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Milly Southworth

From: Torpoint Town Council <admin@torpointtowncouncil.gov.uk>

Sent: 18 December 2024 12:09

To: Milly Southworth; 'Tania Horrocks'

Subject: FW: FRESH START - A Programme for Spouses and Partners of the Armed Forces

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From: Adam Heap <adam@battling-on.com>

Sent: 17 December 2024 15:39

To: admin@torpointtowncouncil.gov.uk; jacqui.reeves@torpointtowncouncil.gov.uk;

daniel.phipps@torpointtowncouncil.gov.uk

Subject: FRESH START - A Programme for Spouses and Partners of the Armed Forces

Good afternoon,

My colleague Sarah and I work for Battling On, a CIC based near Callington. We are currently conducting the FRESH START programme, funded kindly by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust. The programme focuses on spouses and partners of serving regulars and reservists of the Armed Forces. Further details can be found at the end of this email.

The Armed Forces community is very prevalent in Torpoint, so we're hoping to get to know the area better, and hope that the town gets to know us, too. With such a large Armed Forces community there, we feel that there may be many living in Torpoint who could benefit from what Battling On has to offer...

So we are looking to get our flyers (attached) out there so that we can meet people who would benefit from our services! Aside, it would be great to integrate ourselves into the local networks. I would love to discuss our project further with you if you would like to.

Battling On has been active since 2012, and predominantly focused on Veterans and the hardships they face in the south-west. We have built a dedicated cohort who, despite, project grants ending, have continued to enjoy social settings and events, creating an atmosphere of friendship, camaraderie and support. Though we continue to work with Veterans, the FRESH START project looks to broaden our influence in the Armed Forces community. Below is a description of what the new project looks to provide and achieve:

FRESH START:

The project provides a bespoke service to the spouses and partners of serving regulars and reservists. We understand that they often experience unique issues that come with having a serving partner, such as, but not limited to: childcare, benefits applications, social isolation, travel, jobseeking and finance. Fresh Start is a small, adaptable team that will meet beneficiaries on their terms, and will help to tackle the individual issues a spouse or partner may face with a friendly helping hand. Our support may come in the form of signposting and networking, providing a social space for like-minded people, helping to process benefits applications and facilitate communications.

We currently host social spaces once a week in Landrake, but are looking to open up a second space in Plymouth sometime in the new year. Aside, we offer outreach at a time and space to suit beneficiaries. We hope that the two concepts compliment and facilitate each other, as has occurred with our ongoing Veteran sessions.

Our aim is to stand out as a support group that can offer knowledge and advice in a friendly, personable manner; our vision is to see an improved connectedness of the local demographic and the organisations that can best support them.

We hope that our work will march on, even after the funding period ceases; something that we have successfully done with our long-standing Veterans group.

Kindest Regards

Adam Heap

BATTLING ON

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YouTube: Together We Can Succeed - YouTube

At the heart of **Battling-on** is the provision of a safe space at Merryhue Farm, where on-site veteran led activities such as horticulture, beekeeping, arts and crafts are undertaken. Opportunities are also available for off-site vocational training through conservation projects in collaboration with partner organisations delivered through community projects. **Battling On** uses the best practices of green space intervention coupled with the camaraderie of like-minded veterans to help tackle issues from low self-esteem and confidence to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

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