

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

MINUTES OF THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT SIGNATORIES PANEL

**HELD AT CHAMBER MEETING ROOM, CIVIC CENTRE, SWANSEA ON
WEDNESDAY, 23 MARCH 2016 AT 2.00 PM**

PRESENT: Councillor J E Burtonshaw (Chair) Presided

Representing Organisations:

Kev Bogdan & Michael Owens – Change Step
Capt Chris Evans – Army
Warrant Officer Steve Jones – Navy
Dave Singletary – SSAFA
Anthony Rabey – Aartic Training
Adrian Rabey – British Training Board
Tony Colburn – Mumbles & Gower Royal British Legion
Capt Roy Griffiths & Gordon Collins – Merchant Navy Association
Alyx Baharie – SCVS
Sue Richards-Hoskins - Cruse

Officer(s)

Spencer Martin Voluntary Sector Relationship Coordinator
Gareth Borsden Democratic Services

21 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence were received from Byron Lewis, Gail Smith, Eve Warburton Victoria Williams & Taha Idris.

22 **DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL & PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS.**

None.

23 **MINUTES.**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Panel held on 26 January 2016 be agreed as a correct record.

24 **FUNDING PRIORITIES ARMED FORCES COVENANT FUNDING PROGRAMME
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2016/17.**

The Voluntary Sector Relationship Co-ordinator provided a verbal update regarding the recently published Armed Forces Covenant Funding priorities for schemes in 2016/17.

The four main areas for funding bids were outlined as

- Veterans Gateway
- Families in Stress
- Improving Local Covenant
- Community Interaction/Delivery

Discussion's took place around the new priorities and the potential for Members of the panel to bid for funding. The emphasis seems to be on regional bids, but more detailed information and a fuller brief will be requested from the MoD and shared with the Panel when received.

Further discussions on the regional approach and the possibility of joint meeting with Neath Port Talbot and Bridgend were highlighted.

25 **UPDATES FROM PANEL MEMBERS.**

Officers and Panel Members provided verbal updates relating to the current and proposed activities, events and workloads of their respective groups/organisations, including the following areas.

Armed Forces Day – 25 June

Spencer Martin reported that the Special Events Team are in the process of submitting a bid to an external fund for the event. The level of funding awarded will depend on the size of the event able to be provided by the Authority. There is no internal budget allocated for the event.

Capt Chris Evans (Army) and Steve Jones (Royal Navy) indicated their full support for both Armed Forces Day and the Air Show.

A meeting to be arranged with the Council Leader and the Chair & Vice of the Panel regarding the funding of the day.

SSAFA

Dave Singletary reported that the organisation continues to be busy and indicated that the relaunch of the drop in centre in Neath would take place in May. Invite would be circulated to Panel Members.

British Training Board/Aartic Training

Adrian & Antony Rabey reported on the success of the retraining scheme which has seen 200plus ex service personnel being added to their data base for converting their military qualifications to civilian.

The outlined that their new offices including a drop in centre would be opening shortly.

They had also been successful in the recent Swansea Bay Business Awards.

Change Step

Kev Bogdan & Michael Owens reported that their organisation had managed to secure an additional years funding from April 2016.

They requested progress on the showing of their video on the big screen at Castle Square. Spencer Martin would chase the matter.

SCVS

Alyx Baharie reported on the new InfoEngine website that would be launched shortly which will detail a lot of information and links for the 3rd sector.

Freedom of City

June Burtonshaw reported on the possibility of granting of the Freedom of the City to the Reserves following the recent award to the 215 Squadron.

Merchant Navy

Capt Roy Griffiths indicated he was attending his first meeting and welcomed the support of the Covenant and its Members for his organisation.

Navy

WO Steve Jones indicated that there was a new regional Commanding Officer in place and he was keen to support the Panel.

Army

Capt Chris Evans referred to the following planned events:

Covenant Promoting Event with Federation of Small Businesses on 19 April.

Industry Day at the Grange on 16 September.

The meeting ended at 2.40 pm

CHAIR