

**HEALTH AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
17 APRIL 2012**

**REVIEW OF PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS
FROM PREVIOUS REVIEW GROUPS – NORTH EAST JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW
AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – REGIONAL REVIEW OF THE HEALTH NEEDS
OF THE EX-SERVICE COMMUNITY**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To share with Members progress of work undertaken in respect of the recommendations and Action Plan following the work undertaken by the North East Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees – Regional Review of the health needs of the ex-service community.

Summary

2. The North East Regional Health Scrutiny Network agreed, at its meeting in January 2010, to undertake a project to: “examine the physical, mental and broader health needs of ex-servicemen and women, their families and communities, how they are being assessed and their needs met across the range of agencies at regional and local level, and how far ex-service personnel and their families are aware of the support available to them.”
3. The North East Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed its final report on 14th January, 2011.
4. The former Health and Well Being Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting held on 1st February, 2011, considered the final report and agreed that the recommendations be forwarded to Cabinet.
5. Cabinet considered the final report and its 47 recommendations and agreed that the recommendations appropriate for the Local Authority be carried forward and also appointed Councillor Veronica Copeland as the Members’ champion for the armed forces.
6. This report updates Members’ on its progress and is the first report of its nature.

Recommendations

7. It is recommended that the progress against the recommendations be noted and that Councillor Newall, as this Council’s representative on the North East Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, report the progress being made to the Joint Committee meeting in April 2012.

**Paul Wildsmith
Director of Resources**

Background Papers

Final report of the North East Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Regional Review of the health needs of the Ex-Service Community.

Abbie Metcalfe, Democratic Officer Extension 2635

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime & Disorder
Health and Well Being	This report has implications to the address Health and Well Being of residents of Darlington.
Sustainability	There are no issues relating to Sustainability which this report needs to address
Diversity	There are no issues relating to Diversity which this report needs to address
Wards Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Ward is considered to be minimal
Groups Affected	This report impacts on the ex-service community and their families, but also Darlington residents as a whole.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This reports links to Healthy Darlington and specifically addresses health inequalities to narrow the gaps in health and well-being and life expectancy.
Efficiency	This report does not identify specific efficiency savings.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

8. The North East Regional Health Scrutiny Network agreed, at its meeting in January 2010, to undertake a project to: “examine the physical, mental and broader health needs of ex-servicemen and women, their families and communities, how they are being assessed and their needs met across the range of agencies at regional and local level, and how far ex-service personnel and their families are aware of the support available to them.”
9. This Scrutiny review represents the culmination of a year of intensive work by the Members and Officers of the North East Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee working in close partnership with a wide range of individuals and agencies.
10. The North East Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed its final report on 14th January, 2011, together with 47 recommendations to a wide range of organisations, including local authorities.
11. The Joint Committee is made up of delegates from each of the 12 authorities and has delegated powers to undertake overview and scrutiny of regional health issues independently, pursuant to Minutes HWB8/June/10 and MC30/June/10.
12. The Executive Summary and a full copy of the report is available on the Council’s website (<http://www.darlington.gov.uk/PublicMinutes/Health%20and%20Well%20Being%20Scrutiny%20Committee/February%201%202011/Item%206.pdf>)
13. The Health and Well Being Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting held on 1st February, 2011, welcomed and endorsed the work of the North East Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and agreed to forward it to Cabinet with the following recommendations :-
 - (a) That the final report of the North East Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee be welcomed;
 - (b) That the recommendations appropriate to local authorities be noted and carried forward and that this Councils Officers be requested to co-operate with the North East Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to develop an Action Plan to implement the recommendations;
 - (c) That a Member Champion be appointed to act as a champion for the ex-service community; and
 - (d) That Darlington’s Action Plan as detailed in Appendix 2, to the submitted report be approved.
14. The recommendations were agreed by Cabinet at its meeting held on 8th March 2011.
15. The North East Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be monitoring and reviewing the implementation of progress against the recommendations on a six-monthly basis. Members will note that it is coming up to a year and 12months progress will be reported at the April meeting of the North East Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

16. An Action Plan has been developed specifically for Darlington assigning Officers to relevant recommendations and requiring them to report progress against thereon. The Action Plan is attached as **Appendix 1** reporting the progress made against each of the recommendations.

Recommendation	Addressed to	Darlington Borough Council Responsible Officer
Information		
<p><u>Recommendation 1</u>: that local authorities across the region consider what might be the costs, benefits and best methods of collecting in future information about members of the Armed Forces ‘soon to leave’, their likely destination and the demands that will place on localities.</p>	Local authorities	<p>Pauline Mitchell</p> <p>We have good links with Catterick Garrison so just need to maintain awareness of the demands and promote the Housing Options Service.</p> <p>NE CEx agreed – that North East Analytical Group could progress the recommendations and provide guidance to the armed forces on the level/type of information needed by NE LA.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 2</u>: that local authority services should actively ask the question of those they provide services for: ‘have you served in the UK Armed Forces?’</p>	Local authorities	<p>Pauline Mitchell</p> <p>There is a question on our Choice Based Lettings System that asks for details of those leaving Her Majesty’s forces and the discharge date.</p>

Recommendation	Addressed to	Darlington Borough Council Responsible Officer
<p><u>Recommendation 3</u>: that all organisations providing (or potentially providing) services for ex-service community should encourage veterans to voluntarily identify themselves by asking ‘have you served in the UK Armed forces?’</p>	<p>NHS Registered social landlords DWP Voluntary sector</p>	<p>Pauline Mitchell</p> <p>There is a question on our Choice Based Lettings System that asks for details of those leaving Her Majesty’s forces and the discharge date.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 4</u>: that HM Government should consider the potential for an individual’s NHS or National Insurance number to be used to identify their veteran status to improve identification of needs and services that may be available. This might be considered alongside the proposal by the Task Force on the Military Covenant for the creation of Veterans’ Cards.</p>	<p>HM Government</p>	<p>Director of Public Health</p> <p>No direct action appropriate at local level, this would be a national/central decision.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 5</u>: that formal information sharing protocols and arrangements are established between the armed forces and local authorities across the NE region. This will enable local authorities to properly assess and plan to meet the needs of the ex-service community as a specific group.</p>	<p>Armed Forces Local authorities</p>	<p>Elaine Richardson</p> <p>We would be happy to participate in a Regional Model or Protocol.</p> <p>NE CEx agreed – that North East Analytical Group could progress the recommendations and provide guidance to the armed forces on the level/type of information needed by NE LA.</p>

Recommendation	Addressed to	Darlington Borough Council Responsible Officer
<p><u>Recommendation 6:</u> local authorities in the North East should consider dedicating a chapter in their Joint Strategic Needs Assessments to vulnerable service leavers and their needs and identifying as a target population the ex service community within their strategic planning processes in relation to social exclusion, anti-poverty, homelessness and offending.</p>	<p>Local authorities</p> <p>Primary Care organisations</p> <p>Local Health and Wellbeing Boards, when established</p>	<p>Sharon Raine/Tony Welsh</p> <p>There is a section on Veterans Health in the Single Needs Assessment for 2010/11.</p> <p>A section was included on the JSNS for 2011/12 and has also been updated in terms of Mental health for 2012/13.</p> <p>When the JSNA is revised for 2013 and we will take forward any further developmental work around veterans at that time.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 7:</u> that local authorities across the region take research forward as part of the development of Joint Strategic Needs Assessments across the region, and that the North East Public Health Observatory should also consider what data and research support it can provide.</p>	<p>Local authorities</p> <p>Local Health and Wellbeing Boards, when established</p> <p>North East Public Health Observatory</p>	<p>Director of Public Health</p> <p>Matter raised with N E Directors of Public Health via Regional Director of Public Health.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 8:</u> that local authorities across the North East request the NE National Housing Federation to carry out a mapping exercise to quantify current provision of ex - service community housing provided by their members and analyse best practice both nationally and within the North East.</p>	<p>Local authorities</p> <p>NE National Housing Federation</p>	<p>NE CEx agreed – That Gateshead act as lead LA working the National Housing Federation and Homes and Communities Agency to progress the Joint Committees housing related recommendations.</p>

Recommendation	Addressed to	Darlington Borough Council Responsible Officer
<u>Recommendation 9</u> : that the North East Housing Federation works closely with NE local authorities to help plan future provision.	North East Housing Federation Local authorities	NE CEx agreed – That Gateshead act as lead LA working the National Housing Federation and Homes and Communities Agency to progress the Joint Committees housing related recommendations.
<u>Recommendation 10</u> : that the armed forces and the Career Transition Partnership work more closely with local authorities across the region and provide them with an assessment of the likely level of demand and need for employment and skills related services in order to inform future economic and financial inclusion strategies and future provision.	Armed Forces Career Transition Partnership Local authorities	Nik Grewer/Mary Hall An awareness raising event is being planned and Career Transition Partnership have been invited to attend.
<u>Recommendation 11</u> : that prison and probation services be encouraged undertake more detailed work on the needs and nature of offending veterans.	National Offender Management Service	Director of Public Health Matter will be raised with North East Offender Health Commissioning Management Unit in Sept 2011.
<u>Recommendation 12</u> : that prison and probation services should consider how to make available more ‘signposting’ to veteran’s charities of offenders subject to short sentences.	National Offender Management Service	Director of Public Health Matter will be raised with North East Offender Health Commissioning Management Unit in Sept 2011.

Recommendation	Addressed to	Darlington Borough Council Responsible Officer
<u>Recommendation 13:</u> that prisons, probation trusts and other partners in the statutory and voluntary sectors promote the sharing of best practice and information (data and needs analysis).	National Offender Management Service Voluntary organisations	Director of Public Health Matter will be raised with North East Offender Health Commissioning Management Unit in Sept 2011.
Awareness		
<u>Recommendation 14:</u> As some sections of the ex-service community are vulnerable and hard to reach it is recommended that local authorities work with third sector bodies which provide an outreach service (such as ex-service charities and Norcare) to raise awareness and improve access to available support mechanisms.	Local authorities Norcare Royal British Legion SSAFA Combat Stress Voluntary organisations	Mary Hall Discussions have been held with voluntary organisations and information has been shared. It has been agreed to hold an awareness raising event.

Recommendation	Addressed to	Darlington Borough Council Responsible Officer
<p><u>Recommendation 15</u>: that all agencies should make use of and promote local directories of services provided by the voluntary and community sector and statutory provision for those seeking help and for those making referrals, such as the web-based directory provided by Veterans North-East and Finchale College Durham.</p>	<p>Armed forces Local authorities NHS Voluntary organisations</p>	<p>Elaine OBrien/Mary Hall</p> <p>Discussions have been held with voluntary organisations and information has been shared. It has been agreed to hold an awareness raising event.</p> <p>Tony Welsh</p> <p>NHS County Durham and Darlington (NHS CDD) Head of Communication will develop a NHS CDD communications strategy for health needs of members of the Armed Forces, their families and veterans.</p> <p>NHS CDD to utilise the North East Veterans Network (NEVN) website to provide an effective source of information and signposting regarding health and health services for veterans.</p> <p>NEVN Directory of services and service charities for County Durham and Darlington, information will be included in NHSCDD’s Annual Plan.</p>

Recommendation	Addressed to	Darlington Borough Council Responsible Officer
<p><u>Recommendation 16</u>: that North East local authorities examine opportunities for using digital media to improve communication with the ex-service community and raise awareness of available support mechanisms.</p>	<p>Local authorities</p>	<p>Elaine O’Brien</p> <p>NE NHS Veterans Network are developing their website which could be linked to the Council’s website – but this is still a work in process.</p> <p>Tony Welsh</p> <p>North East Veterans Network website has been updated to provide a source of information and signposting regarding health and health services for veterans.</p> <p>Work is also in process to link with PCT websites.</p>

Recommendation	Addressed to	Darlington Borough Council Responsible Officer
<p><u>Recommendation 17:</u> that the North East National Housing Federation is requested on behalf of local authorities across the region to carry out work with Registered Social Landlords to raise awareness of the housing needs of the ex-service community.</p>	<p>North East National Housing Federation</p> <p>Local authorities</p>	<p>Hazel Neasham</p> <p>Sub-regionally needs will be identified through Compass ,our Choice Based Lettings system. Darlington also has a Key Point of Access for all Homeless issues accessed via First Stop or Customer Services.</p> <p>NE CEx agreed – That Gateshead act as lead LA working the National Housing Federation and Homes and Communities Agency to progress the Joint Committees housing related recommendations.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 18:</u> that an awareness raising campaign is carried out amongst staff throughout the Tyne and Wear and Tees Valley Unlimited City Regions regarding the importance of asking whether individuals are ex-service to ensure that they can be appropriately referred on to Job Centre Plus and receive their entitlement to early access to New Deal Programmes.</p>	<p>???</p> <p>JobCentre Plus</p>	

Recommendation	Addressed to	Darlington Borough Council Responsible Officer
<p><u>Recommendation 19:</u> PCTs should begin conversations now with the embryonic GP Commissioning Consortia regarding the merits of commissioning for ex-service community. PCTs and Consortia should report back to Members how the needs of the ex-service community are going to influence commissioning strategy during the transitional period and when Consortia have formally taken control of Commissioning budgets.</p>	<p>Primary Care Trust GP consortium pioneers</p>	<p>Chris Sivers/Interim Chief Operating Officer, Darlington Shadow Clinical Commissioning Group</p> <p>The Clinical Commissioning Board are considering veterans' health at their February meeting, a more in depth session to be arranged.</p> <p>Interim Chief Operating Officer, Darlington Shadow Clinical Commissioning Group to be Shadow Clinical Commissioning Group lead for veteran's health and to take the report to the Darlington Clinical Board.</p>
<p>Improving responsiveness within organisations</p>		

Recommendation	Addressed to	Darlington Borough Council Responsible Officer
<p><u>Recommendation 20</u>:that local authorities and other key partner organisations across the region should consider identifying a senior figure who can act as a champion for the ex-service community and establishing a central point of contact in each local authority area or sub - region to assist when members of the community experience difficulties. Examples of possible approaches include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Within local authorities, a Member Armed Forces Champion to drive improvements in services for service veterans. b. Within local authorities, a named senior officer to assist the ex-service community and act as a facilitator and conduit in dealings with Councils and beyond. c. Within Primary Care Trusts, named senior staff to act as Case officers/co-ordinators in PCTs to act on behalf of the ex-service community whilst assistance is required, and to consider how best to pass these responsibilities forward to GP consortia and local Health and Wellbeing Boards. 	<p>Local authorities</p> <p>Primary Care Trusts</p>	<p>Cllr Copeland has been appointed as the Member Armed Forces Champion.</p> <p>The Director of Public Health has agreed to be the joint Local Authority and PCT Armed Forces Champion.</p>
<p>Improving co-ordination across organisations</p>		
<p><u>Recommendation 21</u>: that the Association of North East Councils should be asked to explore with the NHS, the armed forces and other partners across the region how stronger networking within and between existing groups may be taken forward. This should include consideration of joined-up planning and performance monitoring.</p>	<p>Association of North East Councils</p>	

Recommendation	Addressed to	Darlington Borough Council Responsible Officer
<p><u>Recommendation 22</u>: that local authorities should consider how to bring together voluntary organisations large and small with a specific interest in the welfare of the ex-service community, in the light of the Government’s response to the Task Force on the Military Covenant.</p>	<p>Local authorities</p> <p>Voluntary organisations</p>	<p>Mary Hall</p> <p>Discussions have been held with voluntary organisations and information has been shared. It has been agreed to hold an awareness raising event.</p> <p>A Darlington Community Covenant has been drafted.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 23</u>: We strongly recommend that local authorities across the region should explore options for establishing and publicising a central point of contact telephone number - to increase the chances of people getting the help they need and to provide a consistent standard of contact across the region. Ex-service charities, Citizens Advice Bureau operating in the region, the Career Transition Partnership and Job Centre Plus have all indicated that this would be likely to prove beneficial. The model adopted by Hampshire County Council, in which telephone enquiries from the ex-service community are channelled to a specific staff member, is particularly worth consideration.</p>	<p>Local authorities</p>	<p>Chris Sivers</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 24</u>: that the Homes and Communities Agency is requested on behalf of local authorities across the region to consider how it may broker assistance and ensure better co-ordination of work across the region to ensure that services are being directed at the right people, including the ex-service community, and how it might assist with sharing examples of best practice as part of its enabling role and within the local investment planning process undertaken with local authorities.</p>	<p>Homes and Communities Agency</p> <p>Local authorities</p>	<p>NE CEx agreed – That Gateshead act as lead LA working the National Housing Federation and Homes and Communities Agency to progress the Joint Committees housing related recommendations.</p>

Recommendation	Addressed to	Darlington Borough Council Responsible Officer
<u>Recommendation 25</u> : that the positive work being taken forward by Job Centre Plus in the Tees Valley is shared with Armed Forces Champions across the rest of the region with a view to ensuring a consistent approach in supporting the training and employment needs of the ex-service community.	Job Centre Plus	
<u>Recommendation 26</u> : Local authorities within the North East should consider the developing a regional veterans charter to establish uniform good practice across the region, possibly through existing regional structures such as the Association of North East Councils (ANEC).	Local authorities Association of North East Councils	NE CEx agreed support for ANEC to work with LAs/partners to develop a draft Regional Charter for consideration.
The transition of Armed Forces personnel to civilian services following discharge		

Recommendation	Addressed to	Darlington Borough Council Responsible Officer
<p><u>Recommendation 27</u>: that the Career Transition Partnership continues to work with local authorities and Primary Care Trusts (and successor bodies as PCTs are abolished) to ensure that the Transition Protocol is understood and that specific individuals are mandated appropriately to take on these roles.</p>	<p>Career Transition Partnership</p> <p>Local authorities</p> <p>Primary Care organisations</p> <p>GP consortium pioneers</p>	<p>Chris Sivers</p> <p>Mary Hall</p> <p>Invite CTP to an awareness raising event to be arranged.</p> <p>Director of Public Health</p> <p>PCT is preparing Legacy Document and transitional arrangements for key partnerships.</p> <p>Interim Chief Operating Officer, Darlington Shadow Clinical Commissioning Group</p> <p>The Clinical Commissioning Board are considering veterans' health at their February meeting, a more in depth session to be arranged.</p>

Recommendation	Addressed to	Darlington Borough Council Responsible Officer
<p><u>Recommendation 28:</u> that local NHS organisations work with military colleagues to ensure that people leaving the services are registered with GPs and dentists before formal discharge, so they have a ‘foot in both camps’ towards the end of their active service. This would ensure a smoother transition to civilian health services.</p>	<p>Primary Care Organisations</p> <p>GP consortium pioneers</p> <p>Armed forces</p>	<p>Interim Chief Operating Officer, Darlington Shadow Clinical Commissioning Group</p> <p>The Clinical Commissioning Board are considering veterans’ health at their February meeting, a more in depth session to be arranged.</p> <p>Director of Public Health</p> <p>The role of the Primary Care Support Services Agency should be clarified in this regard.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 29:</u> that the armed forces and the Career Transition Partnership work more closely with local authorities and third sector organisations such as ex service charities, Norcare and Mental Health North East with a view to developing a formal process for referring vulnerable service leavers into specific services.</p>	<p>Armed Forces</p> <p>Career Transition Partnership</p> <p>Local authorities</p> <p>Royal British Legion</p> <p>SSAFA</p> <p>Norcare</p> <p>Mental Health North East</p>	<p>Elaine O’Brien</p> <p>Mary Hall</p> <p>CTP will be invited to an awareness raising event to be arranged.</p>

Recommendation	Addressed to	Darlington Borough Council Responsible Officer
<u>Recommendation 30</u> : That action is taken[by the Armed Forces] on discharge to ensure that Early Service Leavers are provided with effective advice and ‘signposting’ in relation to the mental health issues they may experience on discharge from service	Armed Forces	
<u>Recommendation 31</u> : The effectiveness of improvements to the armed forces resettlement provision for early service leavers should be kept under review by the armed forces to ensure there is effective identification of potential vulnerability issues.	Armed Forces	
<u>Recommendation 32</u> : local authorities should encourage Strategic Housing Authorities and registered social landlords, where possible, to adopt allocation policies which recognise the needs of the ex-service community.	Local authorities Registered social landlords	<p>Hazel Neasham</p> <p>Our sub-regional Choice Based Lettings system addresses this.</p> <p>NE CEx agreed – That Gateshead act as lead LA working the National Housing Federation and Homes and Communities Agency to progress the Joint Committees housing related recommendations.</p>
Ensuring equality of access for Armed Forces Families		

Recommendation	Addressed to	Darlington Borough Council Responsible Officer
<p><u>Recommendation 33</u>: that the Homes and Communities Agency is requested to examine on behalf of local authorities across the region identifying take-up of low-cost housing products by the ex-service community and whether providers are assisting the ex-service community as well as other parts of the community.</p>	<p>Homes and Communities Agency Local authorities</p>	<p>Hazel Neasham</p> <p>NE CEx agreed – That Gateshead act as lead LA working the National Housing Federation and Homes and Communities Agency to progress the Joint Committees housing related recommendations.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 34</u>: that the Homes and Communities Agency is requested to examine opportunities for the ex – service community within any revised funding arrangements as an outcome of the comprehensive spending review.</p>	<p>Homes and Communities Agency</p>	
<p><u>Recommendation 35</u>: that local authorities across the region examine the scope to provide housing related support for ex - service tenants once a property has been identified.</p>	<p>Local authorities</p>	<p>Pauline Mitchell</p> <p>This would be picked up as part of the KPA assessment.</p>
<p>Veterans’ mental health services</p>		

Recommendation	Addressed to	Darlington Borough Council Responsible Officer
<p><u>Recommendation 36</u>: that the new Health and Wellbeing Boards prioritise veterans' mental health issues, taking a lead in ensuring that on day 1 of discharge into civilian life that services are in place to meet the needs of the ex-service community in relation to both NHS and social care provision.</p>	<p>Local Health and Wellbeing Boards, when established</p>	<p>Chris Sivers/Tony Welsh</p> <p>PCT clusters will work with embryonic Health and Wellbeing Boards to raise awareness of the health needs of members of the armed forces, veterans and their families.</p> <p>Interim Chief Operating Officer, Darlington Shadow Clinical Commissioning Group and Miriam Davidson to support this work in Darlington.</p>

Recommendation	Addressed to	Darlington Borough Council Responsible Officer
<p><u>Recommendation 37:</u> that</p> <p>a Appropriate training is provided and required by commissioners of NHS services;</p> <p>b Guidance should also be developed specifically for primary care providers and GPs to:</p> <p>i) explain the priority healthcare entitlement;</p> <p>ii) encourage them to identify ex-servicemen and women (for example, by asking patients to indicate that they have serviced in the UK Armed Forces);</p> <p>iii) explain how they can adapt their systems to accommodate priority treatment for ex-service community; and</p> <p>iv) how to accept referrals from ex-service charities, including the Royal British Legion and Combat Stress, but also smaller local organisations who are providing for some of the most marginalised/excluded ex-service personnel.</p>	<p>Primary Care Organisations</p> <p>GP Consortium pioneers</p> <p>NHS National Commissioning Board</p>	<p>NHS County Durham and Darlington and developing a specification for training.</p> <p>Interim Chief Operating Officer, Darlington Shadow Clinical Commissioning Group</p> <p>The Clinical Commissioning Board are considering veterans' health at their February meeting, a more in depth session to be arranged.</p> <p>Awaiting SHA decision on process for promoting awareness with GP's this will then be followed up in NHSCDD</p> <p>NHS County Durham and Darlington staff are currently in the process of scoping out and costing the potential of utilising available non recurrent funding for 2011/12 to develop increased training capacity around veterans' health.</p>

Recommendation	Addressed to	Darlington Borough Council Responsible Officer
<p><u>Recommendation 38</u>: Joint Strategic Needs Assessments should specifically identify the mental health needs of the ex-service community including families and dependants.</p>	<p>Local authorities</p> <p>Primary Care organisations</p> <p>Local Health and Wellbeing Boards, when established</p>	<p>Director of Public Health</p> <p>There is a section on Veterans Health in the Single Needs Assessment for 2010/11.</p> <p>A section was included in the JSNA for 2011/12 and has been updated in terms of mental health for 2012/13.</p> <p>We will be refreshing the JSNA this year and will be including any relevant data about veterans. The JSNA will be revised for 2013 and we will take forward any further developmental work around veterans at that time.</p> <p>Matter raised with N E Directors of Public Health via Regional Director of Public Health.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 39</u>: NHS commissioners must ensure that GP consortia arrangements prioritise the needs of the ex-service community</p>	<p>NHS Commissioning Board, when established</p> <p>Primary Care organisations</p> <p>GP consortium pioneers</p>	<p>Chris Sivers/Interim Chief Operating Officer, Darlington Shadow Clinical Commissioning Group</p> <p>The Clinical Commissioning Board are considering veterans' health at their February meeting, a more in depth session to be arranged.</p>

Recommendation	Addressed to	Darlington Borough Council Responsible Officer
<p><u>Recommendation 40:</u> Local authorities and GP Consortia should be actively engaged in joint planning and commissioning of services with the NHS.</p>	<p>Local authorities</p> <p>GP consortium pioneers</p> <p>Local Health and Wellbeing Boards, when established</p> <p>NHS Commissioning Board, when established</p>	<p>Chris Sivers</p> <p>Interim Chief Operating Officer, Darlington Shadow Clinical Commissioning Group</p> <p>The Clinical Commissioning Board are considering veterans’ health at their February meeting.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 41:</u> Local authorities should be actively engaged in the NHS Armed Forces Network and consider how they can take on a leadership role in relation to veterans mental health issues – perhaps linked to the formation of the new Health and Wellbeing Boards.</p>	<p>Local Authorities</p> <p>NHS North East Armed Forces Network</p>	<p>Chris Sivers/Tony Welsh</p> <p>PCT clusters will work with embryonic Health and Wellbeing Boards to raise awareness of the health needs of members of the armed forces, veterans and their families.</p> <p>Interim Chief Operating Officer, Darlington Shadow Clinical Commissioning Group and Miriam Davidson to support this work in Darlington.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 42:</u> Consideration should be given by central government to the need for some form of accreditation to be available to ex-service charities (particularly the newly emerging charities). How this might best be taken forward should be considered in the light of the Government’s response to the Task Force on the Military Covenant. Local authorities should consider drawing up approved lists of service providers.</p>	<p>HM Government</p> <p>Local authorities</p>	<p>Chris Sivers</p>

Recommendation	Addressed to	Darlington Borough Council Responsible Officer
<p><u>Recommendation 43</u>: that voluntary organisations and the NHS promote self-referral routes for ex-service personnel in a wide range of different ways that will help maximise their opportunity to access services.</p>	<p>Primary care organisations GP consortium pioneers Voluntary organisations</p>	<p>Chris Sivers</p> <p>Interim Chief Operating Officer, Darlington Shadow Clinical Commissioning Group</p> <p>The Clinical Commissioning Board are considering veterans’ health at their February meeting, a more in depth session to be arranged.</p> <p>North East NHS Veterans Network are developing their website which could be linked to the Council’s website.</p> <p>North East Veterans Network website has been updated to provide a source of information and signposting regarding health and health services for veterans.</p> <p>Work in process to link with PCT websites.</p>

Recommendation	Addressed to	Darlington Borough Council Responsible Officer
<p><u>Recommendation 44</u>: that primary care and acute trusts should take steps to improve awareness of veterans’ mental health issues among health workers generally, including appropriate training and supervision.</p>	<p>Primary care organisations</p> <p>Northumberland, Tyne & Wear NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p>Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust</p>	<p>Director of Public Health</p> <p>Mental Health strategies are developed with all partners in health economy.</p> <p>Include health needs of members of the Armed Forces, their families and veterans in next phase of IAPT roll out.</p> <p>As part of the initiatives of ‘Fighting Fit’, £150K has been allocated year on year until 2014 to each SHA region with the remit of enhancing mental health services for veterans in their areas. It has been agreed that that in the North East monies will utilised to appoint assessment/outreach workers across the region to work in conjunction with the two NHS Trust leads and to be accountable to them.</p> <p>NHS County Durham and Darlington staff are currently in the process of scoping out and costing the potential of utilising available non-recurrent funding for 2011/12 to develop increased training capacity around veterans’ health.</p> <p>Promote the uptake of the Big White Wall by members of the armed forces, veterans and their families in the CDD - part of PCT Communications Strategy.</p>

Recommendation	Addressed to	Darlington Borough Council Responsible Officer
<p><u>Recommendation 45:</u> The Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust and the Department of Health should share widely the learning from the evaluation of the Community Veteran Mental Health Pilot, and particularly with commissioners, providers and the North East Mental Health Development Unit. Learning from the pilot must help to shape future statutory of provision and the linkages with, and support for, the voluntary sector in the context of the Increasing Access to Psychological Therapies programme.</p>	<p>Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p>Department of Health</p>	<p>Director of Public Health</p> <p>Dissemination of learning outcomes from the C V M H P via Healthy Darlington LSP Policy group when the outcomes are known.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 46:</u> Trusts should provide better basic information to veterans with clear diagnoses of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder about their condition.</p>	<p>Northumberland, Tyne & Wear NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p>Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust</p>	
<p><u>Recommendation 47:</u> Prison health services need to identify veterans and evaluate needs with a particular focus on mental health and PTSD.</p>	<p>Prison health commissioners and service providers</p>	<p>Director of Public Health</p> <p>Mental health evaluation is core part of the NE Offender Health contract for Prison Health Care services.</p>

- The shaded recommendations apply to Local Authorities