

## Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on

### Armed Forces Veterans

Meeting 17 June 2015

18:00hrs at the Scottish Parliament

### Agenda

1. Attending:

#### MSP Attending

First Name	Surname	Organisation
Willie	Rennie	MSP (Deputy Convenor and Chair)
Jamie	McGrigor	MSP
Jim	Hume	MSP

#### Others Attending

First Name	Surname	Organisation
Aiveen	Ryan	Aye Different
Ally	Gemmell	ASAP
Alison	McRorie	Shelter Scotland
Andrew	Richardson	Glaxo Smith Kline (Speaker)
Anita	Popplestone	Scottish Veterans Commissioner's Office
Bruce	Smith	Lothian Veterans Centre
Eric	Fraser	Scottish Veterans Commissioner
Gene	Maxwell	51 Bde
Graeme	Dalgliesh	SACRO
Ian	McGregor	Poppyscotland
Jason	Wallace	SACRO
Jenna	Austin	SAMH
Jim	Wilson	Veterans Scotland
Jock	Hutchison	Horseback UK
John	Fotheringham	HQ 51 Bde
Jude	Clark	Div of Clinical Psychology BPS
Karen	Stock	Veterans Scotland
Keith	McKenzie	SVR
Kevin	Gray	Legion Scotland
Lydia	Moore	UN
Margaret	Bowes	Edinburgh University & NHS
Mary Clare	MacFarlane	Officers Association Scotland (Speaker)
Matt	Lancashire	REMPLOY
Michael-John	de la Haye	PLMR Scotland
Michelle	McKearnon	Forth Valley Chamber of Commerce

Pat	Mackinnon	Thistle
Sheila	Strickland	Skillforce
Tony	Huggins-Haig	Self
Tony	Carruthers	Housing Options Scotland
Watty	Logan	SPS
Wendy	Chamberlain	Career Transition partnership (Speaker)

2. Mr Willie Rennie MSP opened the meeting and explained that due to a late sitting in the chamber MSP's were otherwise committed however he confirmed that he had spoken to a number who had indicated that they value their membership of the group and remain interested in the topics being discussed.
3. The minutes of the meeting of 29 April 2015 were approved and there were no matters arising.
4. There followed four briefings as follows:
  - a. Poppyscotland - Current Veterans Landscape and Employability: Ian McGregor, Chief Executive of Poppyscotland and head of the Veterans Scotland Support Pillar, briefed the group that much work is aimed at the needs of veterans in relation to supported employment which assists those that are vulnerable and disadvantaged, however he wished to focus on getting service leavers 'job ready' as they appear to fare worse than their civilian counterparts when seeking employment. A recent study had indicated that some 95,000 members of the ex-service community of working age were employed in Scotland but that some 45,000 were of working age and unemployed, of these, 20,000 were seeking employment. With some 1800 service leavers arriving in Scotland each year, their potential as assets to employers deserves greater recognition.
  - b. Career Transition Partnership - Transition of Service Leavers: Wendy Chamberlain provided a brief on transition services available to service leavers (copy attached).
  - c. The Officers Association Scotland - Employer Engagement: Mary-Clare MacFarlane briefed the group on the engagement that OAS carries out and the free recruitment services provided through them and the RFEA (copy attached).
  - d. Andrew Richardson, a former member of the RAF and currently employed by Glaxo Smith Kline, presented on his experiences during transition. In particular he explained about the likely pay cut that could be expected between service and civilian employment, how he had accepted a short term appointment on leaving and the cross-over of experience in the RAF and in civilian employment. (copy attached)
5. There followed a wide ranging discussion on the presentations.

6. There was no other business raised and it was confirmed that the next meeting would take place on 30 September.

The meeting closed at approximately 8:00pm.