

VETERANS ADVISORY AND PENSIONS (VAPC) COMMITTEE – Annual Activity Report dated 31 July 2018

Annual Report from Northern Ireland Committee

Achievement against VAPC Objectives

Membership

3 x Co-opted members:

XXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXX

8 x new members appointed:

XXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXX

1 x member re-appointed - XXXXXXXXXXXXX

1 x member resigned – XXXXXXXXXXXXX

Current Members:

Kingsley Donaldson (Chairperson)

XXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXX
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XXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXX

Engagement

The Committee have engaged with numerous Veterans groups across the island of Ireland as well as with academic studies at both Queens University and Ulster University.

Chairman continues to engage with a number of political and civil society organisations in Northern Ireland to raise awareness of Veterans needs, including so-called 'Armed Forces champions'. The Committee members are constantly engaged with other Veterans groups and key influencers across NI and beyond to raise awareness of both Veterans needs and existing capability and capacity to help meet those needs.

Assistance to Veterans

NI VAPC continues to provide assistance to those individuals who feel that they have not received a satisfactory outcome. More often than not, these are not legitimate VA & PC problems, however, we have been able to successfully signpost veterans to more suitable contact points for support and assistance. Often the requirements are very specific and supersede the support offered through the Veterans gateway.

Veterans Welfare Service Engagement activity

Former Chairman conducted a visit with the Welfare Service. Welfare Service personnel now attend the VAPC meetings.

Consultation

Committee members have been engaged directly in a number of legacy consultations, policy formulations, academic research initiatives. These are combinations of Northern Ireland specific matters relating to historical investigations, victims issues, mental and physical injuries, concerns over personal security of veterans and aspects of healthcare provision for Veterans.

Other activity

Plans for next year

The NI VAPC will consolidate its new members in to the Committee through holding an additional number of events to raise awareness of veterans issues and support structures available.

Members will be tasked with direct engagement and liaison with local council champions and 3rd sector reps in their areas.

The Committee is stood by to support and exploit opportunities to develop understanding of the Covenant and assist organisations with primary output responsibilities.

The Committee also want to take a more active role in developing models for transitioning aftercare provision.

The Committee intends to recruit additional members.

Other key points

Signed: