

Council 23rd March 2016

Appoint an officer as point of contact for returning war veterans

Lead Member - Cllr. Eleanor Jackson

Labour Group to move:

The council notes:

- For some military service-leavers, the transition back into civilian life can be distressing and difficult.
- After living an ordered military life, getting to grips with various agencies and accessing services or benefits can be disorientating. Finding work in a new sector can be hard when dealing with the emotional and physical transition into civilian life.
- The difficulties associated with this transition can often result in homelessness, mental illness, alcoholism, post-traumatic stress or unemployment.
- Bath and North East Somerset Council has a good track record of upholding the commitment to the community covenant, which complements the military covenant.
- However, there are still people living locally who have not received sufficient support.

The Council believes:

- Veterans face unique challenges and deserve full support on their return after risking their lives to defend our country.

The Council resolves:

- To appoint an appropriate officer to act as a single point of contact for all service leavers in B&NES. This would include making veterans aware of local service charities and offering advice on issues including employment, housing, healthcare, and benefit entitlements. This officer would have the power to commit the council to actions and would monitor and review the community covenant.