

## **CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA**

### **MINUTES OF THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT SIGNATORIES PANEL**

**HELD AT COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CIVIC CENTRE, SWANSEA ON  
MONDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 2.00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Councillor J E Burtonshaw (Chair) Presided

#### **Representing Organisations:**

Nicola Russel-Brooks – Age Cymru Swansea Bay

Kev Bogdan – Change Step

Lt Cdr Ruth Fleming – Navy

Sue Richards-Hoskin – Cruse

Adrian Rabey – British Training Board

Anthony Rabey – Aartic Group

Dave Singletary - SSAFA

Tony Colburn – Royal British Legion (Mumbles & South Gower)

Peter Evans - Royal British Legion

Victoria Williams – Veterans NHS Wales

#### **Officer(s)**

Spencer Martin

Voluntary Sector Relationship Coordinator

Nigel Jones

Special Events

Gareth Borsden

Democratic Services Officer

#### **Apologies for Absence**

Capt Chris Evans, Alyx Baharie, Peter Neville & Eve Warburton

#### **1 DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL & PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS.**

None.

#### **2 MINUTES.**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Panel held on 4 July 2016 be agreed as a correct record.

#### **3 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.

##### Aartic Training/British Training Board

Anthony and Adrian Rabey reported that their organisations had dealt with over 1000 people since their inception, with over 900 successful outcomes of people being finding full time/part time work.

The company has recently added more training courses and expanded into additional premises which includes a SSAFA drop in centre. They hoped to expand to the Cardiff and Merthyr areas in the near future.

#### SSAFA

Dave Singletary reported on the issue around the lack of a stand place at the Air Show. He also invited all Members of the Panel to a fund raising quiz night at Dunvant RFC on 8 October.

#### Royal British Legion

Peter Evans reported on the "Count Them In" campaign being led by the Legion to amend the census to include a question relating to military service. Numerous Local Authorities, MP's and AM's across Wales and the UK had already supported the motion. The MOD also supported the campaign, and were continuing to make representation to the ONS on the matter.

June Burtonshaw indicated that Swansea Council would be debating the motion at its meeting on 27 October.

He also referred to the Legions new Housing Pathway scheme that is currently out for consultation and comments.

Spencer Martin indicated that the Housing Dept would shortly be submitting comments on the Pathway scheme.

#### Veterans NHS Wales

Victoria Williams reported that the service has had 76 referrals in recent times, and continues to be the busiest in Wales, unfortunately this means a 6-10 month wait for patients.

She outlined an Awareness Day Event will be held in conjunction with South Wales Police on 6 October at the Army Reserve facility in West Cross. She indicated that between 8-10 charities would be in attendance and there would be talks and discussions during the event on topics such as PTSD, Anxiety, Depression, Transition from Military to Civilian life.

#### Cruse

Sue Richards-Hoskins reported that her organisation was still awaiting news on the success of their grant application.

#### Navy

Ruth Fleming indicated she was having issues with getting the necessary 12 weeks notice for approval from within the Navy to use the Trailer and get out regularly into the city centre and to events to promote the service.

She indicated that there are around 200 families of current/ex navy personnel in the Swansea area.

She outlined the recent success of both the Employer Engagement Event held recently at HMS Cambria, and the Reserve Forces Day.

### Age Cymru Swansea Bay

Nicola Russel-Brooks indicated that it was her first meeting of the Panel. The primary purpose of her organisation was to offer advice, assistance and help to over 50s across the locality.

She indicated she would like to see her organisation develop its links and liaise further with other Panel organisations in the future.

### Change Step

Kev Bogdan reported that their service continues to be busy with 10 referrals in the last 3 months. They have taken on a new full time Peer Mentor to help with issues.

### Special Events

Nigel Jones indicated that there was no budget for the purchase of a second flagpole. One could be gifted/donated but would have to pass the relevant health & safety tests.

He referred to the "Silence in the Square" event held last year, but indicated that the budget for such events had been withdrawn. He sought donations/sponsorship to continue the very successful event which attracted upwards of 1000 people last year.

The Chair indicated she would speak to the Leader regarding possible funding options for the event.

### Panel Membership

The Chair indicated she would like to review and update the Covenant membership and signatories, as some organisations rarely attend and have no input. She requested that Officers contact all the organisations listed to confirm their commitment.

### Future Items for Panel Meetings

Regular Presentations from Panel Members. (Aartic/Brtish Training December Meeting)

Employee Recognition Scheme.

Trainee Schemes.

Employer Engagement.

Armed Forces Day 2017.

Current Process for submitting Covenant Grant Funding for Projects.

### Date of Next Meeting

Date of next meeting moved from 19 to 5 December.

The meeting ended at 3.00 pm

**CHAIR**