



**SURREY CIVILIAN-MILITARY PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2019

256 City of London Field Hospital, Kingston, KT1 2QX

**Present:**

Mr Peter Martin	Chairman
Mr Michael More-Molyneux	Lord-Lieutenant
Paul Barlow	SSAFA
Peter Ellis	SERFCA
Brigadier Paul Evans DL	Recognise and Remember Task Group
John Kingsbury	Veterans Rep
Steve Owen-Hughes	Chief Fire Officer
Lt Col Robert Sandford	ATC (Pirbright)
Debbie Goldsmith	ATC (Pirbright)
Canon Peter Bruinvelds	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
James Whiteman	Surrey Chief Executive's
Cllr Tom Gracey	Surrey Leaders
Sarah Goodman	Surrey County Council
Jenny Harvey	Surrey County Council
Ellen Mulvihill	Schools Alliance for Excellence (SAfE)
Maj Neeraj Shah	256 City of London Field Hospital

**Apologies:**

Maj Carol Miller	ATC (Pirbright)
Col Patrick Crowley	SERFCA
Louise Punter	Surrey Chambers of Commerce
Col Patrick Crowley	SERFCA
Tony Shipley	Surrey Heartlands
Maj Andy Butcher	Irish Guards

## **1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES [Item 1]**

Peter Martin welcomed everyone and thanked Maj Neeraj from City of London Field Hospital for hosting the meeting. All attending introduced themselves and new members to the board were warmly welcomed. Michael Cannon made the decision to step down from his work on the Board as the aims of the Community Integration Task Group had been achieved. Peter Martin presented Michael with a token of the Board's appreciation and thanked him for all the work that he had done on behalf of the Board for the Armed Forces community in Surrey.

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

The minutes of the meeting of 13 March 2019 were agreed. Thanks were given to everyone who had shared photos from Remembrance Day 2018. They were used in the SCMPB annual report, which had been very well received.

## **3 SERVICE CHILDREN UPDATE [Item 3]**

Ellen Mulvihill, Director of School Improvement, Schools Alliance for Excellence (SAfE) talked to the board about raising the attainment of Service children in Surrey.

Currently at Key Stage 1 and 2, children from service families are performing less well in Surrey schools. Data is not currently available for Key Stage 4 for 2019.

Historical suggestions for improvement have not got to the root of why Surrey children are performing less well.

Need to measure improvements. The arrival of new regiment to Surrey offers an opportunity for a baseline and measure the impact of any interventions.

Potential actions could include:

- Adult mentoring – research shows conversations children have with adults outside the school environment has a significant impact.
- Early reading intervention – breadth of vocabulary is vital. Challenge headteachers to focus further on phonics and early reading.
- Find out what level children are at when they move to Surrey so schools are prepared and can ensure pupil progression.
- Attendance analysis – what is the attendance of service children?
- A new Disadvantaged Children and Young People Strategy is being developed, which will have a strand related to service children.
- There is a good 'best practice' website in Kent, which can be adapted for Surrey.
- Need to look carefully at what is possible – be pro-active with the very limited resources. Eg in Brighton was a project using text messaging to parents eg "your child has missed 3 out of 5 days, most children attended 5 days"

There is a strong organisational commitment to try and make a difference. Presentation was warmly received by the board who appreciated the fresh and genuine commitment to make positive changes. Questions and comments included:

- Army could be a better partner facing this challenge. Need to help ensure that families are aware of the important role that they play in their child's education.
- Would be helpful to also consider the children of veterans within the strategy.
- Kent are developing a Childrens' passport – Surrey could learn from them.
- Could consider a Virtual Head or Champion of Military Champion, however, this would require additional funding.

**Action** – Lt Col Sandford to share details of the Battalion coming to Pirbright this year when details are made available, and raise the issue with the incoming CO. It was agreed that work with this intake could be developed as a case study.

**Action** –Chairman to consider contacting GOC Regional Command to raise the issue. Col Simon Browne to approach first.

Peter Martin thanked Ellen and requested a one page document for the next board meeting (spring 2020). Ellen invited to attend the following board meeting in October 2020 to review progress.

#### 4 11 INFANTRY BRIGADE - UPDATE [Item 4]

Col Simon Browne updated the board:

- Since the last meeting the Brigade has doubled in size and now has six battalions, five of which are new.
- 1 Battalion Irish Guards are handing over in Afghanistan and will be going to Iraq in March 2020.
- Coldstream Guards are currently in Kenya.
- Resources are going to Brexit – Two out of the six engagement staff are involved full time in Brexit.
- Task Force Commander update – There are two Task Force Commanders for Surrey. Lt Col Rob Sandford is TFC for Woking and Guildford with Maj Andy Butcher from Irish Guards responsible for the rest of the county.
- 4PWRR – Lt Col Ben Baker is about to move on. He has achieved a lot and the Board would like to recognise this work.

**Action:** Peter Bruinvels to send Lt-Col Baker a letter thanking him for all he has achieved in Surrey.

**Action:** Tom Gracey and James Whiteman to feedback details from this meeting to Surrey Leaders and Chief Executives so they are aware of what is being done.

## 5 Electoral Registration of Service Voters [Item 5]

Numbers on the electoral roll within the armed forces are low nationally. Figures are highest amongst officers, but reduces down the ranks. Currently working hard to find ways to improve these figures. The Electoral Registration Officer for Guildford has agreed to work with ATC (Pirbright) to run a six-month pilot to encourage and enable recruits to register as Service voters and make it possible to register online. Lt-Col Sandford thanked Guildford for this offer. Officers are also looking into locations for polling stations and increased access to family accommodation behind the wire, particularly Keogh.

Board agreed it would be good to make this work a case study and to also consider see whether it could be extended to both Catterick and Sandhurst.

## 6 SCMPB Update [Item 6]

### Recognise and Remember

Meeting on 27 September 2019 was well attended. The meeting focused on Veterans and discussed an updated action plan for the group.

Armed Forces Champions were asked whether they could include a feature on veterans hubs within their council's newsletter. Where hubs do not exist, there is a commitment to look at what facilities might be available.

VE day – All areas will share local events to the county diary. VE day is one of the events where the Army will receive direction about what they should do and where to provide support.

### Armed Forces Health Network update

Tony Shipley from Surrey Heartlands chairs the Armed Forces Health Champions Group- the update was given by Canon Peter Bruinvels. The Group meets four times a year – members are very committed and support is increasing. The new GMS1 form, which is completed when registering for GP, now has a section on armed forces, which will help with records. FCSE training has been promoted to all members and the group is also looking at GP Veteran Awareness Scheme and Veteran Hospital Awareness Scheme. Work is also ongoing with the Surrey Suicide strategy, which the Board would like a presentation on at the next meeting.

### Unit Welfare Officers

This group meets twice a year with a broad section of both reserve and regular Unit Welfare Officers. Areas of discussion include Surrey Information Point, housing, welfare and finance, Gurkha community, gambling, mental health first aid, FCSE App, spousal employment and Covenant Fund applications.

### Armed Forces Covenant Conference

It was decided to move the proposed date of conference to March to avoid conflict of diaries. The conference will include a focus on business and cadets. Lord Lieutenant kindly agreed to offer support from one of his cadets. Discussion was held around who would be a good keynote speaker and it was agreed to approach Johnny Mercer MP.

## 7 **Covenant Funding [Item 7]**

Sarah Goodman confirmed she is very happy to provide support to those applying for funding.

- Pirbright Primary School have applied for funding to establish a 'nurture farm' at the school.
- ATC Pirbright and Guildford Borough Council have submitted a £74k bid seeking to address play needs of service children.
- Armed Forces Veterans Hub in Guildford Fire Station is going well – they are still trying to engage with homeless veterans. The station is also working with RHS Wisley to develop a wellbeing garden for both firefighters and veterans. The longer term aim is to engage with rough sleeping veterans. The concept will be developed over the next few months before being rolled out to other fire stations. It is anticipated that Woking Fire Station will be next.

## 8 **AOB [Item 8]**

Imagine project. SCC has secured funding to deliver social innovation project to help unemployed young people to work in horticulture. ATC (Pirbright) is one of the four sites in Surrey.

RHS Wisley have offered 'mindfulness' sessions to Surrey Fire and Rescue staff – looking to extend to veterans.

WW1 Silent Soldiers - some figures are beginning to look old. It was confirmed that as they are property of individuals it is up to them to agree when they should be taken down. **Action:** James Whiteman will raise at Surrey Chief Execs meeting.

### Forthcoming events:

- Poppy Appeal Awards, 11 March ATC Pirbright
- SERFCA - Armed Forces briefing being held 2 June 2020, Sandhurst Academy
- Lord Lieutenants Awards – 22 October 2020

### Employer Recognition Awards:

CGI IT and KBR are new gold award winners in Surrey.

### **Date of next meeting**

10am – 12pm – 22 April 2020, Venue TBC

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