

VETERANS ADVISORY AND PENSIONS (VAPC) COMMITTEE – Annual Activity Report dated.....Up until 01 10 18

Annual Report fromNORTH WESTCommittee

Achievement against VAPC Objectives

Membership

We have continued to restructure the committee and now have included Ms Paulette Lapin and Lt Cdr Lee Paddock RNR and Major Dan Brooks VR .

We are working on representation for Greater Manchester through the Mayors office, Cumbria and their AF champion are co opted they have a functioning covenant group, quarterly. Cheshire in a similar view and the chair Professor Finnegan addressed the HoC Select Committee on Defence with regards to military mental health. Lancashire AF champion was only appointed at the end of August, and is progressing his vision across the county. I have extended five people; Mike Taylor NHS senior manager, Chris Owen Regimental Secretary Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, Mike Oliver, Officers association Regional Representative, Mr Stanley Rawcliffe, Blackpool Coastal Housing and Chris Thomas Greater Manchester AF Hub and Wigan Borough Council, I have three co optees Ms Jozi Brown, Cumbria CVS and Mr Michael Grell (Secretary) and RAFA ,leaving Ms Shauna Dixon formerly NHS CE Bury, Mr John Mansergh South Lakes Housing and Mr Andy Bacon NHS England. I am in the process of undertaking a skill audit to determine what additional sets we need before we advertise in order to develop the committee further. We have appointed Councillor Ed Nash OF Lancashire County Council to be responsible for the spread of best practice across firstly Lancashire Councils and then more wider regionally.

Key achievements

The key achievement has been the reorganisation of the team as above, as well as participating in the four emerging covenant groups.

Engagement

We are not well enough known in our regional space – we seek to overcome this factor by engaging at the sub regional level or county level, this worked in Cumbria, works in Liverpool where one of our member runs the sub regional forum, I am optimistic that we will develop a similar capacity alongside the Greater Manchester combined authority. Lancashire in my assessment will be much more difficult given the disparate political composition situ, we will work with UCLAN and the College of Military, Veterans and Emergency Services to promote and expedite this idea. At least the new champion is willing, grounds for optimism. Cheshire will fall much more naturally in to place given the two members of the committee, Andy Bacon and professor Finnegan.

I, Chris Thomas and Shauna Dixon attend the NW NHS AF Forum.

<i>We have identified that Cumbria has the most effective links with the third sector and are working up a plan to facilitate similar elsewhere across the region. Beginning in Preston, Lancashire.</i>
Assistance to Veterans
<i>To include any examples of personal assistance, wider reaching activities/events. We have assisted two people referred to us and are in the process of addressing a complaint.</i>
Veterans Welfare Service Engagement activity
<i>Good support NSTR</i>
Consultation
<i>Nil</i>
Other activity
<i>Because we have 43 Local authorities and the IoM, we determined that it would be impossible, to act in a similar way to that way that is in done in Yorkshire (23 local authorities) where the VAPC there address every forum and local authority</i>
<i>Hence the move to work sub regionally in our area of Operations. We are also working to promote activity in the Veterans activity in the GM and Merseyside spaces. More detail here is not yet for public consumption.</i>
Plans for next year
<i>To reinvigorate the AF networks in Cumbria and Cheshire, set up the county wide structures in GM and Lancashire, whilst maintaining success in Merseyside, develop working relations with the NW NHS AF network, identify and spread best practice in local authorities and the 3rd sector.</i>
Other key points
<i>Jg lighten</i>
Signed: Chair