



Surrey Civilian-Military Partnership Board

Agenda

256 City of London Field Hospital, Kingston, KT1 2QX
10.00 am – 12.00pm, Wednesday, 16 October 2019

Please note this meeting is held in private and is not open for the public to attend. The papers are published on the website for information only.

Contact: Sarah Goodman, Community Protection Group, Surrey County Council, Tel 01483 518095 or email armedforces@surreycc.gov.uk

1	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies	Chairman	
2	Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising	Chairman	(Pages 3 - 8)
3	Service Children Attainment Presentation and discussion around raising the attainment of Service children in Surrey led by the Director of School Improvement, Schools Alliance for Excellence (SAfE)	Ellen Mulvihill	(Verbal Report)
4	11 Infantry Brigade Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Task Force Commander Update and relationships with district and boroughs Latest Army moves and impact on public services including schools 	Col Simon Browne	(Verbal Report)
5	Electoral Registration of Service Voters Briefing on Service Voter registration and discussion around steps that could be taken to increase numbers registering	Canon Peter Bruinvels	(Pages 9 - 10)
6	SCMPB Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognise and Remember Task Group/VE Day 75 Surrey Armed Forces Health Champions Network 	Brig Paul Evans DL Tony Shipley	(Verbal Report)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit Welfare Officer Meetings • Armed Forces Covenant Conference – 5 Feb 2020 • Changes in Armed Forces Champions 	Peter Bruinvels	
7	Covenant Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forces Connect South East • Veterans Hubs • Armed Forces Covenant Fund applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pirbright Village Primary School (£19,960) ○ ATC Pirbright with Guildford Borough Council to create positive outcomes through play (outcome due Feb 2020) 	Chairman Peter Bruinvels Sarah Goodman Debbie Goldsmith	(Verbal Report)
8	AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imagine Project 	Chairman	
9	Date of next meeting 10am – 12pm on Wednesday 25 March 2020.		

Board Members

Mr Peter Martin	Chairman
Michael More-Molyneux	Lord-Lieutenant
Col Simon Browne	11 Infantry Brigade
Canon Peter Bruinvels	SCC Civilian Military Liaison Advisor
Major Andrew Butcher	1 Battalion Irish Guards
Michael Cannon	Community Integration Task Group
Col Patrick Crowley	SERFCA
Brigadier Paul Evans DL	Recognise and Remember Task Group
Jim France	Royal British Legion
Debbie Goldsmith	ATC Pirbright
Cllr Tom Gracey	Surrey Leaders representative
Sqn Ldr Bryan Jones	ssafa
John Kingsbury	Veterans representative
Mr Peter Martin	Chairman
Major Carol Miller	ATC Pirbright
Richard Moore	11 Infantry Brigade
Michael More-Molyneux	Lord-Lieutenant
David Munro	Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner
Reverend Roland Olliff	Diocese of Guildford
Steve Owen-Hughes	Surrey Fire and Rescue
Louise Punter	Surrey Chambers of Commerce
Lt-Col Robert Sandford	Army Training Centre (Pirbright)
Karen Whelan	Surrey Heath Borough Council
James Whiteman	Surrey Chief Executives representative



SURREY CIVILIAN-MILITARY PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2019,
4PWRR Denmark House, Batts Hill, Redhill, RH1 1DS

Present:

Mr Peter Martin	Chairman
Mr Michael More-Molyneux	Lord-Lieutenant
Col Bob Crawley	SSAFA
Col Patrick Crowley	SERFCA
Brigadier Paul Evans DL	Recognise and Remember Task Group
John Kingsbury	Veterans Rep
Steve Owen-Hughes	Chief Fire Officer
Debbie Goldsmith	ATC (Pirbright)
Louise Punter	Surrey Chambers of Commerce
Richard Moore	11 Brigade
Canon Peter Bruinvels	SCC Civilian Military Liaison Advisor
Jim France	Royal British Legion
Col Simon Browne	11 Infantry Brigade
David Munro	Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner
Michael Cannon	Community Integration Task Group
Rev Roland Olliff	Guildford Diocese
Bryan Jones	SSAFA
Cllr Pat Cannon	Surrey Leaders
Sarah Goodman	Surrey County Council
Jenny Harvey	Surrey County Council

Apologies:

Maj Carol Miller	ATC (Pirbright)
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1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES [Item 1]

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked 4PWRR for their hospitality. A special welcome was extended to Revd Roland Olliff on his return to the Board and Wg Cdr Bryan Jones who was due to replace Col Bob Crawley as Chairman of SSAFA Surrey from May 2019. Apologies were noted from Major Carol Miller.

It was noted that both Cllr Pat Cannon and Col Bob Crawley were stepping down from their posts, and therefore the Board. The Chairman, on behalf of

the Board, expressed his grateful thanks to them both for their committed hard work during their time on the Board and wished them well for the future.

Captain Toby Wilson, 4PWRR kindly welcomed the Board to Denmark House. He shared some of the history of PWRR and their current main objectives. The Chairman thanked him for his interesting presentation.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING [Item 2]

The minutes of the meeting 11 October 2018 were agreed.

Veterans Mental Health (TILS)

Karen Simmonds, Public Health, has now left Surrey County Council, but a written update has been requested from TILS. We are aware that referrals from Surrey are increasing and from April 2017 to December 2018 there were 40 referrals.

Children's Centre Update

A written update was circulated to the Board with the agenda. Major Miller has been speaking with Surrey County Council lead officer Lesley Hunt and both are working hard to ensure the change to Family Centres is as seamless as possible. If there are additional enquiries, please forward these to Sarah Goodman.

Business Breakfasts

It was reported that SERFCA haven't had a Business Breakfast in Surrey recently, but will liaise with Surrey Chambers of Commerce and look to organise one. Surrey Chambers of Commerce noted that Business Breakfasts are held regularly in Surrey (dates are on their website), and the Armed Forces were welcome to attend any of these. If a bespoke event was planned, this could be hosted free of charge in a Surrey Fire Station.

A report was shared setting out the number of Employee Recognition Scheme Award holders in Surrey. Gold and silver award holders were welcomed to a leadership event at Sandhurst – Surrey County Council and Woking Borough Council both had employees at this event. SERFCA are now in the process of supporting applications to the next round of gold and silver awards.

Modern Slavery Update

An update was circulated with the agenda. David Munro asked all those present to examine their supply chain to ensure there is no evidence of modern slavery.

Col Browne noted as a result of the last meeting, he is now linking in and working closely with ACC Nev Kemp from Surrey Police, which has been a very positive two way relationship.

3 11 BRIGADE UPDATE [Item 3]

Col Browne introduced Richard Moore to the Board, who is now overseeing Civilian Military partnership work for 11 Brigade. An update on the current military movements in / out of Surrey was provided (though this could be subject to change):

- The Welsh Guards will be moving from Pirbright to Windsor this summer

- When RLC Deepcut closes in 2020, the families will stay
- There will be no new soldiers moving into Pirbright (in place of the Welsh Guards) for about a year
- In 2020 the 2 Btn Duke of Lancs will move to Pirbright
- 2PWRR will move to Keogh Barracks and stay there until 2023, after which they will move to Pirbright
- 22 Field Hospital will remain in Keogh until 2023 – they will then leave Surrey, but 4 Armd Med will move out of Keogh this year
- Army Training Centre will remain, but will grow in size

It was noted that Elizabeth Barracks in Pirbright will be empty for about a year, then the need / demand will suddenly increase again. This will need to be managed carefully to ensure services can be provided eg school places.

Action – Sarah to set up a Task/Finish Group to look at the moves in relation to school places.

The Army Engagement Team were hosting an event on 6.30pm on 2 April at Denbies, Dorking. There is an open invitation to everyone - places can be booked via Eventbrite.

It was noted that the schools that have taken part on the Schools Modular Programme will be invited to a Challenge event, similar to Sandhurst Leadership Challenge at Longmoor Camp – this includes Farnham Heath End, Kings International and Ash Manor.

4 **SCMPB UPDATE [Item 4]**

SCMPB Annual Report – the draft report was welcomed and agreed. A list of Employee Recognition Scheme award holders will be annexed to the report. This would now be designed with photos included. Board members requested some hard copies as well as an electronic version. **Action** - Any additional comments or photos to Sarah Goodman by 22 March 2019.

Updated 2018/20 SCMPB Action Plan

The updated RAG action plan was discussed by the Board:

A couple of Red actions were currently being worked on:

- Surrey County Council Civil Military Peer support group – this will be taken forward during the year
- Case study – WW100 events brought forward some amazing artefacts and stories which need to be archived at the Surrey History Centre if possible. Lord-Lieutenant very supportive of this.
- MPs briefing will be taken forward after Brexit.

Updated Terms of Reference were approved by the Board.

Community Integration Task Group

A brief history of the Community Integration Task Group was given for benefit of new members. The Task Group was set up to focus on Education, Employment, Housing and Health and Wellbeing. It has been successful in gaining the implementation of positive changes in all areas which means that the Task Group no longer has specific regular meetings, but supports ongoing work where required.

- Education
Education was the prime focus of the afternoon session of the recent Surrey Armed Forces Covenant Conference where a video was played of service children (can be viewed via https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Jomk1qXn_Q). It was noted that Mark Scarborough has now left Surrey County Council, but an interim Director is scrutinising attainment data to build on the work that Mark had done. The Board is committed to continuing to focus on education, and the work being undertaken will be reported back to the Board at the next meeting.
- Employment
This area of work has progressed and the link with businesses will be taken forward by SERFCA and Surrey Chambers. The Employer Recognition Scheme has been promoted and businesses have been encouraged to consider military applicants and to accommodate reservist training.
- Housing
The Task Group has facilitated all local authorities equalising their approach to the armed forces community with regard to local connection.
- Health and Wellbeing
This is currently the most active group, with broad representation across the health arena. The group meets quarterly and deals with a range of issues including GP veteran registration, promotion of Step into Health, mental health and armed forces carers.

Recognise and Remember Task Group

Brig Paul Evans updated the group.

- New Armed Forces Champions will be inducted following the elections and will be invited along to the Task Group.
- Veterans Hubs - Armed Forces Champions are being encouraged to visit and get involved in veterans' hubs in their areas. Some new hubs are due to open under work led by Surrey County Council under Forces Connect South East. The group are planning to promote the profile of Hubs during the poppy appeal.
- The focus of the Task Group is now shifting to WW2. **Action - AFCs to ensure they share details of any events planned in their areas with armedforces@surreycc.gov.uk** so these can be added to the armed forces calendar.

During discussion, the Board noted the following:

- DDay 75 - 5 June is the national day and RBL are holding an event on 9 June in Brookwood. It was suggested that the section of wall on Hankley Common could be focus for an event. The Board agreed that the County event should take place in Guildford Cathedral during the Surrey Joint Services' Charities Choral Mattins on 23 June. **Action – Peter Bruinvels and Paul Evans to progress.**
- Silent Soldiers – there is no national programme to take these down on a certain date where they are all privately owned. Surrey Fire & Rescue Services HQ Wray Park would welcome any silent soldiers which have been taken down.
- It was suggested that the Task Group could encourage local authorities to add the names of those who have died more recently to memorials to make them more relevant for younger generations.

5 ANNUAL ARMED FORCES COVENANT CONFERENCE - FEEDBACK [Item 5]

Peter Martin formally thanked ATC Pirbright for their hospitality and contribution to the success of the 2019 conference. The Board reviewed the collated feedback and discussed possible 2020 conference:

- Generally positive feedback.
- Having a specific focus in the afternoon was viewed as working well.
- Jenna Clare and the Surrey Headteachers who spoke were particularly well received.
- It was suggested that the next conference should not have workshops to enable more time for interaction and discussion during the conference.

Board agreed that next years conference should be held in February 2020 at ATC Pirbright.

6 COVENANT FUNDING [Item 6]

Forces Connect South East

The project is due to end in September 2019 and is currently on track to meet all targets. Training packages have been delivered across Surrey and these have gone well. Over 2000 people have been trained across the region.

The Mobile app has been officially launched and has been well received. Behind the app lies a series of pathways, unique for each council involved.

General Nugee was briefed about the project and was keen to roll scheme out nationally. The project was allocated an additional 40k funding to enable this to happen and work is underway to do this via national conferences and workshops held in 12 regions across the UK.

Within Surrey, there will be a final councillor training session in June post elections.

FCSE Veterans Hubs

This is another MoD grant funded project which looks to enhance provision for veterans via Hubs across the South East region. A process has been established to enable new and exciting Hubs to bid for funds from the project, and the first bid to fund a hub in Eastbourne has now been approved. A new Hub, run by the Royal British Legion, is due to open in Epsom on 1 May.

Officers are looking to ensure hubs are well publicised, sustainable and have the support of the local Armed Forces Champions.

Armed Forces Covenant Fund

One bid received from ATC Pirbright for current round. Surrey Heartlands and Pirbright School putting together bids for the June round, but more bids are encouraged. Sarah can help with advice on applications.

7 AOB [Item 7]

Veterans ID Card – this is now available to those who left the services from December onwards - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-veterans-id-cards-rolled-out-to-service-leavers> .

Exercise Hairspring - Steve Owen-Hughes recently represented Surrey County Council at Exercise Hairspring in Norway – further details will be circulated outside the meeting. Steve has recently been appointed the Armed Forces Champion for the 46 National Fire Chiefs and will work with Peter B to take this work forward.

SERFCA Update Armed Forces Briefings

- 11 June - Armed Forces Briefing at Sandhurst – diversity and youth
- 8 Oct – Lord-Lieutenant Awards Ceremony at Denbies
- Reservist Brig Aidan Smyth is likely to be the new Chairman of SERFCA Surrey

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING [Item 8]

10am – 12pm on Wednesday 16 October 2019.

23 November 2018

Armed Forces Voting

Summary

The Armed Forces can register to vote as ordinary electors, as overseas voters, or as service voters. There has been concern about the under-registration of the Armed Forces, especially those serving overseas, and the difficulties they face in participating in the electoral process more generally.

The *Electoral Administration Act 2006* made provision for the extension of the duration of a service declaration to five years. Surveys of Service personnel carried out between 2005 and 2010 showed fluctuations in the numbers of personnel who were registered to vote. Campaigns to promote awareness of the process of registration and relevant deadlines have been run by the Electoral Commission and the Ministry of Defence since 2007.

The results of the Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey (AFCAS) 2018 indicated that 86% of respondents were registered to vote. This figure has shown a steady increase since the question was introduced in 2012 and the increase has been driven by the increase in non-officer ranks registering to vote.

Officers continue to have a much higher proportion of registered voters (96%). This figure has been steady since 2016. The figure has been steady at 89% from 2012-2015. The proportion of Other Ranks that are registered to vote had increased to 83% from 76% in 2016 and 63% in 2012. The increase in registration levels overall was helped by the 2016 referendum and the 2017 General Election but also steps taken by the MOD, in conjunction with the Electoral Commission to inform Service personnel of registration arrangements.

The *Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013* made provision to change the system for voter registration in the UK. Under Individual Electoral Registration, registration no longer occurs by household, but by individuals, and can be completed online. The online process is thought to have facilitated electoral registration for Service personnel posted abroad.

There has also been concern that postal ballots would often not reach those serving abroad in time for them to complete and return the papers before polling day. The 2013 Act also addressed this issue by extending the timetable for Parliamentary elections and by-elections, thereby creating more time for postal ballots to be sent out and returned in time to be counted at elections.

This Note also gives a brief history of how the system of voting by members of the Armed Forces emerged, particularly during the periods directly after each World War.

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