

MINUTES	MEETING:	Rotherham Armed Forces Community Covenant Group (AFCCG)
	DATE & TIME:	Monday, 26 th September 2022 (2.00 – 4.00pm)
	VENUE:	Virtual via Microsoft Teams
	CHAIR:	Jack Moore, Armed Forces Lead Officer & Senior Member and Civic Support Officer, Rotherham MBC
	SUPPORT & MINUTES:	Sharon Crook, Member & Civic Support Officer, Rotherham MBC

In Attendance	
Jack Moore	Armed Forces Lead Officer & Senior Member & Civic Support Officer, RMBC
Chris Bradley	Project Co-ordinator, Hidden Faces
Sandra Tolley	Head of Housing Options, Rotherham MBC
Kim Firth	Homelessness Development Officer, Rotherham MBC
Neil Halsey	Armed Forces Champion, DWP
Jonathan Hunt	Chairman, SSAFA South Yorkshire
Cllr Ian Jones	Executive Chairman, Rotherham MCVC
Steve Lowe	Manager, North of England Project Nova
Major Mick Lynch	Yorkshire Regiment
Ron Moffett	Rotherham Royal British Legion
Aisha Morgan	Senior Mental Health Nurse, Veterans' Mental Health Complex
Capt. Dave Tomlinson	102 BN REME
Helen Wyatt	Patient & Patient Engagement Manager, Rotherham CCG
Apologies Received	
Cllr Eve Rose Keenan	Armed Forces Champion, RMBC
Vicky Hartley	Executive Office Manager, Rotherham MBC
Malcolm Blease	Chairman, Royal Air Forces Association
Lt Col Mac McPherson	High Sheriff of South Yorkshire
Fiona Grayson	CBT, Rotherham IAPT/RDASH
Major Adrian Hunt	Chairman of Trustees, MCVC
Elaine Mason	Project Nova, South Yorkshire

Item	Title	Action
1.	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies	
1.1	Jack Moore welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted.	
2.	Minutes of the last meeting, 11th April 2022 and Matters Arising	
2.1	There were no matters arising from the last meeting.	
3.	RMBC E-Learning – Homeless Veterans	
3.1	A brief update was given on the module accessible through RMBC website “Homeless Veterans”.	
4.	SYMCA Veterans funding (<i>Referral form attached</i>)	
4.1	Kim Firth: The carry over funding from March 2022 was £7,000. A referral form was sent out with the agenda for referrals/criteria to access funding to December 2023.	
4.2	Sandra Tolley: Natasha Aucott, Homelessness Development Officer had now left her post. Before Natasha left she had promoted awareness of the scheme through the Homelessness Forum.	

4.3	Cllr Ian Jones: Could the deadline for spend be extended and had the City Region Mayor been contacted regarding this? Kim Firth: They could go back at the end of the term to seek an extension.	
4.4	Aisha Morgan: Is this for Rotherham residents only? Kim Firth: Yes, as each Local Authority had their own funding amount from a larger pot of money available.	
5.	Armed Forces Day, 25th June 2022 (Feedback)	
5.1	Ron Moffett: Parade Members – problems with fainting and suggested not standing around so long in the sun at the next one.	
5.2	Cllr Jones: From a veteran's point of view – disappointed in Rotherham, lowest key of all 4 local authority events and higher level promotion was proposed in future. - Lack of communication prior to the day. Many local businesses had not been aware. - Lack of stalls - Fly past, big draw if organised at an early stage of planning. - Junior schools – previously involved designing posters with the Mayor of Rotherham judging entries.	
5.3	Communications issue noted for 2023 planning and offer of assistance from Chris Bradley, Rotherham MCVC to support with event planning for future armed forces events.	
6.	Remembrance Sunday, 13th November 2022	
6.1	Jack Moore: Feedback from the event last year had been positive and holding the whole event at Clifton Park had been preferred, compared to walking up hill as in previous years. Jack confirmed that the format would be the same as last year.	
6.2	Jack Moore would liaise with Chris Bradley, Rotherham MCVC direct outside this meeting regarding the Outreach Van being available in Clifton Park.	Jack Moore
7.	Covenant Group Member Updates	
7.1	Chris Bradley: New to the post, it had been a slow start with networking since covid but working well now. MCVC support for comradeship - Chris to send logo to Jack. A mail out had been sent to local businesses; summer fetes held; supermarket pop-up stalls; visits to air shows; veterans farm (made a connection with Hull for Heroes); weekly walks; fish and chip days-getting families involved. Thanks to Rotherham MBC for the markets pitch that had proved popular with positive outcomes. Mental Health – understanding and signposting. Continued funding – James Neil Trust for MCVC for veterans. Kim Firth: re-settling veterans: requested leaflets/electronic version to send out with the information they send out as there had not been a massive number of veterans coming through.	Chris Bradley
7.2	Cllr Jones: Dovetail work with Chris Bradley. MCVC received the Queens Awards for Voluntary Service. MCVC main focus was a move towards support to veterans and families i.e. Swinton Lock Barge trips. Re-create “Buddy Buddy” – talk to someone with relevant service interests. 5 different pathways-Veterans Charter, 5-Year Plan. One veteran had been lost recently, update to follow once the full report had been received. Cllr Jones gave congratulations to Vicky Hartley, Executive Office Manager, Rotherham MBC who had recently been awarded the High Sheriff of South Yorkshire Award for service to the veterans' community since 2015.	
7.3	Neil Halsey: Jane Townsend had now left following a re-structure. Neil had now taken on the SY Champion role. Aim for all work coaches to have information available for veterans on their books. Networking with members of this group would be important as it was not always clear who veterans were within the benefit system.	
7.4	Jonathan Hunt: Thank you to all for all the hard work going on and numbers being picked up earlier in the system which had been reflected through lower numbers coming through to SSAFA. Thanks to Chris Bradley with the promotion work she had been doing as face to face was the best way.	
7.5	Sandra Tolley: Reviewing the Homelessness and Rough Sleepers on-line forms and would add a link to the public consultation.	Sandra Tolley

7.6	Major Mick Lynch: It had been helpful to attend this meeting to see the work going on and who to contact.	Jack Moore
7.7	Ron Moffett: A veterans support seminar would take place at Rotherham Town Hall on 8 th December 2022. Jack Moore would send an email out with invitations. All to let Ron know if they wanted to give information leaflets out. RBL looking locally at Community Support team (training) help veterans in the community.	
7.8	Steve Lowe: Project Nova had been handed over to colleagues. Steve was now back involved and catching up after a 2-year gap. Good work happening with the SY Police and HMP Doncaster. First veteran in custody support next month. Rotherham NHS veteran accreditation for support and awareness on Friday. "TILS" NHS good support work going on in the Justice system.	
7.9	Capt. David Tomlinson: Armed Forces integrated review. Advanced Manufacturing Park had signed up to supporting reservists.	
7.10	Helen Wyatt: Helen had returned after a 2-year gap due to re-structure and a focus on the vaccine roll out. Helen commented that this group looked stronger and better than before.	
7.11	Jack Moore (on behalf of Cllr Keenan): Rotherham Council's website had links to support for the armed forces community. The page was promoted regularly and included more around key dates such as Remembrance Sunday etc. Cllr Keenan had suggested an electronic newsletter with submission of articles to share across the group bi-annually or quarterly if this is something the group wanted to consider.	
8.	Any other business	
8.1	Jack Moore: Informed the group that he would be leaving and taking up a new post possibly from 31 st October.	
9.	Dates of Future Meetings	
9.1	<p>All to take place in-person at the Rotherham Town Hall at 14:00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday 7th November 2022 - CANCELLED Monday 27th February 2023 Monday 8th May 2023 Monday 7th August 2023 Monday 30th October 2023 	