

CPG Armed Forces

1st October 2013, 12.15- 13.15, Conference Room 24

Attendance list:

Darren Millar AM

Catherine Evans, Office of Darren Millar AM

Jason Hart – SO2 Youth Cadets – HQ 160X

Brigadier Philip Napier - HQ 160X

Commodore Jamie Miller – Naval Regional Commander, Wales and Western England

Nick Beard – Chief Executive, Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Wales

Guy Clarke – Chairman, RFCA for Wales

Peter Evans – Royal British Legion

John Skipper – Community Health Councils in Wales

Albie Fox – RAF CRO Wales

Mark Isherwood AM

Mohammad Asghar AM

Minutes

1. Appointment of Chair and Secretary

- a) Acting Chair, Darren Millar AM welcomed guests and issued apologies.
- b) It was unanimously agreed that Darren Millar AM be appointed as Chair of the Cross Party Group, and Catherine Evans be appointed as Secretary.

2. The National Youth Work Scheme - Brigadier Philip Napier

- a) Brigadier Napier shared the paper "Response to the Welsh Government Consultation on 'A vision for a new national youth work strategy for Wales 2013-2018'" with the group.
- b) *Following discussion, it was agreed that the Chair should write to request a meeting between the Minister for Local Government, the Minister for Education and relevant armed forces representatives to explore opportunities for cadet forces to contribute towards the scheme outcomes.*

3. Low Flying Brief - Squadron Leader Albie Fox

- a) Squadron Leader Albie Fox gave a power point presentation and circulated informative documents on the use of low flying military aircraft in Wales.
- b) *Following discussion, it was agreed that the Cross Party Group would circulate documents on low flying aircraft to all Assembly Members and external members of the group to help inform their communications with others.*

4. Healthcare and veterans: Health Inspectorate Wales and Community Health Councils - Lieutenant Colonel John Skipper

- a) Lieutenant Colonel John Skipper provided an overview of the provision of healthcare to the armed forces community in the context of his previous work with Health Inspectorate Wales and his new role within Community Health Councils.
- b) *Following discussion, it was agreed that the Chair should write to the Minister for Health and Social Services to express concerns regarding the capacity All Wales Veterans Health & Wellbeing Service and the need to ensure that it is adequately resourced.*

5. AOB

- a) *Progress with the development of Armed Forces Community Covenant Schemes by Welsh Local Authorities was discussed. It was agreed that a list of armed forces champions in local authorities and local health boards would be circulated.*
- b) *It was agreed that the Chair should write to the Welsh Government and request a written update on plans for WW1 commemoration.*
- c) *It was agreed that the Chair should write to the Welsh Government and request attendance of a suitable representative to provide an update on the development of a Veterans Card.*
- d) *It was agreed that the Chair should write to all party groups within the Assembly to nominate a representative to take part in the armed forces shadowing activities.*

Actions

1. It was agreed that the Chair should write to request a meeting between the Minister for Local Government, the Minister for Education and relevant armed forces representatives to explore opportunities for cadet forces to contribute towards the scheme outcomes.
2. It was agreed that the Cross Party Group would circulate documents on low flying aircraft to all Assembly Members and external members of the group to help inform their communications with others.
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4. It was agreed that a list of armed forces champions in local authorities and local health boards would be circulated.
5. It was agreed that the Chair should write to the Welsh Government and request a written update on plans for WW1 commemoration.
6. It was agreed that the Chair should write to the Welsh Government and request attendance of a suitable representative to provide an update on the development of a Veterans Card.
7. It was agreed that the Chair should write to all party groups within the Assembly to nominate a representative to take part in the armed forces shadowing activities.