

North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership - Executive

15 April 2010

Armed Forces Community Welfare Pathway

1 Purpose of the report

To update the Executive on developments regarding the proposed pilot Armed Forces Community Welfare Pathway in North Yorkshire and to seek endorsement of the next steps.

- 2 Many organisations in North Yorkshire have already made significant improvements in recent years in services supporting service personnel and their families.
- 3 In late 2009 the MoD sought our assistance in building on this, in particular by supporting the piloting of the Armed Forces Community Welfare Pathway in North Yorkshire, including the identification of 'armed forces community champions' in key local organisations (eg local authorities and the NHS).
- 4 Following the report prepared for the January 2010 meeting of the Executive and subsequent discussions, many partners have supported the principle of establishing a pilot Armed Forces Community Welfare Pathway in North Yorkshire.
- 5 The Armed Forces Community Welfare Pathway is about partners working together to make it easier for service personnel, families and veterans (including merchant seafaring veterans) to access the help and support available from the MoD, from statutory providers and from the third sector. It aims to facilitate the delivery of services across all sectors by raising awareness of entitlement at all levels. The Pathway does not replace existing signposting or delivery mechanisms, but seeks to reinforce them by ensuring people do not slip through the net.
- 6 Subject to final agreement with at the North Yorkshire Military/Civil Integration Board on 26 May 2010, it is proposed to establish as an Armed Forces Community Welfare Pathway Steering Group for a one year pilot period as a sub-group of the MCI Board.
- 7 The steering group would provide a forum for discussion between representatives of the Armed Forces Community (In-Service, Ex-Service, families and widow(er)s), the Third Sector, local authorities and the NHS to raise and resolve issues of significant impact or where consistent trends give cause for concern. Meetings would be held every three months and focus on general issues, not individual cases.
- 8 The membership is likely to include:
 - SPVA Veterans Welfare Service Manager
 - The Royal British Legion - County Manager
 - SSAFA Forces Help – Branch Chairman
 - War Pensions Committee

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- HIVE
- In-Service representative(s)
- 'armed forces community champions' identified by the national health service and by local authority adult services, children's services, and housing services

- 9 The MoD are of the view that the steering group should be chaired by one of the 'armed forces community champions' identified by health and local authority services, and suggestions are invited. Additional representatives will be invited to attend a specific meeting as required to inform discussion of particular agenda items.
- 10 It is important to note that the steering group would have a North Yorkshire-wide remit because veterans and their families are resident throughout the county, the wider Armed Forces Community is not confined to the areas surrounding the current Army and RAF bases.
- 11 The Primary Care Trust, all District Councils (as housing authorities) and the County Council (for both adult services and children's services) are each to be invited to identify an 'armed forces community champion'. This would be an appropriate officer who could 'champion' the needs of the Armed Forces Community within their own organisation and represent it on the steering group. District Councils may wish to jointly nominate one or two of their 'armed forces community champions' to attend the steering group and liaise between colleague 'champions'. The appointment of 'armed forces community champions' by other NYSP partners would also be welcomed, at a minimum to provide a link to the steering group.
- 12 Subject to further developments, it is hoped to have an event to launch the pilot to coincide with Armed Forces Day on 26 June 2010.

13 Recommendation

The NYSP Executive supports the developments regarding the proposed pilot Armed Forces Community Welfare Pathway in North Yorkshire and encourages partners to identify 'armed forces community champions'.

Neil Irving
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