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MEETING:	Barnsley Armed Forces Covenant Forum
DATE:	Tuesday, 3 November 2020
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY

Private and Confidential

AGENDA

- 1 Welcome and Introductions
- 2 Minutes from the Meeting held on 27th September 2019 (*Pages 3 - 8*)
- 3 Gold Award for the Defence Employer's Recognition Scheme
- 4 Sheffield City Region (SCR) Homeless Veteran funding - update
- 5 Barnsley Armed Forces Action Plan
- 6 Members Update
- 7 Any Other Business
- 8 Date and Time of Next Meeting
To be determined

To: Chair and Members of Barnsley Armed Forces Covenant Forum

Please contact Jayne Hellowell on 07718 972536 or email jaynehellowell@barnsley.gov.uk

Monday, 26 October 2020

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MEETING:	Barnsley Armed Forces Covenant Forum
DATE:	Friday, 27 September 2019
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Meeting Room 1 - Barnsley Town Hall

BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

BARNSLEY ARMED FORCES COVENANT FORUM

27 September 2019

Present Councillors Hayward (Chair), Jayne Hellowell (BMBC), Susan Ashton (SSAFA), Ernest Tucker (SSAFA), Adam Howe (DWP), Emma Houl, Jade Popplewell (BMBC), Dean Portman (SYP), Danny Beever (Light Dragoons), Helen Corker (CAB), Samantha Mulholland (Sheffield MIND), Steve Lowe (Project Nova), Gavin Robert (4 Yorks), Charlie Helmn (The Yorkshire Regiment), Sohaib Akhtar (BMBC)

In attendance: Elizabeth Barnard (BMBC - minutes)
Lynne Herbert (BMBC - observer)

63 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made for the benefit of those present.

64 MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 20TH JUNE 2019

The minutes from the meeting held on 20th June 2019 were accepted as an accurate record.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 20th June 2019 be agreed as an accurate record.

65 REVISION TO GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Jayne Hellowell introduced this item and explained that she had been the Lead Officer for Armed Forces since April and had now got an overview of how BMBC discharged its armed forces responsibilities, benchmarking with other Local Authorities such as Hull. A high profile Covenant Board is to be established in addition to this Forum. The Board will make key decisions and will comprise 12/14 representatives with decision making responsibilities from across a range of organisations.

RESOLVED that Members consider the likely make-up of the Board and who within their organisation may be best placed to be a Member of the Board.

66 ARMED FORCES COVENANT BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members were provided with a copy of the draft Terms of Reference for consideration. It was explained that the Board will 'check and challenge' that the armed forces work is being delivered against the six key themes.

RESOLVED that the draft Terms of Reference be considered.

67 FREQUENCY OF ARMED FORCES FORUM

It was proposed that the new Board should meet quarterly, with the existing Forum meeting twice a year and the meetings synchronised with no big 'gaps' between meetings. It was felt that urgent matters could be decided outside the meeting schedule. Members were asked to consider both the membership of the Board and also frequency of meetings of both bodies, with Forum meetings following Board meetings. It was felt that a full-year schedule should be drawn up for both meetings for 2020.

RESOLVED that Members consider the composition of the Board and also the frequency of meetings, with feedback to Jayne Hellowell who will be consulting on this issue over the next few weeks.

68 ARMED FORCES E-LEARNING PACKAGE

The grant funded Military Human training has now come to an end, with over 300 people trained in Barnsley over two years. Members were made aware that there is now an Armed Forces elearning package available on POD, based on the Warwickshire model. The training is open to all and will be particularly useful for those new to Barnsley or those in need of refresher training.

RESOLVED that the availability of the new training package be noted.

69 ARMED FORCES WALKWAY

Jayne Hellowell updated Members about the Barnsley HM forces walkway, providing an illustrative report and accompanying application form.

Barnsley Council, in partnership with Barnsley College and the Yorkshire Regiment has provided a dedicated space for a walkway for our armed forces serving, fallen and ex-services personnel, sited on Westgate by the College gardens. The stones will be made of honed granite and will have space for a name and the emblem of the unit served in together with length of service and rank. Once applications have been received and verified (including a Barnsley connection), the information will be passed on the stonemasons and the stones laid. Each stone will cost £250 inclusive of VAT, engraving, positioning on the walkway and ongoing maintenance.

There is to be an opening ceremony on 27th November, with standard bearers provided by the Yorkshire Regiment. A plaque will be installed explaining the walkway and including logos from Barnsley College, Barnsley Council, the Army, Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and MN. It is envisaged that following the initial ceremony, stones will be laid every few months. BMBC Communications department is putting together an invitation for the event and Members will be receiving their invitation shortly.

It was suggested that the World War I memorial in the Peace Gardens could be moved to the new location but it was pointed out that this would require permission and may be problematic in terms of erecting, as it is raised up from the ground.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Members note the information, and
- (ii) Share the information and application form as appropriate throughout their military networks.

70 SHEFFIELD CITY REGIONS (SCR) HOMELESS FUNDING

It was reported that £90k of funding has been secured for a homeless veterans project across the Sheffield City Region. The project is split into three areas: An e-learning package for use by professionals; a strategic review of the four Local Authority's approaches to addressing the needs of homeless veterans and their families and a further development of the Help for Homeless Veterans (H4HV) service to enable them to expand the service currently offered. A press release will be issued shortly, and progress on all aspects of the project will be fed back to the Forum. Any questions around the project should be directed to Jayne Hellowell.

Across South Yorkshire there are around 90 presentations to homeless departments annually but this may not be representative. Reliable data is poor across the region and more intelligence is needed to establish the scale of the issue. SSAFA currently do a lot of work around getting a deposit/bond for ex-service personnel to rent privately, as housing is a priority, but this can often amount to around three months' rent. It was felt that issues around mental health and housing often go together and the housing situation will become more urgent as winter approaches and temperatures fall.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

71 ARMED FORCES VIDEO PRODUCTION

Barnsley is to produce a short video celebrating our Armed Forces Community, similar to the one produced by Doncaster. Representatives were asked to contact Jayne Hellowell directly if they would be interested in taking part.

RESOLVED that Representatives note the update and contact Jayne Hellowell if they would like to take part in the video production.

72 BMBC WEBSITE UPDATE

It was highlighted that the Armed Forces section of the website is currently being refreshed and developed. Links will be included to other services such as Livewell Barnsley, Fit Reds etc. It was felt that the website is a useful resource for people coming to live in Barnsley. There may be an opportunity to allocate an area within

BARNSELY ARMED FORCES COVENANT FORUM

27 September 2019

4

the new library for use by ex-forces personnel, with the Armed Forces section of the website promoted on the large TV screens.

RESOLVED that Members note the update, feeding back any comments to Jayne Hellowell.

73 MEMBERS' UPDATE

SSAFA reported that two new caseworkers have been appointed and are currently in training.

South Yorkshire Police (SYP) have been working with Project Nova and information system are now all linked up. For the first time, SYP were represented at the Cenotaph this year with three representatives. SYP have re-signed the pledge. All personnel are undergoing training and the organisation is proactive in recruiting from the ex forces community.

A reunion has been arranged next week for the Light Dragoons. The Armed Forces Champion, the Mayor and Consort have confirmed attendance. The Light Dragoons are always represented at the Remembrance Day service and are happy to send representatives in uniform to the opening of the Armed Forces Walkway.

The Citizens Advice Bureau has submitted a bid for funding for a project to deliver additional advice sessions around finances and mental health. One person would deliver three advice sessions per week, plus home visits.

Sheffield MIND are currently waiting to hear about a bid which was submitted to expand their service. The service currently supports armed forces families but would like to open the service up to all families. Members were asked to submit referrals for the current service which is open to both serving and veteran families with a view to reducing isolation, sharing experiences etc. Banners have been purchased to promote the service (one for each area in South Yorkshire). Members were asked to consider a good location for the banner in Barnsley.

Charlie Helmn updated the meeting with news and developments of the Yorkshire regiment, including recent deployments. Details of events will be shared with the Forum.

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is shortly to be published and will include a specific section on the armed forces community, as will the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment (JSIA).

The Council's procurement section is currently putting together a social value 'toolkit' and will be asking suppliers to sign up to the covenant pledge.

The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) works proactively to identify ex forces personnel and their families so that they can be effectively supported and signposted to other services where appropriate.

BARNSELEY ARMED FORCES COVENANT FORUM

27 September 2019

5

The Public Health representative made Members aware that Hallcross provide NHS health checks in the Community and are willing to attend events, established meetings etc., to carry out these checks. Contact information will be provided.

Spike Marston has decided to step aside from organising Penistone Armed Forces Day for the time being but will continue to work with Jayne Hellowell on other projects. Spike was thanked for his hard work and commitment which has been instrumental in making Penistone Armed Forces Day so successful.

A discussion took place around the Ashworth Barracks Museum in Doncaster, as the lease on the current premises is due to expire and memorabilia from the 13-18 Royal Hussars is located there. It was felt that due to the strong connections with South Yorkshire the memorabilia should remain in the area and that there would be some benefit in museums in the area working together to ensure this.

A remembrance event is to take place at the Star Public House in Cudworth on 1st November. A poppy will be illuminated at 7 o'clock. It is anticipated that Ben Parkinson will be able to attend. All are welcome.

RESOLVED that the updates be noted.

74 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

75 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To be organised.

(The meeting ended at Time Not Specified)

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Chair

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