

**ARMED FORCES COVENANT REVIEW**

## Select Committee Review

**Royal Nay & Royal Marines Charity 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

Q1. The community covenant is made up of a collection of organisations that support the wider Armed forces community. This includes services for serving personnel, veterans, and their families. The covenant group offers an opportunity for likeminded organisations to work collaboratively and provides a platform to share initiatives and knowledge to get the widest reach across the AF community.

Q2. Certainly, in more recent years, I have witnessed a positive change in the leadership and direction the Covenant to address and resolve issues faced within the community. Additional community outreach support such as the Veterans & families Hub, delivered by Improving Lives and the Veterans Sports Hub delivered by PAFC have provided essential venues for members to access resources and create 'safe spaces' to openly discuss issues in an informal environment. The signposting between organisations is exceptional here in Plymouth. Long may it continue.

Q3. Some improvements to be had around awareness of support for all members of the community. We have established a great network but do beneficiaries know what is available. I believe the next step is to improve communications to widen reach and accessibility.

Communications – A one page spread in the Evening Herald signposting to a directory of services available to the Plymouth residents within the AF community.

Continuous social media posts about activities and events available to the AF community.

Transition – I have been championing for a booklet around transition to be created and given to all those leaving service and residing in Plymouth. This could include a directory of services available and some key notes around transition for employment, debt, housing, dental & medical etc. Signposting to the Veterans hub and military Tuesdays.

Q4. Improvements around widening reach to all cohorts to raise awareness of support.

RN & RM Attendance/ support from COB/BWO/EWO HMS Drake to represent serving personnel and take information back 'behind the wire'.

### Future Meetings

Alan, you asked us to feedback regarding the current model of meetings. Having attended a few when there were only 7 of us! I believe we have the right people around the table. The current model works well, offering the opportunity for F2F and hybrid attendance is useful. The smaller steering groups are a good idea to drive specific initiatives forward in key areas and as we continue there may be some cross poll around activities. Members need to take an active part and offer a diverse knowledge base within the steering groups. I would like to see members with a wide age range and experiences of transitioning within the veterans group but there is also a call for more veterans of working age to take an active role here.

Q5. Katie Hughes, RNRMC & RNA SW engagement officer, AFC member, Lead of Veterans Steering group.