

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 5 September 2019

Report of the Director of Public Health

Part I

Electoral Divisions affected:
Cleveleys East; Cleveleys
South and Carleton; Fleetwood
East; Fleetwood West and
Cleveleys West; Poulton Le
Fylde; Wyre Rural East;
Thornton and Hambleton;
Wyre Rural Central

Veterans Mental Health Funding - Wyre

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

Veterans' health (especially mental health and social isolation) is a key public health issue, both nationally and locally. County Councillor Alf Clempson, Champion for Armed Forces Veterans has requested a further £5,000 to support activity to improve veterans' health and wellbeing.

Following discussions between the Leader of the County Council, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, and relevant officers, it is proposed that £5,000 is added to the Champion for Armed Forces Veterans budget as a one off funding, with the intention of providing support to the local armed forces veterans group in Wyre. The Champion, as part of his remit, is required to provide an annual report to Cabinet on his activities and funding. It is expected that this report will include the outcomes achieved by utilisation of this funding for the veterans group.

The reason for urgency is to ensure that the local veterans group is able to continue its ongoing activities.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Approve the proposal to increase the budget of the Champion for Armed Forces Veterans by a one-off addition of £5,000 with the intention of providing support to the local armed forces veteran's group in Wyre.

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| (ii) Note that the Champion for Armed Forces Veterans will provide a report on the activities and outcomes achieved by utilisation of this funding as part of his annual report to Cabinet in July 2020. |
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Background and Advice

Whilst the issues regarding veterans' mental health and wellbeing are well recognised, there is no specific funding within the current budget for this issue.

A veterans group is run in the Wyre area. This is recognised locally and also supported by local GPs. They are anticipating funding from other sources to continue this work on a sustainable basis. In the meantime, given the local need, the group is looking to maintaining its activities and is seeking a one off funding of £5,000.

County Councillor Alf Clempson, Champion for Armed Forces Veterans, has requested further funding to support this veterans group in Wyre. Given the unique nature of the local group in Wyre, and the group's plans to scale its activity based on a one off funding of £5,000, it is proposed to increase the budget of the Champion for Armed Forces Veterans by £5,000 to a total of £15,000 for one year only to fund this project whilst the local group awaits sustainable funding.

The activities being proposed by this group include:

- Gym sessions for Health and well being
- Social trips
- Quiz nights
- Coffee mornings
- General fitness and health advice
- Briefings to county council staff who come into contact with veterans
- Liaising with all military groups and charities
- Signposting to NHS services and all forces charities
- Visiting homes with social services

Lancashire Armed Forces Covenant Hub is a partnership between Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Care Foundation Trust, University of Central Lancashire and Army Headquarters North West. There is a legally-binding partnership agreement between Lancashire County Council (accountable body for the Ministry of Defence grant) and the University of Central Lancashire (delivery partner). This funding helps to demonstrate our commitment to support veterans in our communities.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Financial

The £5,000 contribution will be met from existing budget provision within Public Health and Wellbeing.

Legal

Whilst there are no legal implications per se, the Member grant proposals, including addressing the relevant grant criteria, are subject to approval of the Monitoring Officer.

Risk management

There are no significant risks associated with the proposal set out in the report.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A