



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

‘AFLOs’ - Made in Wales

Mike Connolly

Deputy Director Community Safety Division Welsh Government

Finola Pickwell & Andy ‘Curly’ Jones

Armed Forces Liaison Officers (AFLOs)

Aim

To provide an insight into the Welsh Government funded Armed Forces Liaison Officers including the operating context in Wales

Background - Operating context

- Defence policy non-devolved to Welsh Government
- Health, education and housing devolved to Wales and subject to the Armed Forces Covenant
- Welsh Labour Government signatories to the Veteran's Strategy
- Plaid Cymru Government supportive of the expansion of the Armed Forces Covenant
- Large veteran population (1 in 12 households 2021) - reflecting recruitment hotspots in Wales
- Smaller but important serving population and families
- 22 local authorities, 7 health boards – Armed Forces Champions
- Size of Wales lends itself to strong national and regional co-ordination
- Existing effective network of Veterans' Hubs across Wales
- Thriving system of Third Sector support for Veterans in Wales

Background - Welsh Government functions

Coordination:

- Armed Forces Branch

Governance:

- Armed Forces Expert Group
- Armed Forces Cross Party Group
- Cross Government Working Group
- Veterans Commissioner for Wales

Initiatives:

- Veterans NHS Wales and specific prosthetics provision
- Supporting Service Children in Education Cymru
- Concessions – Cadw, TfW
- Free Swimming
- Jobs fairs – CTP and local



AFLOs – concept development

- Original bright idea LA led and AFCT funded 2017 for 2 years
- Welsh Government takeover 2019 - ££, objectives, KPIs
- Repeat cases made to Ministers to continue year or year
- Review and budget line established 2024-25

AFLOs - purpose / role

- Enable Welsh Government and Local Authorities to maintain situational awareness
- Support local authorities in consistent Covenant delivery:
 - raise profile, awareness, understanding
 - source of subject matter expertise
 - connectors and convenors within local authorities, between local authorities and with local partners and the Armed forces community
 - Policy development reflecting Covenant principles

AFLOs - Integration of with Valour

- Working with the Office of Veterans Affairs to ensure that Valour compliments and integrates the existing network of AFLOs in Wales.
- Lisa Rawlings (former AFLO) appointed as the Regional Field Officer for Valour Wales.
- One Welsh award in the first round of Valour funding.
- Regional consortium led by Bulldogs rather than multiple separate awards.
- The expectation is that further Welsh coverage will come through later rounds.



Regional Armed Forces Covenant Liaison Officers in Wales

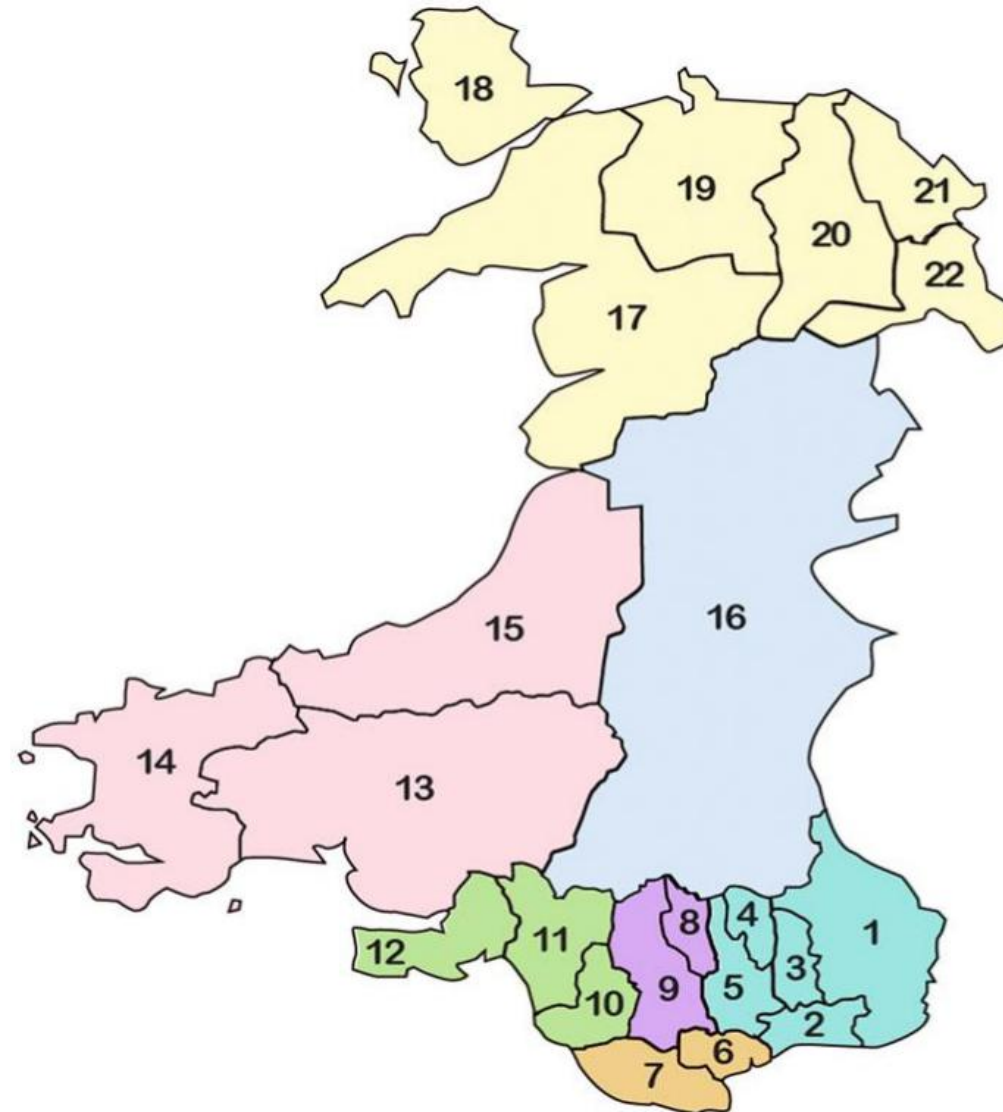
WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

BY

ANDY 'CURLY' JONES & FINOLA PICKWELL

Regional Armed Forces Covenant Liaison Officers (AFLO)

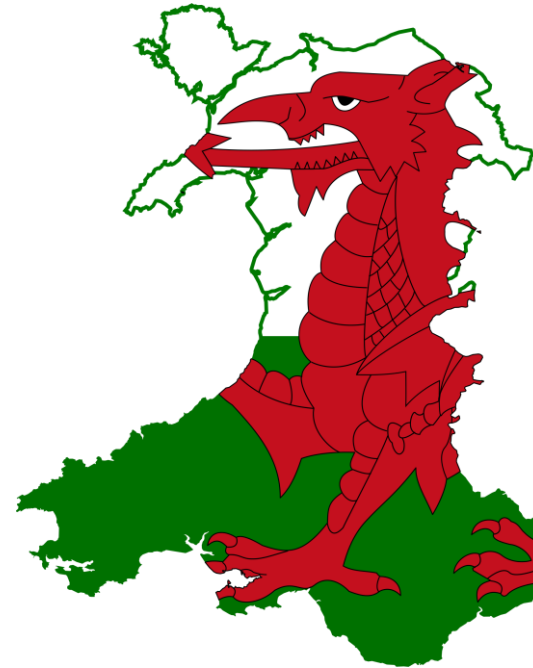
1 - 5	Gwent AFLO: Karin Spencer email: karinspencer@monmouthshire.gov.uk
6 & 7	Cardiff & Vale of Glamorgan AFLO: Abigail Warburton email: awarburton@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
8 & 9	Merthyr & RCT AFLO: Jamie Ireland email: jamie.l.ireland@rctcbc.gov.uk
10 - 12	South West Wales AFLO: Finola Pickwell email: f.pickwell@npt.gov.uk
13 - 15	West Wales AFLO: Hayley Edwards email: HREdwards@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
16	Powys AFLO: Andy Jones email: andy.jones@powys.gov.uk
17 - 22	North Wales AFLO: Stephen Townley email: stephen.townley@wrexham.gov.uk Support Officer: Ian Pritchard email: ian.pritchard@wrexham.gov.uk



AFLO'S & THEIR REGIONS

Why the Role Exists in Wales

- Working in a Devolved Wales
- Regional Delivery
- Policy into Practice – An Enabling Role





Core Responsibilities

- Policy & strategy
- Advice, Signposting and partnership working
- Community Engagement





Supporting Local Authorities & Partnerships



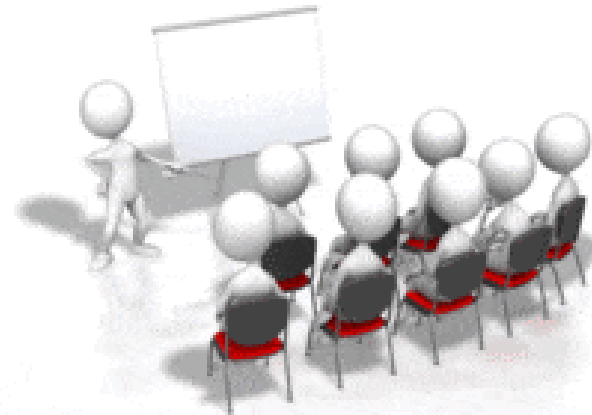
- Networking and Information Sharing
- Supporting Forums and Strategic Collaboration
- Single Point of Contact





Awareness, Training & Funding

- Raise awareness
- Training and Funding Support
- Armed Forces Champions





Culture Change



AFLO

Decision Makers

Front Line Staff

External Organisations



Removing Barriers

Cydraddoldeb



Equality

Tegwch



Equity

Cynhwysiant



Inclusion



Challenges

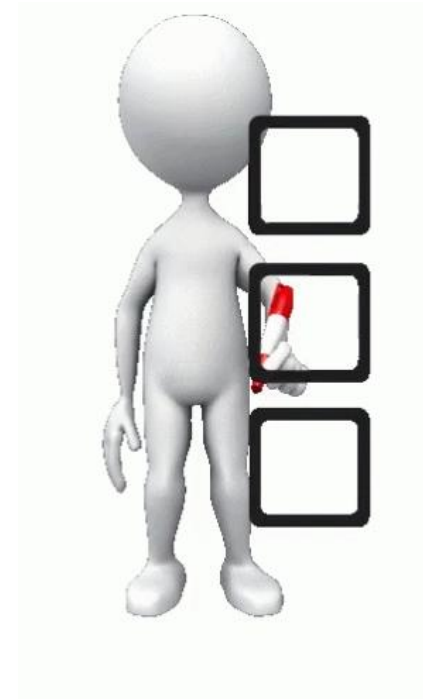
- Clear Role Definitions
- Varied Delivery of Covenant
- Poor systems, Data and Visibility





Summary & Impact

- Consistent Covenant Delivery
- Connecting Policy, Partners and Communities
- Giving a Voice and Meeting Responsibilities



Summary



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

- Well-regarded and valued resource – human capital
- Room for incremental tweaking – clearer tasking
- Valour – new kid on the block – can complement, but needs sync'ing



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Questions?

