

**To the Chair and Members of the  
Health and Wellbeing Board**

**HEALTH NEEDS OF VETERANS**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Health and Wellbeing Board with a summary of the 2015 Veteran's Needs Assessment.

**EXEMPT REPORT**

2. N/A

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

3. This needs assessment makes the following recommendations:
  - i. Build on this health needs assessment, using a qualitative research approach, to better understand the veteran experience in the absence of complete and reliable statistical data.
  - ii. Improve data collection in particular in GP practices and in primary care. This could be achieved by identifying GP champions to promote the recording of data in practice systems.
  - iii. To ensure that all GP practices ask new patients about their armed forces history and use the nationally recommended Read code (Xa8Da).
  - iv. Improve the knowledge and training of 'front of house' staff and intervention teams across the partnership, so that veterans with service related health issues or other wellbeing needs can be signposted more effectively to the most appropriate services.
  - v. Increase awareness of the health of veterans with strategic bodies such as the health and wellbeing board and ensure that their issues are addressed in health strategies such as the Health and wellbeing strategy.
  - vi. Ensure that the Councils overview and Scrutiny committee addresses veteran health issues in their programme of work.
  - vii. Partner organisations in Doncaster should undertake reviews of their policies and commissioning strategies to ensure that the health needs of veteran are addressed.
  - viii. As a number of veterans are almost certainly in one of Doncaster's 3

prisons, the health and wellbeing of these men should be a priority

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. The recommendations outlined in this veteran's health needs assessment will support partner organisations to meet the health and wellbeing needs of veterans living and working in the borough. Doncaster could be home to 20,000 or more veterans. While many veterans will have the same kinds of health experiences as the non-veteran community, significant numbers can face additional mental health problems (including PTSD) as well as difficulties with alcohol. They can also find themselves in the criminal justice system, especially as a result of problems with alcohol.
5. Veteran groups who can face particular challenges are early service leavers, veterans who had mental health vulnerabilities before entering military service and reservists who have been exposed to highly stressful situations.
6. Doncaster has a large Ghurkha community, who may have additional health needs.

## BACKGROUND

7. The national armed forces covenant aims to end any disadvantage members of armed forces, and their families, face accessing services. In Doncaster the Mayor has committed to being a 'strong voice for veterans'. Doncaster council now has a dedicated veterans champion and a veterans steering group. This report was commissioned by the steering group and authored in partnership with the veteran's champion.

## OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8. N/A

## REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

9. N/A

## IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY PRIORITIES

- 10.

|  | <b>Priority</b>   | <b>Implications</b>  |
|--|---|--|
|  | <p>We will support a strong economy where businesses can locate, grow and employ local people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</li><li>• Mayoral Priority: Be a strong voice for our veterans</li><li>• Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</li></ul> | <p>The Veterans needs assessment provides the board with an opportunity to improve services for veterans, and to improve their health and wellbeing.</p> |

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  | <p>We will help people to live safe, healthy, active and independent lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i></li> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i></li> </ul>   |  |
|  | <p>We will make Doncaster a better place to live, with cleaner, more sustainable communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i></li> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i></li> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i></li> </ul> |  |
|  | <p>We will support all families to thrive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i></li> </ul>  |  |
|  | <p>We will deliver modern value for money services.</p>  |  |
|  | <p>We will provide strong leadership and governance, working in partnership.</p>   |  |

## **RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

11. None

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

12. None

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

13. None

## **HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

14. None

## **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

15. None

## CONSULTATION

16.

This report has significant implications in terms of the following:

|                               |  |                              |  |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|
| Procurement                   |  | Crime & Disorder             |  |
| Human Resources               |  | Human Rights & Equalities    |  |
| Buildings, Land and Occupiers |  | Environment & Sustainability |  |
| ICT                           |  | Capital Programme            |  |

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

17. Veterans Health Impact Assessment (2015)

## REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

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