

Meeting: ASCHWB Sub-committee

Date: 3rd October 2019

Title: Support for serving and Ex members of the Armed Forces linked to the North Tyneside Covenant

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Service: Commissioning and Asset Management

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

To update the committee on the Armed Forces Covenant in relation to Health and Well-being

2. Introduction

In September and October 2018 the North Tyneside Strategic Partnership and the North Tyneside Armed Forces Forum updated the North Tyneside Armed Forces Covenant (attached as appendix one).

In August 2019 North Tyneside Council received a Gold Covenant Award from the Ministry of Defence. This is the highest award possible in recognition of the support received by current and ex-members of the armed forces and their families.

The Sub-committee have asked for an update on how the Covenant has influenced activity in relation to Health and Well-being. Members of the armed forces, their families and veterans will receive Health and Well-being services in the same way, and of the same quality as every other North Tyneside resident, however the covenant helps us to recognise that as a Local Authority we are committed to ensuring that any one that has served, and their families may have additional needs. The actions below highlight someone of the additional activity focused on Health and Well-being.

3. Details

North Tyneside has an Armed Forces Forum that meets three times a year. This has good multi-agency involvement including representation from the reservists and regular services, charities representing organisations that support veterans, the business forum, CCG, Mental Health Trust, DWP, Public Health and a range of other Council services. It is chaired by Cllr Gary Bell with Phil Scott as the Deputy Chair.

Mark Mirfin, Assistant Director for Whole Life Disability (children's and adults learning disability) and Special Educational Needs with responsibilities across Children's Social Care, Adult Social Care and Education will be joining the North Tyneside Armed Forces Forum to represent HECS.

Over the next 3 months, across Children and Adult Social Care the Armed Forces Covenant will be raised at team meetings, reminding officers to ask about any involvement in the Armed Forces. If this raises any specific issues these will be reviewed by the Senior Management Team for HECS.

SIGN network and MyCare North Tyneside has a wealth of information, including specific information about organisations supporting current and ex-members of the armed forces.

The Council has a full time Armed Forces Officer (Laura Potter), who can offer help and guidance, as well as sign post people into HECS.

The CCG attends the Armed Forces Forum. As part of their commitment primary care can access two specially commissioned services

- Veterans' Mental Health Transition, Intervention and Liaison Service
- Veterans' Mental Health Complex Treatment Service

Voluntary and community organisations working with veterans can access safeguarding training and will be subject to the same safeguarding requirements as any organisation supporting vulnerable people.

4. Background Information

The North Tyneside Covenant (attached)

5. Appendices