



SURREY CIVILIAN-MILITARY PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11 October 2023 at Army Reserve Centre, Farnham

Present:

Saj Hussain	Chair
Canon Peter Bruinvels	SCC Civilian Military Liaison Advisor
Lt Col Michael Bysshe	ATC Pirbright
Supt Tom Budd	Surrey Police
Capt Paul Cody	1st Battalion Irish Guards
Paul Evans	Recognise and Remember Task Group
Lt Col (Retd) Peter Ellis QGM	SERFCA
Sarah Goodman	Surrey County Council
Sqn Ldr Bryan Jones	SSAFA
Col David Kenny	HQSE
Maggie Mackie	Surrey County Council
Daniel Mouawad	Surrey Chief Executives
Andrea Newman	SCC Director of Communications & Engagement
Capt Sam Richards	Army Training Centre (Pirbright)
James Palmer	Surrey Heartlands
Ellie Vesey-Thompson	Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Ben Wisdom	Surrey Police

Apologies:

Nanu Chumber-Stanley	Surrey County Council
Col Patrick Crowley	SERFCA
Michael Hayman	Surrey Leaders
Richard Moore	11 Infantry Brigade
Michael More-Molyneux	Lord Lieutenant
Anthony Shipley	Surrey Heartlands
Louise Punter	Surrey Chambers of Commerce

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES [Item 1]

Chair Saj Hussain welcomed all to the meeting, especially those new to the Board. Apologies were noted as above.

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

- Further to discussions at last SCMPB meetings Active Surrey has been linked with HQSE and ATC Pirbright to find opportunities to work together going forward. ATC awaiting dates from Active Surrey to support some young people at Pirbright.
- Covenant funding was promoted to schools, but no bids have been successful. The criteria was quite restrictive as 40% service children needed and Surrey schools would need to bid together due to the distribution / spread of service children in the county.
- Care homes in Surrey have been written to with information about veteran hubs, the Forces Connect App and training available. One has since been in touch inviting veterans to their local remembrance Sunday lunch.
- SSAFA Caseworkers and Cadet Force Adult Volunteers have been promoted through SCC intranet. We are aware of two people who have contacted cadets re adult volunteering.
Will continue to promote.
Suggestion that a cadet (could be police and army) can come and speak to council meeting in the New Year to try and promote the opportunity.

3 JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND CENSUS DATA [Item 3] Board received a presentation from James Palmer – Surrey Heartlands

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) identifies and describes the health, care and well-being needs of the population in Surrey. This is used to inform the prioritisation and planning of health and social care services to meet those needs.

The JSNA uses a 'chapter' structure, looking at the needs around a specific area of health and social care including priority populations. A chapter for the Armed Forces Community is proposed and support and input from the SCMPB was sought to ensure it is as effective as possible.

Key points raised:

- This chapter is for the entire Armed Forces Community.
- Help requested to connect with armed forces communities and the voluntary sector to capture their voices.
- Plan is to form a small working group - would like to include a lead from the armed forces and voluntary sector. .
- The Surrey JSNA is locally focused, but each area will have one. It was agreed it would be helpful to create a chapter that has the potential to be adapted and adopted by other areas if feasible.
- Census data has helped provide greater insight regarding veterans living in Surrey. It was mentioned that knowing how many military pensions are being drawn in the county may also be helpful – these may be being collected by family of those who have served as well as veterans.

Action: Col David Kenny to speak with Chief of Defence team regarding any broader strategies being discussed and will feedback.

Action: Andrea Newman to be part of the working group. Meeting to be arranged to discuss this further.

Action: James Palmer to speak with SSAFA re how to capture input from armed forces community and voluntary sector.

Action: Include relevant links for reference within minutes (below):

- [Armed Forces Covenant Duty Statutory Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/armed-forces-covenant-duty-statutory-guidance)
- [Relationship between health and residential moves - The Health Foundation](#) (link to discussion about education and impact of moving).

Veterans' strategy:

- [Strategy for our veterans - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/strategies/strategy-for-our-veterans)
- [Veterans' Strategy Action Plan: 2022 to 2024 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/veterans-strategy-action-plan-2022-to-2024)
- [Strategy for our Veterans - 6 monthly Report - August 2023 \(HTML\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

4 SUICIDE PREVENTION IN THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY [Item 4]

Canon Peter Bruinvels shared presentation from Nanu Chumber-Stanley with the Board (attached – Annex 1)

Suicide prevention work is going on across the county and this includes the Armed Forces. Key points raised in the discussion that followed:

- Andy Man clubs work in a similar way to Men in Sheds but are specifically around suicide prevention.
Action: Identify if there are any running in Surrey and share details with Board. [Find your nearest group | Andy's Man Club \(andysmanclub.co.uk\)](https://www.andysmanclub.co.uk). There is a club operating in Woking.
- It was suggested that a link be made with Surrey Search and Rescue team as they are often called out for attempted suicides.
Action: Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to share relevant contact details.
- Data:
 - It would be interesting to know if there was a difference in suicide rates between reservists and regular forces
 - Care needs to be taken when interpreting data. The fact someone has served does not automatically mean that their service had an impact on the suicide.
- It was noted that the Military has a Mental Fitness course. It is mandatory that someone from each unit attends.
Action: Col Dave Kenny to look in to provision of Assist Training.

5 SERVICE CHILDREN UPDATE [Item 5]

Board received an update from Maggie Mackie regarding the attainment of Service Children in Surrey schools. Key data was shared with board ahead of the meeting (Annex 2)

It was noted that generally service children are performing well, particularly Early Years and Key Stage 1 (infant). By the end of Key Stage 2 (junior) there is a dip.

There is currently a focus in Surrey schools looking at ways to improve the outcomes for children with an additional challenge, which may include being a service child, as they are currently not performing as well in Surrey as the national average.

Ofsted are currently analysing the ways Service Pupil Premium funding is being spent in schools nationally to support military children with an aim to share best practice.

Discussion held around the impact of moving schools regularly and the choice being made – assisted by shifts in military policy – for families to remain in one place and the person serving to move if needed.

It was agreed that narrative is needed alongside the data in order to provide an accurate picture.

Action: Maggie to drill down further in to the data and provide the board with an overview of changes to attainment over the past ten years.

ROYAL ALEXANDER AND ALBERT SCHOOL

Following a visit to the school Saj Hussain provided the Board with an overview of Royal Alexander and Albert School in Surrey.

A state boarding school which currently has 180 service children it is keen to build on its strong connection to the military.

A number of service children from the school will be attending a Passing Off Parade at Pirbright ATC in the near future and they have set up an Armed Forces Group which will meet regularly with Peter Bruinvels.

6 HQSE AND TASK FORCE COMMANDER UPDATES [Item 6]

HQSE:

The Chair welcomed Col Dave Kenny to the Board. Col Kenny provided a verbal overview of the armed forces and changes relating to Surrey and South East.

There are two key functions for the Armed Forces, fighting and support.

HQSE's role is support. It has four key outputs:

- Supporting the lived experience of soldiers
- Connecting with wider society through engagement
- Adult Volunteers – supporting and enabling these key people
- Promote and expand the MOD Employer Recognition Scheme.

Continuing to work in partnership with SERFCA.

An update detailing local engagement work in schools had been shared with the Board ahead of the meeting.

ATC Pirbright

Lt Col Michael Bysshe was welcomed to the Board and provided a verbal update of changes at ATC Pirbright.

Major infrastructure changes continue to support the transition to officially becoming Soldier Academy in 2024. Looking forward to the opening of the Alexander Soldier Centre on the base in 2024.

Soldiers will receive all non-combat training at Pirbright. Combat training will take place at Catterick.

It was noted that the numbers of personnel at Pirbright will not change dramatically as a result of the planned changes.

Irish Guards

Apologies were received from Capt Paul Cody.

7 SURREY POLICE ARMED FORCES SUPPORT GROUP [Item 7]

Ben Wisdom spoke to the Board about his work within Surrey Police to promote links between the Force the Armed Forces. Strong belief in the value and transferable skills of those who have previously served.

Work includes:

- Internal support – a network for those working within the police who have previously served.
- External support such as visiting barracks
- Recognition and recruitment – looking to promote the option of working for the police when you leave service and to ensure the value of the skills they can bring are recognised by the force.

Each police force has an Armed Forces lead, but at the moment there is a lack of central direction from the Home Office in this area.

Action: Canon Peter Bruinvels to raise this with the Home Office.

Action: Ellie Vesey-Thompson to brief Chief Officer of Surrey Police.

8 SERFCA UPDATE [Item 8]

The Board received written and verbal updates on the work of SERFCA as attached to the minutes (Annex 3A and 3B)

An invitation was also extended at the meeting for members to attend events or camps to see what the cadets are doing. It was felt that some members of the Board would welcome the chance to visit the annual camp.

Action: Details of the annual camp to be circulated when appropriate.

Action: Peter Ellis to link with Ben Wisdom regarding supporting Police Cadets.

9 RECOGNISE AND REMEMBER UPDATE [Item 9]

A written update from Brigadier Paul Evans is attached to the minutes (Annex 4)

10 GENERAL UPDATES [Item 10]

MOD CONFERENCE

Peter Bruinvels and Sarah Goodman attended the annual MOD Conference in Newcastle in September 2023. A report has been attached to these minutes (Annex 5)

SURREY ARMED FORCES COVENANT CONFERENCE

Date and venue of next conference confirmed as Thursday 7 March 2024 at ATC Pirbright.

Further details to be circulated in due course.

HMS Kent

An opportunity to visit HMS Kent was greatly appreciated by all who attended. Much was learned and links with the Navy were strengthened.

Unity Welfare Officer Meeting

Very positive meeting held on Mon 25 Sept 2023 bringing together Welfare Officers and partners from local authorities and relevant organisations to discuss issues affecting the Armed Forces Community in Surrey.

11 AOB [Item 11]

LGBTQ Report – it was suggested members of the Board should read these reports.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/lgbt-veterans-independent-review> and
https://researchportal.northumbria.ac.uk/ws/portalfiles/portal/102341398/2023_Lost_and_Found_The_LGBT_Veteran_Community_and_the_Impacts_of_the_Gay_Ban.pdf

Armed Forces Covenant Fund

Please help promote this fund [Programmes - Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust](#)

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING [Item 12]

10am – 12pm, Thursday 18 April 2024 – Woodhatch

Meeting ended at: 12.00 pm
