

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Members are to ensure they provide end of month summaries of their activities to their Sub Group Leads. Sub Group leads are to collate and pass to the Secretary. [Action 3.3] • VA&PC Website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chair informed the meeting he is leading on developing the format for the VAPC Website. He would seek the assistance of Dave Chapman.
Minutes of last Meeting	<p>The Action Log from the previous meeting was reviewed. Actions 2.4 and 2.8 are incomplete and have been carried forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Action 2.4] The Chair asked Mr John Topping to become part of the Public Relations Sub Group, which was henceforth to be renamed as Public Information Sub Group. The Chair and Mr Topping are to liaise with Sub Group Lead as to progress in this area. The Secretary indicated he would also like to assist in this area. • [Action 2.8] To date only 8 Biographies have been received. Members were asked to consider providing a short biography outlining their areas of expertise and experience, or confirm they do not wish to have one.. <p>The minutes were accepted as correct and a true record of the meeting.</p>
Administration	<p>The Secretary covered the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Access to the GoogleDoc Shared Working Area ● Allocation of Familiarization Training Places. He confirmed that only 2 members now required training. The Secretary is to pass this information to SPVA. [Action 3.4] ● Gap Analysis Reporting. The Health Sub Group had produced a report format that should be adopted by the other sub groups. The Secretary is to liaise with the Leads to have this format adopted. [Action 3.5]
Chairman's Report	<p>The Chairman provided detailed information on a number of subjects including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenge66 <challenge66.org> • Outcomes - Sub-Group leads meeting of 27 Jan 11 (Gov, Health, LA) • Updates to the Governance Directive • Sub Group Terms of Reference • Engagement • Legislation <p>Challenge66 is a charitable activity being undertaken in support of ABF. Members were asked to consider if they could support and promote this activity.</p> <p>Chair thanked Committee Members for their excellent engagement over past 3 months; positive feedback from various NHS Trusts and Local Authorities visited or contacted has been received as well as for central policy comments. Chair would circulate ELS MoD reply (Action Completed).</p> <p>Specific Terms of Reference for the Sub Groups, outcome from 27 Jan meeting, have been incorporated into the Governance Directive, as have amended engagement priorities; Alex Baxter noted the priority for engaging SPVA Med Board had not been amended, which was accepted and would be</p>

	<p>done.</p> <p>Updates on current Legislation and Parliamentary Reports were provided, e.g. Boyce and the Military Covenant.</p> <p>Upcoming Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS Changes from PCTs to GP Trusts; to be Health sub-group focus for medium term. Chair attended AFN meeting on 28 Feb, chaired by David Rutter, DofH Mil Health team leader -Y&H VAPC are now recognised members of this forum. • Contact with MPs – Members briefed on engagement constraints “Purdah” for Local Elections (20 Mar-6 May 11) and directed to avoid any electioneering; the test is that if LA officers (as opposed to elected representatives) were present, then engagement is probably OK but tread carefully. • Vulnerable Veterans – Helen Singleton briefed on the VVADS launch in Catterick on 15 Feb 11. <p>All members are to keep the Health Sub Group Lead informed of information regarding changes to PCTs in their areas. [Action 3.6]</p> <p>The Secretary informed the meeting that the Chief of Staff for the RFCA had informed him that they now had a distribution means for all the MP’s in our Region. He offered us the use of this distribution if appropriate. The Secretary is to meet with the RFCA and investigate this further. [Action 3.7]</p> <p>The Chair reported that statistical data had now been received from DASA regarding the number of AFCS/AFPS and WP recipients there are within our Region <NOTE these are available on the GoogleDocs Portal>. It was noted that the Skipton/Ripon areas were missing from the data. This would be fed back to SPVA [Action 3.8]</p> <p>He concluded by saying that whilst strategic engagement is good and we have growing recognition within the Region we need to ascertain how well we are recognized by individual veterans. He asked the Members to look for opinions and views from Veterans they encounter in their activities and to bring evidence back to the next meeting. [Action 3.9]</p>
<p>Head of Veterans Services</p>	<p>Mr Jon Parkin, Head of Veterans Services SPVA, provided a frank and informative update on current challenges facing SPVA arising from Government Efficiency Saving Directives.</p> <p>The Agency has initiated planning contingencies to realize 30% savings. Key elements include relinquishing Agency Status and reviewing staff posts. Integral to this is a review of existing outsourced activities. He asked the committee to provide objective feedback regarding any services provided to veterans which fall below an acceptable standard. [Action 3.10a]</p> <p>He described rationalizing of welfare records, which was a gargantuan task being progressed by SPVA to directed priorities. Whilst every care was being taken, in order to mitigate the chances of cases not being progressed whilst these activities were undertaken, committees are asked to report to SPVA where it appears individual cases are being missed. Investigations into these</p>

	<p>will be dealt with as a priority. [Action 3.10b]</p> <p><u>He also briefed on why past DASA statistics appeared to indicate a significant number of withdrawals of AFCS applications and appeals; due to system technical issues, where they appeared on both the WPS and AFCS lists due to definition caveats. This had now been amended to avoid misconception; no claimant was disadvantaged in any way by this issue.</u></p> <p><u>He also briefed us on the working of the SPVA Medical Board and listened carefully to Members views.</u></p>
Functional Reports	Detailed reports were provided by the Health Sub Group Lead, Local Authority Sub Group Lead and Welfare Sub Group Lead. <Note These Reports are available on the GoogleDocs Portal>.
AOB	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Equality amongst Veterans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Mortimer brought to the Committee's attention the campaign for Equality amongst Veterans – a campaign seeking to redress the conditions of service for pre-1975 Pension Scheme members. • It was agreed that this was a national policy issue but that as others were already effectively campaigning on this issue, it would not be a priority for Y&H VAPC. 2. Armed Forces Day. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members were encouraged to support this event locally by welcoming any invitations offered but to remain sensitive to established arrangements and protocols. While the committee was not planning on manning a stall or stand at any specific locations if the opportunity to do so arose it should be exploited by local Members, various ones of whom suggested The Yorkshire Show (12 Jul 11) and RBL 90th (11 Jun). Chair is already attending RBL Skipton event on 19 Jun 11. 3. Press Release <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Topping agreed to pull together a generic Press Release for the committee use for contacting organizations etc. [Action 3.11] 4. Response to Recent TV Documentary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst it was observed that the TV Documentary suggested 'nothing' was being done for Veterans, in reality this was recognized as far from the truth. However, the truth rarely makes good TV! The committee agreed to leave any response to the Documentary to the MOD.
DONM	The Date of the Next meeting is 8 June 2011, at 11:00 to 15:30hrs at the RFCA in York.

ACTION LOG

Serial	Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Notes	Completed Date
Meeting 3, 9 March 2011					
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		
2.8	Members are requested to provide a general Biography for inclusion in the GoogleDoc shared area.	All Members	30 April		
3.1	Members are to ensure they are familiar with the VA&PC Processes as set out in the Appointment Packup.	All Members	1 April 2011	Of paramount importance is understanding how to deal with enquiries of a Welfare Nature.	
3.2	Secretary to order 20 Business Cards per Member and distribute	Secretary	14 April 2011		
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.	
3.4	Secretary to inform SPVA of the committee's outstanding training needs	Secretary	1 April 2011	Only 2 members now require training	
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		
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	Next Meeting		
3.7	The Secretary is to meet with the RFA Chief of Staff to investigate their distribution method for the Region's MPs	Secretary	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		
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	Next Meeting		

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Meeting 3, 9 March 2011					
3.10a	Members are to provide feedback regarding any services provided to veterans which fall below an acceptable standard.	All Members	Next Meeting		
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		
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		