

# CAERPHELLY ARMED FORCES FORUM (CAFF)

7<sup>th</sup> June 2019  
Penallta House (Rhymney Room)



## PRESENT

Kathryn Peters (Chair)	CCBC (Armed Forces Lead)
Lisa Rawlings	Regional Armed Forces Covenant Liaison Officer
Ken Terry	Royal British Legion
Roger Lees	Change Step
Liam Spillane	Change Step
Annabel Ingram	Army Families Federation
Debbie Orrill	Solas - Pobl Group
Keith Sutcliffe	ABUHB -
Peter Wilson	SE Wales District Chair Royal British Legion
Michelle Williams	Veterans UK - VWS
Ant Metcalfe	Royal British Legion Area Manager Wales
Paula Mitchell	Help for Heroes
Jinty Morgan	Hire a Hero
Danielle Welsh	Age Cymru – Project 360
Simon Firth	Change Step
Andy Lindley	Veteran
Andy Jones	SToMP
Charis Moon	Action on Hearing Loss
Kirsty Gronow	The Poppy Factory
Anna Schwank	RBL – Admiral Nurse
Mike Jones	DWP
Emma Ashmead	HMF Education Support Officer
Julian Wilde-Davies	British Training Board

## APOLOGIES

Cllr Andrew Whitcombe	CCBC Armed Forces Champion
Axel Rees	Hire a Hero

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

## 1.0 ATTENDANCE, INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

## 2.0 NOTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING OF 07/03/19

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

### UPDATE OF ACTIONS

- LR updated the forum on Welsh Government Funding for the Armed Forces Covenant Liaison Officers
- LR distributed the presentation from Solas Cymru

- LR circulated the research paper Lifting the Lid on Transition
- LR circulated the details of Caerphilly Armed Forces Veterans Breakfast Club

### 3.0 UPDATE FROM WLGA / Welsh Government

KP advised the forum of the following from WLGA:

- There is a small pot of funds left from National Covenant project. WLGA have asked AFLO's for advice on how best to spend these funds. Fact or Fiction video's and a toolkit has been suggested. A decision will be made in the next few weeks
- The bespoke website should be up and running on covenantwales.wales very soon.

KP advised the forum of the following from WG:

- WG has thanked everyone for their support on the Veterans Scoping exercise

### 4.0 GUEST SPEAKER –BRITISH TRAINING BOARD

A presentation was delivered by Julian Wilde-Davies on the function of the British Training Board:

- We are the degree and whole life development pathway specialists.
- We recognise the skills you have gained in our armed forces and want to complement these qualities, as well as provide support to transfer your skills into the civilian workplace. We offer assistance through our programmes to all serving personnel and veterans and assist you in enhancing your careers both inside the wire and outside in the civilian world.
- This includes providing support to veterans in the Criminal Justice System.
- The British Training Board is a Community Interest Company (CIC) committed to serving our Armed Forces and selected Public services from when they choose to serve, to when they leave, and beyond.

For more information please contact Julian Wilde-Davies [julian@britishtrainingboard.org.uk](mailto:julian@britishtrainingboard.org.uk)

**Action: LR to liaise with KP for information on Welsh Education Certificates**

### 5.0 UPDATE – ARMED FORCES LIAISON OFFICER

LR advised the forum of the following:

- Armed Forces Day – A Day to Remember which is a 2 day event 22/23<sup>rd</sup> June. Flag raising at 10 am on the Sunday. LR asked the forum whether they would like a stall at the event next year? LR will investigate the possibility.
- Reservists Day – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June. All reservists are encouraged to wear their uniform to work.
- Ffilifest – 29<sup>th</sup> June 10am – 6pm
- Employment – Jobs Fair 12th Sept – Newport Leisure Centre. A quarter of this job fair will be aimed at the Armed Forces Community with employers interested in employing Service Leavers, Reservists, Veterans and Spouses
- HR – Caerphilly County Borough Council has explored the possibility of Guaranteed Interview Schemes for Service Leavers, Veterans, Reservists and Spouses. This paper will be brought before cabinet 10<sup>th</sup> July 19.
- Housing – There will be an update from the Solas Cymru Veteran Support officer in this meeting
- Education – The new HMF Education Support Officer is now in post for Monmouthshire and Newport. SSCE Cymru in conjunction with 160 Bde are applying for a funds via the Removing Barriers to Family Life grant for 4 posts to cover all of Wales.
- ABUHB are exploring the Step into Health programme currently run by some health boards in England. Additionally they will be resigning the Armed Forces Covenant on Reservists Day.
- **Defence Transition Service**  
The MOD are introducing as part of the transition policy and process, a specialist transition organisation providing a holistic service for those who may require additional support and who have been identified at unit level - the Defence Transition Services (DTS). This new service will ensure

that individuals are connected to the networks of help they need within Local Authorities and other Government department provision using Armed Forces Champions and other agencies including charitable support where necessary. This service will be in addition to the Career Transition Partnership (CTP) which already exists to provide resettlement employment support. The DTS will link closely with Veterans UK. Andrew Mansfield covers South Wales however is not based in Wales. This issue has been raised by several stakeholders who are concerned that as Wales is devolved there will be many issues that will differ from England

- **Covenant Local Grants applications**

Applications submitted by 9am on 9 September 2019 will be decided before the end of November 2019.

Applications submitted by 9am on 2 December 2019 will be decided before the end of February 2020

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/covenant-fund](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/covenant-fund)

**The Positive Pathways Programme opened May 2019** for applications. The Positive Pathways Programme will have a budget of £9M to fund

### **Veteran Community Centre Grant**

This is a £3 million funding programme to fund renovations and improvements to veterans' community centres. Grants of up to £30,000 are available. A small number of grants of up to £150,000 will be made to more complex projects. The Veterans' Community Centres Programme is a specialist pot of funding. Applicants must be Armed Forces charities with an existing building that requires refurbishment.

- Please follow Twitter @GwentAFC and Facebook account for the Gwent Armed Forces Community
- Newsletter deadline 31<sup>st</sup> July for submissions. Next edition released September 2019

## **6.0 FEEDBACK FROM GWENT (ABUHB) ARMED FORCES FORUM**

KS advised he did not attend the last forum meeting however he was happy that the AFLO's update was sufficient. He advised he is now on the board as the new non executive director and Chair of the Stakeholder Reference Group. Veterans NHS still have issues on employing a psychotherapist which is having an impact on waiting times. If you normally would attend this meeting and are not on the distribution list please contact – [Claire.Barry3@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Claire.Barry3@wales.nhs.uk)

## **7.0 CAFF Activity Programme**

LR advised the group of events/meetings that have been attended by the Armed Forces Champion and/or RAFCLO

11/03/19	Commonwealth Flag Raising
14/03/19	Woodys Lodge Visit
05/04/19	VAPC Meeting – Maindy Barracks
09/04/19	MPCT Awards – Cardiff City Stadium
11/04/19	ABUHB Armed Forces Forum – Raglan Barracks
18/04/19	SToMP Steering Group
07/05/19	VAPC Meeting – RBL Pop in Cardiff
14/05/19	WLGA Armed Forces Network meeting
24/05/19	Office of National Statistics – Veteran Question – RBL Pop in Cardiff
03/06/19	Defence Transition Service Brief – RBL Pop in Cardiff
05/06/19	DWP Briefing Day – Maindy Barracks Cardiff

## **8.0 UPDATE FROM CAFF MEMBERS**

### **8.1 RBL Risca**

- Attended a wreath laying for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

- Active group with many proactive members.

## **8.2 Project 360**

- Project 360° is a partnership project between Age Cymru, Woody's Lodge, and Age Alliance Wales (AAW) members. It is Wales-wide and is running for three years until June 2020. The project is funded by the Aged Veterans Fund initiated by the Chancellor using LIBOR money, and its beneficiaries are military veterans in Wales aged 65 or over.
- The overall aim of the project is to improve services provided to older veterans through our project partners, whilst keeping older military veterans at the heart of the process.
- Final round of grant 18<sup>th</sup> June
- Peer to peer mentor service available and support for Bereavement through cruse
- It is noted that many older veterans end up being unpaid carers
- Needs to more awareness on access to pensions
- Date for the diary: The Project 360° conference will be taking place on Thursday 24 October 2019 at Cardiff City Stadium open for any organisations working with veterans and older people in Wales. More information will be circulated in the near future.

**Action: LR to circulate grant information when received**

## **8.3 Royal British Legion Wales**

- National D Day Event – currently have 265 veterans for the trip with 13 from Wales. The RBL have been working with the veterans and families to ensure that safe passage is organised with a care package and welfare checks are in place.
- There will be another Welsh Festival Remembrance this year held in St Davids Hall. They are hoping that the D Day Veterans will attend as VIP guests if possible.

## **8.4 Army Families Federation**

- There is a new member of staff (Sadie Baldwin) starting in September that will cover South Wales
- There will be a new employment platform launched for spouses of serving personnel
- Forces Families Jobs will launch in September. Currently they have 80 employers signed up. Only training providers that offer free or heavily discounted courses will be allowed access to the platform.

## **8.5 Hire a Hero**

JM would like to thank the forum members for the referrals and collaborative working practices

## **8.6 Help For Heroes**

PM informed the forum that all projects are going well however she is resigning from post and her position will be advertised for a replacement. The forum thanked Paula for all her hard work and support she has given the Armed Forces Community

## **8.7 Veterans UK**

- No update – however MW does attend local drop in sessions to offer pension advice

## **8.8 Action on Hearing Loss**

- CM informed the forum that the project is going well and there are 20 ongoing cases in this area

## **8.9 VSS – Solas Cymru**

- DO informed the forum that she currently has 9 clients on her books who need more than housing support. She is linking in with other 3<sup>rd</sup> sector providers to offer all round support.
- 3 flats should be coming on line shortly for homeless veterans

## **8.10 Change Step**

- SF – Funding approved by MOD for 2 further years. Slight change in delivery of programme
- 2 more staff to cover North Wales and Dyfed
- Referrals will be operated slightly differently with a phone triage system now in place
- RL stated there is a new drop in held in Cardiff in the evening in order to allow access to a wider audience
- The aged veteran project offers:  
Enable those who suffer from social isolation to successfully reintegrate with society  
To guide veterans who may require Pension, social welfare advice.  
Befriend veterans who are not mobile  
Befriend those who suffer from sibling poverty.

#### **8.11 SToMP**

- AJ Informed the group that People who work with Sex Offender training will be held in South and North Wales
- Gwent Community Service Manager is looking for projects that veterans in the criminal justice system could attend to unpaid community service.
- Grant application submitted for Mental Health provision
- Each prison now has an Armed Forces Champion with training underway.

#### **8.12 The Poppy Factory**

- KG informed the forum of #OperationPicnic a new fundraising activity conducted over the Summer 2019.

**Action: LR to distribute details to schools**

#### **8.13 RBL – Admiral Nurse Service**

- AS indicated that referral numbers were particularly low in the Caerphilly area. LR suggested an introductory email to set up a meeting with Adult Services
- Increasingly more complex cases
- Available through self referral process and through a health professional

**Action: LR to email Caerphilly Adult Services**

### **9.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

NIL

**11.0 DETAILS OF NEXT MEETING:** 10am 5<sup>th</sup> September 2019, Ty Penalta.