

	<b><u>Agenda Item: 13</u></b>
<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Birmingham Health &amp; Wellbeing Board</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> July 2021</b>
<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF VETERANS DEEP DIVE REPORT</b>
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Birmingham City Council</b>
<b>Presenting Officer</b>	<b>Luke Heslop – Service Lead for Evidence</b>

<b>Report Type:</b>	<b>Information</b>
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<b>1. Purpose:</b>
1.1 To present the Board with the completed Veterans Deep Dive Report. This is one of a series of deep dive reports that provided deeper insight to compliment the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).

2. Implications:		
BHWB Strategy Priorities	Childhood Obesity	N
	Health Inequalities	Y
Joint Strategic Needs Assessment		Y
Creating a Healthy Food City		N
Creating a Mentally Healthy City		Y
Creating an Active City		N
Creating a City without Inequality		Y
Health Protection		N

<b>3. Recommendation</b>
It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board:
3.1 Approve the publication of the Health and Wellbeing of Veterans Deep Dive.
3.2 Board Members report back to the next Board with actions taken based on the findings in the report, for example the NHS could take active steps to support the Veteran Friendly GP Accreditation Scheme in Birmingham.

<b>4.</b>	<b>Report Body</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Context</b>
4.1.1	This is the first JSNA Deep Dive to reach completion and is presented today for comment and approval for publication.
4.1.2	The focus is on Veterans living in Birmingham.
4.1.3	Support to the Armed Forces community has received political impetus over recent years - for example, in the Command Paper 'The Nation's Commitment: Cross-Government Support to our Armed Forces, their Families and Veterans (2008)' and in the Armed Forces Covenant (2011).
4.1.4	These documents highlight that service in the Armed Forces is different to other occupations as serving and veteran personnel (and their families) experience unique factors as a result of their time in service. These include not only the risks of injury or death, but also factors related to Armed Forces' lifestyles, such as frequent moves and the disruption this may bring. The Command Paper seeks to ensure that these circumstances are taken into account in commissioning and delivering services. The Ministry of Defence's Strategy for our Veterans (2018) sets out a 10-year plan to address the needs of veterans.
4.1.5	Key themes and aims of the strategy are set out as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Community and relationships: veterans can build healthy relationships and integrate into their communities.</li> <li>2. Employment, education and skills: veterans enter appropriate employment and can continue to enhance their careers throughout their working lives.</li> <li>3. Finance and debt: veterans leave the Armed Forces with sufficient financial education: awareness and skills to be financially self-supporting and resilient.</li> <li>4. Health and wellbeing: all veterans enjoy a state of positive physical and mental health and wellbeing, enabling them to contribute to wider aspects of society.</li> <li>5. Making a home in civilian society: veterans have a secure place to live either through buying, renting or social housing.</li> <li>6. Veterans and the law: veterans leave the Armed Forces with the resilience and awareness to remain law-abiding civilians.</li> </ul>
4.1.6	Inequalities between veterans and the general population have been observed in the literature, particularly in relation to employment, offending and homelessness. However, the view of the Government is that the issues faced by veterans, particularly poor mental health, are overestimated by the public resulting in a perception that military service is harmful.

4.1.7 This Deep Dive seeks to bring together the multi-agency data and evidence of veterans in Birmingham in relation to the six themes identified above. Its aim is to identify where gaps in information exist and will make recommendations to key front-line agencies for improved data collection in the future.

4.1.8 The Evidence Team have reviewed the available evidence and have determined that most of the key issues influencing Veteran health fall within the following social themes:

- Community and relationships
- Employment
- Education
- Finance and debt
- Health and wellbeing
- Housing
- Criminal justice system

4.1.9 Qualitative interviews and focus groups were commissioned to investigate these themes with local Veterans from Birmingham. The views of Birmingham's Veterans helped inform the key findings of this Deep Dive report, which are summarised below.

## **4.2 Key Findings**

4.2.1 Recommendations are detailed in Chapter 7 of the Deep Dive report against the four key findings.

### **Key Finding 1**

There is currently insufficient data to allow a full understanding of the size and composition of the local veteran population.

### **Key Finding 2**

Some veterans' needs are not being sufficiently met due to structural and cultural differences between the Armed Forces and civilian society.

### **Key Finding 3**

Emerging evidence suggests a greater need for supporting Early Service Leavers, young recruits and female veterans.

### **Key Finding 4**

There are specific barriers that need tackling to connect veterans to resources that can support them in times of need.

## **4.3 Next Steps / Delivery**

4.3.1 The document will be published on the Birmingham Council website and advertised widely amongst stakeholders.

- 4.3.2 Board members are asked to review the recommended actions set out in Chapter 7 and provide feedback on whether these can be taken forward to be presented, adapted or are not suitable for progression by the next Board meeting.

## **5. Compliance Issues**

### **5.1 HWBB Forum Responsibility and Board Update**

- 5.1.1 The development of the JSNA, both core and deep dives, is managed by the JSNA steering group.

### **5.2 Management Responsibility**

Luke Heslop, Service Lead for Evidence

## **6. Risk Analysis**

<b>Identified Risk</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Actions to Manage Risk</b>
Further delay in publication	Low	Low	Any changes/updates will have a high priority in officer's work programmes.
Changes suggested at presentations	Low	Low	Any changes/updates will have a high priority in officer's work programmes.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – The Health and Wellbeing of Armed Forces Veterans Deep Dive

The following people have been involved in the preparation of this board paper:

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