

**WEST LANCASHIRE ARMED FORCES
COMMUNITY COVENANT WORKING GROUP**

HELD: Thursday, 28 June 2018

Start: 10.00am
Finish: 11.20am

PRESENT:

Councillor: T Devine (Chairman)
I Moran (Vice Chairman)

Councillors: J Gordon

In attendance: Laura Anton (WL CCG)
Kieran Curren (Lancashire County Council)
Lita Hart (RAFA)
David Keddie (Lancashire Care NHS FT)
Dave Knowles (Skelmersdale Ex Services Assn)
Alan Lewis (Skelmersdale Veterans Assn)
Jim Oates (Skelmersdale Ex Services Assn)
Beth Tildesley (Healthwatch Lancashire)
Jess Wood (Healthwatch Lancashire)

Officers: Sue Griffiths (Principal Member Services Officer)

1 INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Roy Bayfield (Edge Hill University), Alison Bunn (Royal British Legion), Chris Nolan (Lancashire Care Nhs), Janice Monaghan (West Lancs. ARK), Guy Simpson (Lancashire West CAB), Phil Winnard (WLCCG).

3 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Chairman reported upon the Terms of Reference of the Working Group.

AGREED That the Terms of Reference of the Working Group be noted.

4 PRESENTATION FROM LCC

Kieran Curren (Policy, Information and Commissioning Manager (Live Well) Lancashire County Council) attended the meeting to provide an update on a bid submitted to the Armed Forces Covenant Fund's "Strengthening Local Government Delivery of the Covenant". He reported that the bid had been made by Lancashire County Council (the lead authority) with support from the College for Military Veterans and Emergency Services (CMVES) at UCLAN and the NHS, Help for Heroes and the VAPC.

Before reporting further on the bid he advised the working group of his appointment to the Community Covenant Grants Regional & Devolved Administrations Board (NW). He indicated that it had been highlighted that there had not been as many grant applications received from the NW as there had been from other regions. The Working Group were advised of the deadlines for grants programmes and that an item later on the agenda provided further details in respect of criteria etc.

He then went on to report that the bid referred to earlier had been successful albeit with a reduced financial allocation. This would enable the employment of a Project Manager for a two year period based at UCLAN and that it would operate as a “hub and spoke” model with administration/business support provided by UCLAN and LCC as the accountable body.

He indicated that the action plan would comprise five strands (Health & wellbeing, Housing and Homelessness, Skills & Employment, Wellness and Fellowship) and that each theme would be assigned a Champion. Each local authority will be invited to a meeting on 12 September 2018 and will be afforded an opportunity to influence the action plan.

He advised that the job advertisement for the Project Manager would be circulated to all Lancashire authorities and concluded that the resource would add value to the work of the Community Covenants in Lancashire by way of information and advice, support for funding bids, training, research, connecting Councils etc.

The Chairman expressed thanks to Kieran for attending the meeting and sought questions on his presentation.

AGREED That the report be noted.

5 SUPPORTING ACCESS TO SERVICES FOR MILITARY VETERANS

The Working Group received a presentation from Beth Tildesley - Project Officer (Programme Support and Public Engagement) of Healthwatch Lancashire on their report entitled “Supporting Access to Services for Military Veterans” published in May 2018.

In explaining the role of the organisation she advised that all documents (including reports, surveys etc.) are available publicly and can be accessed on-line.

She went on to highlight salient points within the report and took questions upon it from members of the working group.

AGREED That the report be noted.

6 COMMUNITY COVENANT FUNDING

Consideration was given to the report of the Armed Forces Champion which highlighted the currently available Armed Forces Community Covenant Fund grant

programmes and timescales for applications.

AGREED That the report be noted.

7 WEST LANCASHIRE COMMUNITY COVENANT WORKING GROUP - ACTION PLAN

The Armed Forces Champion presented the Action Plan and highlighted recent activities in relation to points H1 (Explore discount for leisure facilities for armed forces) and G7 (Explore the introduction of retail discounts for Defence Discount Card holders).

AGREED That the report be noted.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items under this heading.