

Scottish Parliament Cross-Party Group on Armed Forces Veterans Meeting

29th April 2015 at the Scottish Parliament

Minutes

MSP Attending

First Name	Surname	Organisation
Alex	Fergusson	MSP - Convenor
Jamie	Grigor	MSP
Christine	McElvie	MSP
Nanette	Milne	MSP
Apologies had been received from the following MSP's: Bruce Crawford, Stewart Maxwell, Jackson Carlaw and Jim Hume		

Others Attending

First Name	Surname	Organisation
Adam		SVR (Presenting)
Gayle	Adnyana	Skillforce
Claire	Birch	Veterans Scotland (Housing)
Tony	Carruthers	Housing Options Scotland
Phil	Cox	SVR (Presenting)
Graeme	Dalgliesh	SACRO
Sharon	Fagan	veterans 1st Point
Eric	Fraser	Scottish Veterans Commissioner
Ally	Gemmell	ASAP
Martin	Gibson	Veterans Scotland
Barry	Henderson	GHH
Carrol	Herbertson	Scottish Veterans Commissioner's Office
Tony	Huggins-Haig	Self
Lisa	Innes	GHH
Alison	McCronie	Shelter Scotland (Veterans Outreach)
Ian	McGregor	Poppyscotland
Morag	McNaughton	Veterans Association UK
Peter	Minshall	SVGCA
Scott	Noble	Veterans Association UK
Anita	Popplestone	Scottish Veterans Commissioner's Office
Louise	Richards	Division of Clinical Psychology Scotland
Neil	Robinson	Legion Scotland
Aiveen	Ryan	Aye Different
Paula	Shiels	Combat Stress
Bruce	Smith	Lothian Veterans Centre
Ed	Tytherleigh	STOLL (Presenting)
Rob	Wheeling	SACRO
Jim	Wilson	Veterans Scotland

1. **Introduction:** Mr Alex Fergusson MSP, Convenor AFV Cross Party Group, welcomed all those attending and indicated that the main focus for the meeting was on the topic of Housing for Veterans.
2. **Minutes of Previous meeting:** The minutes of the previous Cross Party Group meeting, held on 21 January 2015, were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.
3. **Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.
4. **Other Topics for Consideration:** Mr Fergusson asked if there were any other topics that should be considered at the meeting, none were forthcoming.
5. **Housing for Veterans:** There were four elements to the Housing briefing provided, they were as follows:
 - a. Overview of Housing for Veterans – Gp Capt (Retd) Phil Cox, CEO SVR
 - b. A Veteran's Story – Adam (a resident at SVR Whitefoord House)
 - c. The Stoll Experience – Ed Tytherleigh CEO Stoll Housing
 - d. Veteran Housing within Communities – Peter Minshall CEO SVGCA

Copies of the presentations, where they were on powerpoint, are attached.

7. **Subsequent Discussion:** The presentation acted as an excellent catalyst for subsequent discussions which focussed on, in no specific order:
 - a. Providing permanent, adapted housing for veterans with disabilities (for example those in Inverness, as cited in Peter Minshall's presentation) were regarded as a good practice and showed effective collaboration between local authorities and the charity. There was some discussion regarding the numbers requiring this level of support.
 - b. Shelter Scotland raised the matter that vulnerable veterans require Housing Support as well as just accommodation, a view endorsed by Glasgow's Helping Heroes.
 - c. The standard MOD briefing to service leavers should have a Scottish (as well as Welsh and N Irish) perspective put on it for those service leavers from units resettling in countries other than that in which they are based. It was noted that Veterans Scotland are in liaison with JSHAO on this matter.
 - d. The Scottish Veterans Commissioner's next report is on Housing for veterans and he invited those attending to get in touch with ideas on how to make obtaining housing easier for service leavers.
 - e. The role that Mental Health First Aid Awareness training may have was discussed.

8. There being no other business, the Convener drew the meeting to a close by thanking the four presenters for their contributions which were both thought provoking and practical.

Dates of future meetings: Future meeting dates and topics were agreed as shown below:

Wednesday 17 June 2015 – Employability of Veterans

Wednesday 30 September 2015 – AGM