

**ARMED FORCES COVENANT REVIEW**

## Select Committee Review

**Plymouth Branch Royal Naval Association Response**Questions posed:

- What you think the Community Covenant is
- What you think has gone well with the Community Covenant over the past 10 years
- What you think could have been done better
- What you would like to see happen in the future (whether continuation of work, specific improvements or new activities)
- If you would also be happy to come and talk to the Select Committee when they meet to discuss this further

Q 1. We understand the introduction of the Community Covenant to be the City's Council platform from which the entire 'Family' of the Armed Forces residing/working in Plymouth together with many relevant charitable & voluntary organisations may gather with the Council in a combined response to implemented the Government's Armed Forces Covenant, in doing so develop ideas implement schemes that support the British Armed Forces, Veterans and their Families.

Q 2. We consider, credit for the accomplishments to date stems from the initial structure being established to accommodate the organisations to gather and so form Plymouth's Armed Forces Community Covenant. As Veterans we appreciate the Community Covenant Team have not only recognised the need to address mental health issues, but they have embarked on a journey to develop Veteran's mental health partnerships bringing hope and relief to those effected and to an issue that has in the past remained in the shadows. Veteran's hospital i-pad message, Vet's breakfast club, Military Tuesday, Open Site Week, serving members first home to buy ownership scheme, and the Veteran's and Families Hub as a 'drop in' gathering space, also providing connections to a wide range of services and help.

Q 3. A very high degree of efficiency is difficult to attain in some areas when much of the work is undertaken by (charity) volunteers and possibly underfunded and all are doing their level best.. No doubt there is room for improvements so in general terms we can all watch out for and guard against wasted effort & wasted finance.

Q 4. It appears from our perspective, though many are aware of the existence of the Covenant, however their appears to be lack of understanding in it's guidance or purpose. 'Greater Awareness' would be beneficial?

Q 5. Please see para 1. & 2. Shipmate Richard Tipping is very keen and would very much like to attend the Select Committee. Richard is our Branch Welfare Officer and has much experience and knowledge in dealing with welfare matters within the Military and the Royal Naval Veteran Community in particular.