

- Veterans UK
- Armed Forces Covenant Team

#### **Fifth – Support Veterans UK by:**

- Monitoring its welfare service to provide independent quality assurances.
- Raising its profile in liaison with other regional organisations with a view to ensuring that the welfare needs of veterans and their dependents are suitably addressed.

The Royal British Legion (TRBL) has identified that the Armed Forces Community numbers some 7.5 million people nationwide. Here in Northern Ireland we provide a home for a substantial number of these.

Whilst the majority of servicemen and women leave and cope well with life as a civilian, a significant minority face severe challenges with health, welfare, housing, finance and relationship issues. We exist to work with this population and can do this better with your help.

As one of a 13 strong network of VAPCs nationwide, we can provide informed independent advice and examples of best practice to local government, health authorities and other service providers in the community as well as to industry and commerce – our stakeholders.

I hope we can work together to develop and deliver the support our Veterans and their families deserve.

Kingsley Donaldson

Chairman Northern Ireland VAPC

**Contact Us: [NIVAPC@causewayinstitute.com](mailto:NIVAPC@causewayinstitute.com)**

**Northern Ireland  
Veterans Advisory  
and Pensions  
Committee  
(VAPC)**



***VAPCs are Advisory Non-Departmental Public Bodies. They work independently from the Ministry of Defence in support of the Veterans' Community.***

#### **NORTHERN IRELAND**



## Statutory Purpose of VAPCs

- Assistance to individual veterans.
- Create awareness of veterans' needs.
- Reviewing Government initiatives regarding the Veterans Community.
- Provide informed, factual and regional advice for Ministers.
- Independent responses to Veterans' needs and issues within their particular region.

### Activities of the Northern Ireland VAPC

Chairmen and Members of this independent committee of voluntary members are appointed on a three year term by the Secretary of State.

The Committee has **FIVE** functional roles:

**First – Advocates** for Veterans in support of the Armed Forces Covenant by:

- Building on the local support services outlined in the Armed

Forces Community and Corporate Covenants.

- Monitor and seek to improve cross Government support.
- Work with local authorities, the NHS and others to raise awareness.
- Help to develop and improve the care and support veterans and their families need.



**Second – Raising awareness** in Northern Ireland of the:

- War Pensions Scheme, Armed Forces Compensation Scheme and the Veterans Welfare Service.
- Assist and guide individuals in accessing the schemes.

- Provide an independent element to the Veterans UK formal complaints process relating to these schemes.
- Contribute to Independent Complaints Panels as and when required

**Third – To Engage** with regional partners to:

- Promote the services that they provide to Veterans.
- Seek to strengthen and improve public and voluntary sector regional activities in areas such as health, housing, employment.
- Playing a central role in promoting the interests and welfare of veterans and their families.

**Fourth – Enable and foster consultation** on issues affecting those within Northern Ireland entitled to payments under the War Pension/Armed Forces Compensation Schemes between:

- The Secretary of State
- The MOD