

**Scottish Parliament Cross-Party Group on  
The Armed Forces and Veterans Community**

**21 Sep 2016**

**This meeting took place in The Scottish Parliament, starting at 6:00pm.**

1. Attending:

**MSP Attending (8)**

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Maurice	Corry	MSP
George	Adam	MSP
Jackie	Baillie	MSP
Jackson	Carlaw	MSP
Liam	Kerr	MSP
Gordon	Lindhurst	MSP
Richard	Lochhead	MSP
Gordon	MacDonald	MSP

**Others Attending (11)**

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Cynthia	Fry	Business in the Community Scotland
Eric	Fraser	Scottish Veterans Commissioner
Euan	Barker	HQ 51 Infantry Brigade
Gene	Maxwell	HQ 51 Infantry Brigade
Gordon	MacKenzie	HQ 51 Infantry Brigade
Jim	Wilson	Veterans Scotland
Mark	Bibbey	Poppyscotland
Martin	Gibson	Veterans Scotland
Morag	Malcolm	Scottish Government (DPU)
Sarah	Stone	Recruit for Spouses
Stephen	Elliot	Legion Scotland

2. Mr Jackson Carlaw MSP opened the meeting and explained that he had been asked to reconvene the group by Mr Alex Fergusson, the former Convenor; he was therefore acting as Chair for this meeting. This would therefore be an inaugural meeting, the purpose of which was to re-establish the group and to identify what it sought to achieve. He then invited all attending to introduce themselves and confirm what organisation they were from. Mr Carlaw then proposed that Mr Maurice Corry MSP becomes the Convenor of the Group, to which agreed, and the proposal was carried unanimously. Mr Corry then assumed the role of Chair.

3. Mr Corry indicated that the group was now well established and had carried out some significant work during previous Parliaments, in particular on Housing, Employment and Health as well as recognising the value of the Armed Forces. In the ensuing discussion it was proposed that the remit of the group extends to include those devolved matters relating to the serving armed forces community; this was agreed. It was

proposed that, in order to reflect this, the name of the group should change to: The Cross Party Group on The Armed Forces and Veterans Community'; this was agreed.

4. The meeting then considered what matters should be discussed at future meetings. It was agreed that relevant topics will include:

- Presentations of 'The Serving Community in Scotland'.
- Promoting the Employability of the Serving and ex-Service Community (including families).
- Promoting Effective Transition for Service Leavers.
- Providing Access to Accommodation for the ex-Service Community
- Promoting the Health and Well-Being of the ex-Service Community
- Encourage sharing of good practice across the network of Armed Forces and Veterans Champions.
- To consider other projects that may be taken forward.

The group should seek to identify and consider such matters in order to monitor progress on recommendations; during the ensuing discussion it was agreed that a maximum of two of these topics should be considered at each meeting and that they should be revisited at least once during the term of this Parliament in order to monitor progress and to provide updates.

5. It was suggested that, given the change to include the serving community, that it would be appropriate to have a brief on this topic at the next meeting. This view was endorsed by the meeting. It was also suggested that the serving community should provide an open brief to all MSPs, Lt Col MacKenzie agreed to progress this with the Firm Base community.

6. It was agreed that 'Promoting Employability of the Serving and ex-Service Community' and 'The Serving Community in Scotland' should be a focus for the next meeting.

7. Next Meetings: TBC

*(afternote: future meetings should take place on: 13 December 2016, 8 March 2017, 13 June 2017 and 13 September 2017)*

The meeting closed at approximately 7:20pm