



## **SURREY CIVILIAN-MILITARY PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

### **Minutes of the meeting held 10 May 2022**

Surrey County Council, Woodhatch Place, Reigate, RH2 8EF

#### **Present:**

Helyn Clack	Chair
Peter Ellis	SERFCA
Ellie Vesey-Thompson	Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner's Office
Steve Owen-Hughes	Chief Fire Officer
Debbie Goldsmith	Army Training Centre (Pirbright)
Col John Baynham	11 Infantry Brigade
Canon Peter Bruinvels	SCC Civilian Military Liaison Advisor
Maj Richard Watkins	1 Battalion Irish Guards
Daniel Mouawad	Surrey Chief Executives
Sarah Goodman	Surrey County Council
Jenny Noakes	Surrey County Council

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#### **Apols:**

Mr Michael More-Molyneux	Lord-Lieutenant
Richard Moore	11 Infantry Brigade
Tom Gracey	Surrey Leaders
Rev Roland Olliff	Guildford Diocese
Col Patrick Crowley	SERFCA
Sqn Ldr Bryan Jones	SSAFA
Lt Col Shamus Kelly	Army Training Centre (Pirbright)
Anthony Shipley	Surrey Heartlands
Brig Paul Evans DL	Recognise and Remember Task Group

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

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and noted apologies as set out above.

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

Canon Peter Bruinvels provided a brief update.

Now looking at Armed Forces Covenant Fund 22/33 to potentially fund a conference regarding support given to military children. Susan Zeedyk who is a specialist in attachment theory who has kindly agreed to speak at the conference.

#### **Health– Veteran Friendly GPs and hospitals**

Surrey currently has only eight GP practices registered as Veteran Friendly, even though it is estimated there are approximately 30 veterans on each GP list. Work is ongoing with Brig Robin Simpson and Tony Shipley to move this forward and increase the number of registrations in Surrey.

To become accredited, GP practices need to:

- have a lead for veterans' issues within the surgery;
- Identify and flag veterans on their computer system;
- Undertake dedicated training and attend armed forces healthcare meetings;
- Increase understanding of the health needs of veterans amongst both clinical and administrative staff.

**Action:** Suggest an item at a future Health and Wellbeing Board meeting to raise awareness. Helyn Clack happy to attend if helpful.

#### **Veterans' Friendship Project**

Update on this Covenant funded project led by Surrey County Council Adult Social Care team given by Sarah Goodman.

- Still working hard to engage in care homes to identify veterans and improve sign posting.
- Life Stories – the first stories recorded by volunteers are now being written up, but this is proving challenging.  
Discussion held around how to increase number of stories.  
Suggestion to organise an event for veterans – sitting with people might mean they are more willing to speak and share.
- Activities – have been organised for veterans such as SOLD, High Ashurst, boat at Guildford, archery, curling, board games

**Action:** Share details of Veterans' Friendship Project with Debbie Goldsmith

### **3 CONFERENCE FEEDBACK AND ANNUAL REPORT SIGN OFF [Item 3]**

#### **Conference**

Thanks given to all that attended and especially to ATC Pirbright for their generous hosting of the Surrey Armed Forces Covenant Conference 2022 in March.

Feedback received was very positive, particularly around the personal testimonies shared.

Suggestions from those present for next year:

- Show the journey from recruit to serving

- Share from a family perspective what it is like to re-locate, practicalities etc.
- Invite / include broader ranks
- Highlight cadets and reservists

### **Annual Report**

All happy with the content and happy to finalise.

**Action:** The board requested printed copies to be produced.

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## **4 ARMED FORCES ACT [Item 4]**

A verbal update regarding the progression of the act given by Canon Peter Bruinvels.

- The Armed Forces Act went through parliament unamended, now awaiting publication of the statutory guidelines to show how it must be implemented by local authorities.
- Surrey is well placed to implement this Act.
- With assistance of Armed Forces Covenant Grant Funding, Forces Connect is working with councils across the south east to raise awareness of what the legislation means.  
Canon Peter Bruinvels and Armed Forces Network are delivering updated Armed Forces Awareness Training across south east.  
In Surrey the training for Councillors will be in September.

Daniel Mouawad keen to work with Sarah and Peter to ensure council leaders are aware of what is being asked of them.

**Action All:** Please continue to promote the free Armed Forces Awareness Training and the Forces Connect App

## **5 SERFCA UPDATE (ITEM 5)**

Welcome extended to Peter Ellis, who provided a verbal update. A written copy of this is attached to the minutes.

The Board discussed encouraging all local authorities and Surrey Police to progress through the Employer Recognition Scheme Awards. It was agreed that this would be promoted through the Surrey Chief Executives and Surrey Leaders meetings as well as through training.

It was noted that Armed Forces Champions welcome invitations to local cadet events.

## **6 11 SECURITY FORCE ASSISTANCE BRIGADE (ITEM 6)**

Col John Baynham gave a verbal update. A written copy is attached to the minutes.

HQ 11 Security Force Assistance Brigade continues to work towards the changes imposed by the Integrated Review and the new focus of working with international allies and partners and capacity building.

HQ SE is growing as a concept and the separation of the two functions will take place in early 2023. Unit re-subordinations will continue to trickle through over the coming months

Brigadier Ben Cattermole will depart on 27 May after two years in command and Brig Justin Stenhouse will be the new Commander.

## **7 RECOGNISE AND REMEMBER UPDATE (ITEM 7)**

Canon Peter Bruinvels gave an update on behalf of Brig Paul Evans.

Group came together in March with a focus on:

- Veterans' Hubs - supporting their return to regular meetings and the formation of new hubs where needed.
- Armed Forces Week – supporting Flag Raising events in all Boroughs and Districts, shared details of Surrey Service Charities and Cadet Service on 19 June, activities to thank Reserves for their contribution on 22 June encouraged. Supporting the 40<sup>th</sup> commemorations of the Falklands War.

The group plan to come together again in person on 10 June 2022 where plans for Armed Forces Week will be reviewed.

## **8 MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD (ITEM 8)**

Helyn Clack, Debbie Goldsmith and Canon Peter Bruinvels shared photographs and details of an event for service children held on 12 April 2022 at ATC Pirbright as part of Month of the Military Child. Surrey Fire and Rescue Service took a fire engine and goody bags to a holiday club and had a wonderful time with the children.

Plans are ongoing for Surrey Libraries to offer service children a special library card – with a military design and some bespoke offers to support / encourage reading.

## **9 AOB (ITEM 9)** NONE

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**10AM – THURSDAY 13 OCTOBER 2022**

## **Annex 1 - Item 5 SERFCA Update**

### **Surrey CMPB - SERFCA Update, as @ 09 May 22**

**Introduction.** Please see my notes below for the above meeting.

#### **1. Review of SRFCA Events. Please see the U/M:**

- **SERFCA & GLRFCA Joint MPs Engagement in April.** This was the first of our direct MP engagements at the Houses of Parliament since the pandemic lockdown, where working jointly with Greater London RFCA, a 'drop-in' facility was provided for MPs, which was also supported by a number of Reservists and Cadet Force Adult Volunteers, in uniform. Around 30 MPs 'popped in' and therefore learned a little more about the Reserves and Cadets in their constituencies. This was a very good result and a very worthwhile influence activity, which we normally conduct face-to-face every 2 years. One expected result has been to have an increased interest from MPs in their local Volunteers and potential visits to Reserve units or Cadet Training Ships/Detachments/Squadrons are now likely in the near future.
- **11 SAF Bde Leadership event, supported by SERFCA at the Longmoor Training Area.** This was recently held as a special leadership event for employers at the Longmoor Training Area, Hampshire, run by 11 Security Force Assistance Brigade (11SFAB), supported by SERFCA. Over 90 people from both private and public sector organisations participated in a fun day and free leadership training, which supports the effort to encourage organisations to move up the Employer Recognition Scheme ladder. Meanwhile, some Gold ERS holders, namely Hampshire and Surrey Councils, had the privilege of receiving a unique briefing from the historian of GCHQ, Cheltenham.
- **Surrey & Berkshire Armed Forces Briefing of Tues 07 Jun 22.** This event is currently scheduled to take place as planned, at RMAS, Camberley. Attendance is by Invitation and these will be issued by the SERFCA Events/Comms Manager. Details for invited guests to follow in due course.
- **Surrey Lord-Lieutenant Awards for Thurs 20 Oct 22.** This event is currently scheduled to take place as planned and the SERFCA Lord-Lieutenant Awards Instruction was published to all participants in Feb 22.

#### **2. Update on Cadets and their activities:**

- **Cadet Strengths as at 09 May 22: (Adults/Cadets) – Note. The strengths below change daily:**
  - **CCF** – 97/1,315 (in 10 Schools)
  - **SCC** – 99/287 (Surrey District in 6 Units + 2 units in Sussex but are not counted within these figures)
  - **ACF** – 141/498 (25 Detachments)
  - **ATC** – 114/380 (10 Squadrons)
  - **Totals – 451 Volunteers & 2,480 Cadets**

- **Comment on the above.** Cadets are on the up again and units are flourishing. The whole of the MOD sponsored 'Cadet World' has demonstrated its resilience, by operating throughout during the COVID-19 pandemic and throughout the subsequent lockdowns and the moves back to 'Face to Face' (F2F) training.
  - **Annual Cadet Camps.** Further to the Summer 2021 Cadet Camps, where such activities were successfully held, despite COVID 19 restrictions across the SERFCA area, forward planning for the 2022 Summer Camps is well underway by all the Cadet Services. Surrey ACF are due to hold their Summer Camp between 24 Jul to 05 Aug 22 at Beckingham, Nottinghamshire. Currently we do not have such detail on the SCC and ATC units.
- 3. General Interest.** The Reserves are now back to normal training and are planning various exercises and deployments. When required, a number of Reservists have continued to assist both the local Authorities and the NHS on MACA tasks.
- 4. Remembrance Commemorations.** In terms of participation and support to the forthcoming Remembrance activities for 2022, units of both Reserves and Cadets will as normal, support their local commemorations, under instructions received from their various chains of commands (CoCs). SERFCA is not part of the military CoC and therefore will not be aware of all such commitment requests, of which there will be many across the County.
- 5. Summary.** The past couple of years has been full of challenges in keeping units up and running, however, our Reserves and Cadet organisations have continued to develop, post the pandemic restrictions and remain in a good place meeting all challenges, clearly stating the benefits of Reserves' Service and Cadet membership to the wider community and the overarching 'Volunteer Experience'.
- 6. NFTR.**

*Peter GB Ellis*

**Lt Col (Retd) PGB Ellis QGM\***

**Deputy Chief Executive (East)/Head of Cadets' & Youth (HCY),  
SERFCA, Maidstone Office**

## **Annex 2 - Item 6 – 11 Security Force Assistance Brigade update**

HQ 11 SFA Bde continues to work towards the changes imposed by the Integrated Review and the new focus of working with our international allies and partners and capacity building.

HQ SE is growing as a concept and the separation of the two functions will take place in early 23. Unit re-subordinations will continue to trickle through over the coming months

Brigadier Ben Cattermole will depart on 27 May after two years in command and Brig Justin Stenhouse will be the new Comd.

The Bde HQ has been exceptionally busy, with much of the HQ deployed in Kenya as the HICON for 1 PWRR. 1 WG are deployed in Zambia supporting C-Poaching operations and to counter the illegal wildlife trade. The Gurkha Bn in Brunei will swap with the Bn based in Folkestone, two years after originally planned due to COVID.

UK Operations have reduced, but we have continued to provide support to SCAS until fairly recently, still on stand-by for fuel shortages. We set up and are currently supporting the JIATF HQ in Folkestone as the MoD have been given primacy for the control of small boat crossings on the English Channel. We will say farewell to Lt Col Richard Clements as our JRLO (E) been in post since 2009, replaced by Sam Hibbs. Also to Lt Col Philip Mileham JRLO(W) since 2013, will be replaced by Lt Col Daniella Aspin.

4 PWRR will resubordinate from HQ 7 Bde to 11 SFA Bde in Jun 22. Currently deployed in the Falklands which coincides with the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the conflict. 3 PWRR will depart HQ 11X for HQ 20X, an exciting proposition for a Res Inf Bn.

Losing	Gaining
Irish Guards	3 SCOTS
Welsh Guards	4 PWRR
2 RGR	1 R ANGLIAN
2 R IRISH	RIFLES
3 PWRR	Irish Guards
	Outreach Group

**Challenge (Leadership) Day 20-23 Apr** at Longmoor attendance was as follows:

- Employees – **96** (of which about 20% were from Surrey)
- Schools – **71** (of which 32% were from Surrey)
- Scouts – **92** (of which about 30% were from Surrey)

### **Heritage Day.**

The Brookwood Heritage Days are a half-day event delivered at Brookwood Military Cemetery, looking at heritage, sacrifice and the approaches by nations and faiths in the commemoration of their war dead.

- We ran four last year and one so far this year. We have a further two planned this year on 18<sup>th</sup> May and 8<sup>th</sup> June.

**POLAR PREET.** Capt Preet Chandi, completed a solo expedition across Antarctica to South Pole in Jan 22, visited a number of schools including Kings International College in Camberley on 21 Feb, and presented to 290 pupils as part of her speaking tour in the SE.

**SMAC.** Hosted the SMAC at Government House Officers Mess on 18 Mar supported by Inf Engt Team and 4 PWRR.

### **Cadets**

- **Surrey ACF.** Will deploy to Beckingham Camp from 24 Jul and 5 Aug and expect about 300 cadets.
- **CCF Camp.** CCF Annual Camp Crowborough 26 Jun – 16 Jul 2022, a number of Surrey CCFs will attend, Ash Manor, Charterhouse, Gordons and RGS.