



## SURREY CIVILIAN-MILITARY PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2017, 256 (City of London) Field Hospital, 19 Portsmouth Road, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 2QX.

### Present:

Col Simon Browne	11 Infantry Brigade
Canon Peter Bruinvels	SCC Civilian Military Liaison Advisor
Michael Cannon	Community Integration Task Group
Col Bob Crawley	ssafa
Col Patrick Crowley	SERFCA
Brigadier Paul Evans DL	Recognise and Remember Task Group
Debbie Goldsmith	Garrison Representative
Sarah Goodman	Surrey County Council
Craig Jones	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Councillor John Kingsbury	St Johns and Hook Heath
Mr Peter Martin	Chairman
Major Carol Miller	ATC Pirbright
Michael More-Molyneux	Lord-Lieutenant
James Painter	Surrey County Council
Louise Punter	Surrey Chambers of Commerce
Karen Simmonds	Public Health, SCC

### Apologies:

Mr Richard Hampson	County Council
Brigadier Phil Kimber	11 Infantry Brigade
David Munro	Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner
Steve Owen-Hughes	Surrey Fire and Rescue
Trevor Pugh	Surrey County Council
Phil Small	11 Infantry Brigade
Craig Spence	Royal British Legion
Karen Whelan	Surrey Heath Borough Council

## 1 WELCOME FROM 256 (CITY OF LONDON) FIELD HOSPITAL [Item 1]

Capt Kevin Haresign welcomed the SCMPB to 256 (City of London) Field Hospital and invited Warrant Officer David Barkworth to give an overview of the role of the Unit.

The Chairman thanked 256 Field Hospital for the presentation and for kindly hosting the meeting.

## **2 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES [Item 2]**

Peter Martin welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the apologies from:

- David Munro – Police and Crime Commissioner (Craig Jones representing)
- Steve Owen-Hughes – Surrey Fire and Rescue Service
- Trevor Pugh – SCC Director of Environment and Infrastructure
- Mr Richard Hampson – County Councillor
- Craig Spence – The Royal British Legion

## **3 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING [Item 3]**

**ATC (Pirbright)** – Armed Forces Champions and SCMPB members would be welcome to attend future Passing Out Parades at ATC (Pirbright) - spring/summer dates will be circulated. **Action: Peter Bruinvels/Jenny Harvey**

The Tool Kit for Task Force Commanders in the south east is in the process of being completed and will be promoted to the MoD as best practice. **Action: Peter Bruinvels**

**Education** – Admissions for service children is working well and most are getting in to their first choice schools. A few schools have large numbers of service children, but the majority have small numbers. Performance figures (which have not yet been verified) suggest that service children are not performing as well as would be wished within schools and it was noted that these figures are borne out nationally. This is something that SCC is investigating. SCC is leading on a cross border application to the Covenant Fund to support service children, which should positively impact on their education attainment results.

It was noted by several members that it is a real challenge to get the parents of service children to engage with schools. It was further commented that often families have an unrealistic expectation about what the service pupil premium should be spent on eg school uniform or trips, and more education was required.

**Action: Sarah Goodman/Peter Bruinvels/Mark Scarborough** – Education to be added to the March agenda. To:

- Look at Service children attainment for Key Stage 3 and 4
- Raise issue with Primary and Secondary Phase Councils
- Educate service families on correct use of service pupil premium
- Submit Education bid to MoD – consider whether families could be brought in as part of the bid

### **Fundraising**

Cadets and Sword Company have supported major fundraising events in the county on behalf of ABF The Soldiers' Charity Surrey.

### **Veterans' Mental Health**

Virgin Care is no longer the Surrey provider for veterans mental health. The role has been taken over by London SE Service, which has a hub based in a Sussex Hospital. It has so far proved very hard to get an update from them – SSAFA has also had similar experience. Karen Simmonds will contact them again, but if there is no response she will go to NHS England. The Chairman will provide his support if required. **Action: Karen Simmonds**

Debbie Hustings (CCG) would be asked if there was a military element within the new Sustainability Transformation Plans that are being developed.

**Action: Sarah Goodman/Debbie Hustings**

## **4 11 BRIGADE UPDATE [Item 4]**

Col Simon Browne stated that support for the military in Surrey has never been stronger, and there has been a move from sympathy to empathy which was very much welcomed. In his first few weeks in post he has noted that the military need to give more back locally, and this is something he will raise with the Task Force Commanders.

There are a number of moves coming up over the next few years:

- Welsh Guards are moving to Windsor in 2019 (replaced by the Irish Guards)
- 27 Regt RLC are moving to Catterick in 2021
- 22 Field Hospital are moving to Nuneaton in 2020
- 4 Armd Med are moving to Tidworth in 2019

Recruiting is a key issue at the moment and there is a need to move away from the Army being the recruiter of last choice. They need support from partners to help attract aspirational young people to join the services in a variety of roles. Cadets are strong in Surrey and 8-20% of recruits are ex cadets. Employer engagement is key in helping to promote the messages and the benefits of employing Reservists.

Priorities for the coming year include youth engagement, Women 100 and WWI 100.

## **5 THE FORMATION OF 4PWRR [Item 5]**

Maj Matt Moore - EO gave a presentation on the formation of 4PWRR on behalf of Lt Col Ben Baker - CO. 4PWRR is a family and a local regiment. Board members were asked to spread the word about the new unit and share possible recruitment opportunities. Contact details for 4PWRR - [4PWRR-BHQ-XO@mod.uk](mailto:4PWRR-BHQ-XO@mod.uk)

Following a request from Guildford Borough Council, 2pWRR with 4PWRR will take part in a Freedom Parade on Armed Forces Day 2018 subject to operational commitments.

The Chairman thanked Major Moore for his succinct and informative presentation.

## 6 FORCES CONNECT SOUTH EAST [Item 6]

James Painter updated the group on the successful £321k to the MoD to promote a greater understanding and awareness of the issues affecting the Armed Forces Community within public authorities. Amanda Barnes is now in post (2yr contract) as Project Officer and is forging connections. A training programme is being put together for Surrey which includes face to face training as well as elearning especially for front line staff. Further information will follow when the programme is fully up and running in the New Year. Amanda will be invited to the next meeting to provide an update. **Action:**  
**Jenny Harvey**

## 7 SCMPB EXEC AND TASK GROUP UPDATE [Item 7]

- **Exec Priorities** – A RAG status has been added to the priorities agreed at the last meeting, and progress made was noted.
- **Recognise and Remember Task Group** – Brig Paul Evans updated on the work of this group which is especially important going in to 2018.
  - **Headley Court Farewell Parade** (29 Sept 2017) was a huge success with HRH Countess of Wessex as the Royal VIP backed up by the Band of the Household Cavalry. It was very well attended.
  - **Armed Forces Champions** – Job Description has been updated and re-circulated
  - **Audit of Surrey's Armed Forces Covenant** – a draft will be complete by the end of October. Once agreed by the Chairman it will be given to Lt-Gen Nugee by Brig Evans and the Chairman as a good practice case study.
  - **Fire Service Memorial Service** – A dedication event was due to take place 30 October 2017 at Surrey Fire and Rescue Service HQ in Reigate to commemorate 101 members of the fire service who lost their lives in WW1 and WW2 whilst on active service with the Military.
  - **VC100 Ceremony in honour of Lieutenant Harold Auten VC** DSC RD who was in command of a Q ship – HMS Stock Force took place in Leatherhead on 7 October 2017. It was well attended with Vice Admiral Peter Dunt CB DL presiding on behalf of the Lord-Lieutenant. The Carpenter family were very moved.
  - **Surrey History Centre** – the project to map war memorials across Surrey is going well. Cadets are now actively helping with this.
- **Community Integration Workshop – 2 October 2017**

The regular Task Group has been put on hold as it has made good progress and it was felt that it was time to review the outstanding needs. A workshop was held with Task Force Commanders representatives, Welfare Officers and officers from Housing, Education, Early Years and Health in October. Some of the issues raised included:

  - **Employment** – there are fewer service leavers than a few years ago. Surrey is too expensive for most of those who do leave. 95% of service leavers find employment within six months.
  - **Spousal employment** – is a tricky area. A skills fair is being organised at Pirbright by 11 Brigade focussing on softer skills based on research carried out by the Children's Centre.

- **Housing** – this area has been successful and any new issues are being dealt with on a case by case basis. There is a need to encourage those thinking of leaving service to look ahead and plan financially. Housing may become more important in 10 years with new pension arrangements coming in to play. A lump sum will no longer be offered up front, which had previously often been used as a down payment. It was felt that Rushmoor's Policy was not quite as good as Surrey's. **Action: Peter Bruinvels to share best practice.**
- Some challenges were raised regarding spouses whose partner had served overseas for many years when returning home eg no credit rating.
- **Education** – Admissions side is working very well. Attainment discussed earlier in agenda.
- **Health / welfare** – The bid for funding for a part time Armed Forces Lead across all CCGs was unsuccessful. Each CCG now has an Armed Forces Champion who meet quarterly.
- **Domestic Abuse and Prevent** – It was agreed to link the Army in with the Surrey DA perpetrator scheme and local Prevent awareness training.
- **Debt** – There is some problems with financial management among young soldiers. It was suggested that advice given 'behind the wire', but outside the army hierarchy might be better taken up. 'Advice on the Run' scheme is applying for Covenant funding to support this area – through first round. Major Carol Miller suggested Michael Cannon meet with organisations already working within Pirbright as they have good uptake from all levels.

## 8 **SURREY ARMED FORCES COVENANT CONFERENCE - 1 FEBRUARY 2018 [Item 8]**

The Board was updated regarding the conference being held on 1 February 2018 at Deepcut. The overall theme for the conference of 'Strengthening Partnerships' was supported. Suggestions for additional items included sharing achievements and the role of the Armed Forces Champion. Further suggestions should be emailed to [armedforces@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:armedforces@surreycc.gov.uk).

## 9 **FORTHCOMING EVENTS [Item 9]**

The update on the events was noted.

## 10 **SERFCA UPDATE [Item 10]**

Col Patrick Crowley praised the depth of the conversations being held in Surrey when compared to other areas.

Recruitment of Reserves is doing well - the Navy are on course to meet their target, and although the Army may not meet its overall target, Surrey is doing well.

Ash Manor School with the backing of the Grenadier Guards is the first cadet force in a state school in Surrey and is doing well. It was suggested that a case study be developed in due course. **Action: Sarah Goodman**

**11 AOB [Item 11]**

- Applications for grant funding are still being accepted. If anyone has an idea for a project they would like funded speak with Sarah Goodman. 01483 518095.
- The Task Force Commanders and Armed Forces Champions are meeting on 16 November for their annual seminar in the Officers' Mess, Welsh Guard on Pirbright Camp.
- SSAFA has been working with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to launch a project around veterans in the Criminal Justice System. The three custody suites now ask if those in custody have served and if they would like support from SSAFA.
- The tabled update from Royal British Legion was noted (attached)

**12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING [Item 12]**

10:00 – 12:00 Wednesday 21 March 2018-Venue TBC



## The Royal British Legion report for Surrey Civilian-Military Partnership Board 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

After completing a home survey, a resounding issue came to light across the country within our beneficiary group, this was social isolation. The returns of the survey showed us that this was across all age groups and touched those serving, veterans and families who felt isolated within their communities.

Whilst the Area operations advice and support team will assist those suffering, who are experiencing more complex needs, with services from our case officers and outreach officers, there still remains a high level of beneficiaries in our communities who feel lonely and isolated.

In an attempt to reach and support these people, our membership branches have taken up a scheme named, Branch Community Support, (BCS).

BCS ensures RBL Branch members are trained to carry out home visits, hospital visits and a telephone buddy service. All those participating in the scheme are volunteers from our membership, who want to help and assist those beneficiaries in their local communities. This vital service is helping to tackle the issue of social isolation, giving that much needed contact and providing hope to many.

The following Branches in Surrey are currently signed up to deliver BCS:

Bisley	Camberley
Egham Hythe	Epsom Ewell
Hindhead	Horley
Leatherhead	Limpsfield
Merstham	Morden District
Banstead	Outwood
West Clandon	Windlesham
Worcester Park	Carshalton
Belmont	

If you are aware of anyone serving, veteran or family who would benefit from the BCS service please call our contact centre on 0808 802 8080

We have continued to engage with serving military units within Surrey and recently attended a health fair at the Army Training Centre, Pirbright. We are supporting other units across the 11 Brigade area, with drop in sessions for those serving and their families, offering advice and support on a range of subjects with our specialist trained staff. These close links have led to us funding projects in these units via our grant scheme such as a family library at 36 Engineer Regiment. We welcome any invitation to any serving military unit in order to give information or support, please contact myself at [cspence@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:cspence@britishlegion.org.uk)

**Craig Spence**  
**Area manager – South East**  
**The Royal British Legion**

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