple, short sentences will suffice. Data should be sanitized, especially for Welfare type activities.	Tx to Standing Orders
3.6	All Members are to provide environment scanning with regards to changes to their PCT's into GP Trusts and to keep the Health Sub Group Lead informed.	All Members	Ongoing	Members are to continue this action	Tx to Standing Orders
3.9	Members are to gather evidence from individual veterans they encounter with regards to ascertaining the awareness of the VA&PC amongst the veteran community in our region.	All members	Ongoing	Members are to continue this action	Tx to Standing Orders
3.10a	Members are to provide feedback regarding any services provided to veterans which fall below an acceptable standard.	All Members	Next Meeting	Members are to continue this action	Tx to Standing Orders
3.10b	Members are to report, via the Welfare Sub Group Lead, any cases which appear to be on hold due to the rationalization of records at SPVA.	All Members	Next Meeting	Members are to continue this action	Tx to Standing Orders
COMPLETED ACTIONS					
2.4	The PR Sub Group Lead is to produce material for use in PR and Media Opportunities and to look for opportunities to represent our role with Regional BBC News and Newspapers.	Chair and PI Sub Group	Next Meeting	John Topping has effectively taken the lead in this area. All Members to liaise directly with John regarding PR and Information distribution to the Media.	8 Jun 11
3.2	Secretary to order 20 Business Cards per Member and distribute	Secretary	14 April 2011	Email sent to SPVA 27 Jul 11	27 Jul 11

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3.4	Secretary to inform SPVA of the committee's outstanding training needs	Secretary	1 April 2011	Only 2 members now require training	8 Jun 11
3.5	The Secretary is to liaise with the Leads for Welfare, PI and Local Authorities in adopting the Gap Analysis Report Format produced by the Health Sub Group.	Secretary and Sub Group Leads	1 April	Reporting Formats now adopted	8 Jun 11
3.11	Mr Topping is to produce a Press Release for committee use based on the formal SPVA Press <i>Releases</i> <Note these are available via the <i>GoogleDocs Portal</i> >.	Mr Topping	14 April	Mr Topping has effectively taken the lead in this area	8 Jun 11
OUTSTANDING ACTIONS					
2.8	Members are requested to provide a general Biography for inclusion in the GoogleDoc shared area.	All Members	30 April	ONGOING – (NOTE Deletion of Bio for resigned members: Data Protection)	
3.7	The Secretary is to meet with the RFA Chief of Staff to investigate their distribution method for the Region's MPs	Secretary / LA Lead	Next Meeting	The LA Lead was asked to take this forward – Update at next meeting.	
3.8	The Chair is to request the inclusion of the Skipton/Ripon areas in the next tranche of DASA Statistics.	Chair	Next Meeting	Update needed from Chair	