The Return to ‘Civvy’ Street’: Fulfilling Our Duties to Armed Forces Veterans

A Public Policy Exchange Symposium

Thursday 22nd March 2018
10:15am – 4:30pm

Grange Wellington Hotel, London

Public Policy Exchange holds regular interactive seminars which provide an invaluable interface for policy discussion, debate and networking. These special events offer local practitioners, civil servants and other stakeholders not only an insight into current policy thinking, but also the opportunity to feed into future development across all areas of public policy.
Overview

Whilst the vast majority of the 2.6 million former service personnel go on to lead healthy and productive lives, some veterans still face significant challenges in transitioning to civilian life. Just 39% of employers would consider employing a veteran without industry specific experience, a common obstacle for those who’ve dedicated their professional life to military service, (YouGov, 2017). Potentially harmful misconceptions about what characterises an armed forces veteran furthermore underpin potential barriers to post-service employment. One in five people aged 18-34 say they most associate the word with retirement, despite an estimated 900,000 veterans being of working age. 54% of the general public also believe that all service leavers have a physical, emotional, or mental health problem (ONS, 2017). However, whilst these assumptions are misplaced, some veterans do experience difficulties surrounding mental health, with 34% reporting feeling overwhelmed by negative thoughts, and a quarter suffering from suicidal ideation (SSAF, 2017).

In response the Government launched Veteran’s Gateway in June, 2017. Reinforced by £2 million in funding, this seeks to provide ex-service personnel with a single point of contact for support around healthcare, housing, employability, finances, personal relationships and more. In February 2017 the Government launched See Potential to help disadvantaged groups, including veterans, back in to meaningful employment. In addition, the Government has also updated the Armed Forces Covenant with subsequent advice to Local Authorities on how to deliver on its aims. This encourages councils to identify needs in housing, health, employment, schools and children’s services and conduct regular reviews of the Covenant’s delivery. Recent initiatives have also included the appointment of an armed forces champion in every Jobcentre plus district to help ensure we meet the needs of the current and ex-armed forces community.

However, working age veterans are now as likely to have a qualification as non-vets (ONS, 2017), challenges remain in ensuring all ex-service personnel benefit from employment opportunities and positive mental health. Men and women leaving the Armed Forces are twice as likely to remain unemployed as civilians (DWP, 2017). Similarly, 27% of veterans say they would benefit from meeting someone from a military background regularly to talk through their experiences.

This crucial symposium will therefore provide local military units, local authorities, armed forces champions, public health commissioners, employment support services and other key stakeholders, with an invaluable opportunity to analyse the challenges facing Britain’s veterans. It will also enable all stakeholders to formulate strategies for meeting post-service housing needs and providing support to those experiencing drug and alcohol dependency.

Why Attend?

✓ Review the current government strategy aimed at increasing employment for Veterans and identify key obstacles
✓ Analyse the links between social rehabilitation and mental health recovery in younger veterans
✓ Strategise ways to meet the Charity Commission’s findings on Military Charities and enhance safeguarding policies and practices
✓ Identify mental health care pathways that offer swift and appropriate early intervention for veterans
✓ Share ways of enhancing the general public’s awareness about the employment and mental health difficulties that armed forces personnel face
✓ Discuss ways for local authorities to deliver the aims and objectives of the Armed Forces Covenant with reference to the 2017 updated guidance report.
✓ Develop partnership approaches enabling stable housing provision and the delivery of drug and alcohol support when required
✓ Assess existing strategies to combat loneliness and maximise ex-service personnel’s access mental health services

Who Should Attend?

• Local Military Units
• Local Authorities
• Armed Forces Champions
• Armed Forces Commissioners
• Military Establishments
• Personal Recovery Centres
• Defence Medical Services
• Armed Forces Networks
• Military Charities
• NHS Armed Forces Leads
• JobCentre Plus Armed Forces Leads
• Community Covenant Boards
• Regular and Reservist Serving Personnel
• Armed Forces Welfare Agencies
• Armed Forces Housing Officers
• Cadet Force
• Sea Cadets
• National Maritime Organisation
• Army Cadet Force
• Air Cadets
• Combined Cadet Force
• Reserve Forces
• Cadet Associations
• Veterans and Pension Committees

Accommodation

Through our partnership with HotelMap, we are able to offer our delegates heavily discounted hotel rates at a wide range of London hotels. To view hotel availability and rates and to book online, visit www.HotelMap.com/MSNUZ/

Enquiries: 020 3137 8630 www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk

“We’re issuing a call to businesses to talk up the value of veterans. We need to make sure that employers inside or outside defence appreciate the vast amounts of skills and experience they bring to the table.”

- The Rt Hon Sir Michael Fallon MP, Secretary of State for Defence, 2017
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Programme

09:30  Registration and Morning Refreshments
10:15  Chair’s Welcome and Introduction
10:30  Morning Panel: From Deployment to Employment: Enabling Veterans to Realise their Post-Service Potential
   • Developing Greater Opportunities: Improving access to employment, education, qualifications and skills training
   • Recognising Veteran’s Potential: Engaging with employers to ensure skills and experience are acknowledged
   • The Armed Forces Covenant: Fulfilling our duties
   • Improving Our Housing Offer: Understanding accommodation as the lynchpin to post-service stability
   • Flexibility and Fairness: Ensuring support is tailored to the needs of veterans
11:15  Morning Refreshments
11:30  Open Floor Discussion and Debate with Panel One
12:30  Networking Lunch
13:30  Afternoon Panel: Adjusting to Civvy Life: Working in Partnership to Improve Local Support
   • Improving Prevention: Developing more efficient mental health care pathways
   • Strengthening Detection: Identifying and supporting those with mental health difficulties or dependency issues
   • Enhancing Early Intervention: Delivering supported recoveries from alcohol dependency and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
   • Combating Loneliness and Isolation: Tackling the wider determinants, enabling social connections
   • Sharing Best Practice: Facilitating a positive culture, strengthening individual resilience
14:15  Afternoon Refreshments
14:30  Open Floor Discussion and Debate with Panel Two
15:30  Chair’s Summary and Closing Comments
15:40  Networking Reception
16:30  Close

* Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice *

Event Details

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Time:    10:15am – 4:30pm
Venue:   Grange Wellington Hotel

Forthcoming Events

Strengthening Surveillance by Consent: Engaging with the National Surveillance Camera Strategy
15th March 2018

The Future of Tourism in Post-Brexit Britain: Exploring Opportunities and Meeting Challenges at National and Local Levels
20th March 2018

Fulfilling Responsibilities to Settled & Gypsy/Traveller Communities: Developing Strategies to Combat Unauthorised Encampments & Tackle Multiple Disadvantages
21st March 2018

Transforming Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services: Promoting, Protecting and Improving Children and Young People’s Mental Health
10th April 2018

Protecting the UK’s Water Quality: Tackling Pollution and Building Sustainability for the Future
12th April 2018

Ensuring Young Carers are Safe, Healthy, Aspiring and Achieving: Working in Partnership to Improve Identification, Assessment and Support
17th April 2018

Overcoming Challenges for International Student Recruitment: Retaining the UK’s Position as a Leading Destination
18th April 2018

Combating Revenge Pornography: Tackling Perpetrators, Supporting Victims and Raising Awareness
19th April 2018

Enhancing UK Cycling: Better Safety, Better Mobility, Better Streets
24th April 2018

Tackling Rogue Landlords and Improving the Private Rented Sector: Safeguarding Tenants from Intimidation and Substandard Conditions
25th April 2018

Transforming the UK’s Community Energy Sector: Strengthening Access, Innovation and Profitability for Localised Renewable Energy
26th April 2018

Marketing and Exhibition Opportunities

We offer a range of opportunities to enable your organisation to raise its profile and communicate with key decision makers in the public sector.

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