



Community Covenant

AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

BETWEEN

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

AND

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN SOUTHAMPTON

We, the undersigned, agree to work and act together to honour the Armed Forces Community Covenant.




Signatories

Signed: 

Councillor Simon Letts

Leader of Southampton City Council

Signed on behalf of Southampton City Council

Signed: 

Brigadier Neil Baverstock OBE MA

Brigade Commander, 145 (South) Brigade

Signed on behalf of the Armed Forces Community

Signed: 

Lt Col (Retd) Chris Booth

Chief of Staff, South East Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association

Signed on behalf of the Reservists, Veterans and Cadet Forces

Signed: 

Dr R. Neil Richardson

Director of Military Education

Signed on behalf of Military Education at the University of Southampton

Date: 24th June 2013

SECTION 1: PARTICIPANTS

1.1 This Armed Forces Community Covenant is made between:

The serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing in Southampton

And

Southampton City Council

SECTION 2: PRINCIPLES OF THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

2.1 The Armed Forces Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. It is intended to complement the Armed Forces Covenant, which outlines the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces, at the local level.

2.2 The purpose of this Community Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in Southampton and to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by members of this Armed Forces Community, particularly those who have given the most. This includes in-Service and ex-Service personnel their families and widow(er)s in Southampton

2.3 For Southampton City Council and partner organisations, the Community Covenant presents an opportunity to bring their knowledge, experience and expertise to bear on the provision of help and advice to members of the Armed Forces Community. It also presents an opportunity to build upon existing good work on other initiatives such as the Welfare Pathway.

2.4 For the Armed Forces community, the Community Covenant encourages the integration of Service life into civilian life and encourages members of the Armed Forces community to help their local community.

SECTION 3: OBJECTIVES AND GENERAL INTENTIONS

Aims of the Community Covenant

3.1 The Armed Forces Community Covenant complements the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant which defines the enduring, general principles that should govern the relationship between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces community

3.2 It aims to encourage all parties within a community to offer support to the local Armed Forces community and make it easier for Service personnel, families and veterans to access the help and support available from the MOD, from statutory providers and from the Charitable and Voluntary Sector. These organisations already work together in partnership at local level.

3.3 The scheme is intended to be a two-way arrangement and the Armed Forces community are encouraged to do as much as they can to support their community and promote activity which integrates the Service community into civilian life.

SECTION 4: Measures

- 4.1 This Community Covenant provides the opportunity for us to collaborate more strategically with the Armed Forces. Placing people first, our overriding purpose is to enable Regular and Reserve Armed Forces personnel, their families and dependants, Veterans and members of the Merchant Navy to lead a full and proper life at the heart of the community.
- 4.2 Our intent is to address the key areas of Public Health, Housing, Employment, Education, Welfare and access to advice and information. This will be underpinned by effective communications, aimed at bringing people together and making connections to ensure that the Armed Forces Community and supporting organisations can gain access to the advice and help that they need.
- 4.3 This encompasses our desire and commitment to work with the Armed Forces organisations and members of the Armed Forces Community and to develop and strengthen relationships.
- 4.4 We agree to take a joint and collaborative approach to achieve the aims identified in the Armed Forces Community Covenant Action Plan and as it evolves to meet changing priorities, ensuring that the Armed Forces Community are fully integrated in the wider Community.

CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT

An Enduring Covenant Between

The People of the United Kingdom
Her Majesty's Government

– and –

All those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces of
the Crown

And their Families

The first duty of Government is the defence of the realm. Our Armed Forces fulfil that responsibility on behalf of the Government, sacrificing some civilian freedoms, facing danger and, sometimes, suffering serious injury or death as a result of their duty. Families also play a vital role in supporting the operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces. In return, the whole nation has a moral obligation to the members of the Naval Service, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families. They deserve our respect and support, and fair treatment.

Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.

This obligation involves the whole of society: it includes voluntary and charitable bodies, private organisations, and the actions of individuals in supporting the Armed Forces. Recognising those who have performed military duty unites the country and demonstrates the value of their contribution. This has no greater expression than in upholding this Covenant.