

CAERPHILLY ARMED FORCES FORUM (CAFF)

Thursday 14th September 2017
Penallta House (Rhymney Room)

PRESENT

Kathryn Peters (Chair)	CCBC (Armed Forces Lead)
Cllr. Alan Higgs	CCBC (Armed Forces Champion)
Darren Carless	CCBC (Corporate Policy)
Keith Sutcliffe	SSAFA (Gwent Area)
Dave Jones	SSAFA (Gwent Area)
Rob Cummings	Change Step
Lisa Rawlings	Remploy
Michelle Williams	Veterans UK
Ken Terry	Royal British Legion
Steve Keenan	GAVO
Capt. Tom Doe	203 Field Hospital
Jinty Morgan	Hire A Hero
Michael Gilbert	Career Transition Partnership
Abi Wrigley	Wales & Borders Army Families Federation
Pat Worlock	ABUHB

APOLOGIES

Bryan Tansley	SSAFA
Ceri Pritchard	Job Centre Plus
Mandy Keenan	CCBC (Corporate Policy)
Shelley Elgin	Help For Heroes

KP welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for brief introductions.

1.0 PREVIOUS MINUTES

- The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record.

2.0 UPDATES OF ACTIONS

- All other actions completed.

3.0 PRESENTATION FROM PAT WORLOCK (ABUHB)

Pat Worlock gave a brief presentation outlining ABUHB's Advance Care Planning team:

- The team has two main objectives; public engagement and educating groups / organisations etc.
- The topic i.e. funerals and elderly / terminal care is not necessarily pleasant but should be given consideration by everyone and the team hope to de-mystify the subject.
- The team try to raise awareness and provide advice re wills and power of attorney as well as non-legal methods of confirming your last wishes / preferences re end of life.
- The team are happy to attend any event, meetings or groups.

The group took part in a game of ACP Lotto...Keith won!

4.0 UPDATE RE ARMED FORCES LIAISON OFFICER

KP reminded the forum that following its successful MOD bid the recruitment process had been completed and Lisa Rawlings had been the successful candidate. KP advised that the post was to last for two years (to run from 18/09/2017) and would be hosted by Caerphilly CBC although Lisa's duties would encompass the whole of Gwent.

5.0 UPDATE FROM WELSH GOVERNMENT ARMED FORCES TEAM

KP advised the forum that there were no updates.

6.0 FEEDBACK FROM GWENT ARMED FORCES FORUM

KS attended the forum yesterday and provided a brief update re what was discussed:

- Pimp My Zimmer; an initiative to 'do up' zimmers as individuals suffering with Alzheimer's are unable to see the colour grey.
- Citizens Cymru Homeless Campaign
- Families Veteran Support Service
- Army Fest
- Discussion re service personnel's children attending school and the lack of any premium for schools in Wales to provide the additional support that is often needed. RBL currently lobbying Welsh Government to consider a similar system to England.
- 'We Fight Any Claim' were due to attend but did not. They offer a 10% discount for ex-service personnel.
- Growing Spaces were due to attend but did not. They were going to give a presentation re Wales' Mental Health Strategy.

The next meeting is being hosted by CCBC at Penallta House.

7.0 REMEMBRANCE DAY ACTIVITIES

AH asked if members could confirm their organisations intentions re Remembrance Day. CCBC coordinate the celebrations and should be organising the ceremonies etc. AH has reminded all the Councillors of their responsibilities.

KS advised that he will be taking part in Risca's memorial service on 11th November and their 'pray' on 12th November.

KT advised that RBL will be coordinating their parade through Caerphilly. RBL will also be involved in the following:

- 4th Nov – Concert of Remembrance at St David's Hall
- 5th Nov – Rhondda Cynon Taff's Festival of Remembrance
- 8th Nov – Wales' Garden of Remembrance in Cardiff Castle

8.0 UPDATE FROM CLLR. ALAN HIGGS (CCBC ARMED FORCES CHAMPION)

AH advised that he was due to attend a memorial event in Deri on 29/09/2017 and extended an invitation to members. AH advised that Armed Forces Day 2018 would be held in North Wales but he hoped the event would return to the borough in the future.

9.0 UPDATE FROM CAFF MEMBERS

9.1 Royal British Legion

- Admiral Nurses – the service has now been extended to Wales and supports the carers of RBL's beneficiaries who have dementia.
- Count Them In – RBL are still pushing hard for this to be implemented.
- RBL have launched a best practice guide re support for service children in Wales.
- RBL are working with Welsh NHS and Welsh Government to improve awareness around priority treatment for veterans.

9.2 SSAFA

- SSAFA's recruitment drive has been very successful and there are now more caseworkers in the Caerphilly area.
- There is still a growth in requests re funding for funerals as well as providing funding for people who have been made bankrupt.
- SSAFA are finding that military charities are not being so forthcoming anymore and are requesting a lot more 'proof' before helping individuals.

9.3 Change Step

- The organisation is finally 'restructured' and it would appear as though Change Step will be around for at least another year.
- Main areas of work are mental health, substance misuse and criminality. There is also a focus on 'Aged Vets'.
- Hopeful that further funding will be secured.

9.4 Remploy

- The tendering process for the Health & Social programme will be completed shortly. LR is unsure who will secure the contract.

9.5 Veterans UK

- Continuing to support veterans and their families as much as possible on a day to day basis.
- Reminder to members that the support offered is life-long.

9.6 GAVO

- SK confirmed that he is being made redundant on 22nd December but was hoping to bring along whoever would be picking up the armed forces agenda to the next meeting for continuity.

9.7 203 (Welsh) Field Hospital

- Lots of activities taking place mostly linked to the hospital's 2018 deployment...there is a possibility it could be to South Sudan.
- The 'Medical Stretcher' event was very successful.
- The hospital's personnel are spread all over wales and it will be taking part in Remembrance Day events.
- The hospital is happy to attend any events they are invited to to increase engagement and build relationships.
- TD advised that this is potentially his last meeting as he is being re-posted.

9.8 Wales & Borders Army Families Federation

- Still pushing re spousal employment; been holding coffee mornings and workshops.
- Lot of work re service personnel and families who have moved but are currently in receipt of health care / treatment and who should provide ongoing care when the family re-locate.
- Tri-Service Survey re transition service offered by the Army.

9.9 Hire A Hero

- Recently held employment fayre for veterans and service leavers. Was very well attended and hope to hold further ones in the future.
- Working with Farm Foods re their Management Development Programme and its availability to service leavers. Being relaunched in September 2017.
- Have 25 runners in the Cardiff half marathon to raise awareness of Hire A Hero.
- Working with Stomp and taking over their training programme.
- Assisting HMP Park with a recruitment campaign aimed at veterans and ex-service personnel.
- In talks with the British Training Board re a programme dealing with ex-service personnel's transferable skills and equivalent qualifications.
- Reminder to members that support is available to spouses.

9.10 Career Transition Partnership

- Organisation liaises with employers re vacancies and helps bring them to the attention of service leavers and veterans.

- Members asked to direct any employers who may have suitable vacancies to MG.

10.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

KS provided a brief update from ABUHB:

- The Defence Medical Welfare Service has been completely withdrawn from Wales.
- There are still regular clinics being held for those suffering with PTSD.
- GP's are being reminded to be mindful re ex-service personnel.

KP advised that as CCBC will not be hosting Armed Forces Day in 2018 consideration will be given to the CAFF attending next year's Big Cheese.

LR advised that the Muni Project has now closed and that the Poppy Factory currently has two vacancies. LR asked members to visit the Veteran's Gateway to see what is on offer and check if their organisations details are correct / present.

11.0 DETAILS OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 7th December 2017