



AN ARMED FORCES COVENANT

BETWEEN

KIRKLEES COUNCIL AND ITS PARTNERS


AND

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN KIRKLEES

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

Signatories

Signed on behalf of Kirklees Council

Signed: 

Name: Councillor David Sheard

Position Held: Leader of the Council

Date: 11th July 2017

Signed on behalf of Kirklees Council

Signed: 

Name: Councillor David Hall

Position Held: Conservative Leader

Date: 11th July 2017

Signed on behalf of Kirklees Council


Signed: 

Name: Councillor Nicola Turner

Position Held: Liberal Democrat Leader

Date: 11th July 2017

Signed on behalf of Kirklees Council

Signed: 

Name: Councillor Charles Greaves

Position Held: Independent Leader

Date: 11th July 2017

Signed on behalf of Kirklees Council Community


Signed: 

Name: Councillor Andrew Cooper

Position Held: Green Group Leader

Date: 11th July 2017

Signed on behalf of the Armed Forces

Signed: 

Name: Major LM Marr

Position Held: Head of Engagement
Yorkshire & The Humber

Date: 11th July 2017

Signatories

Signed on behalf of SAFFA

Signed: 

Name: Major Stephen Marren

Position Held: Branch Secretary for
West Yorkshire SSAFA

Date: 11th July 2017

Signed on behalf of the Royal British Legion

Signed: 

Name: Bob Mortimer

Position Held: County President

Date: 11th July 2017

Signed on behalf of West Yorkshire Police


Signed: 

Name: Steven Cotter

Position Held: Chief Superintendent

Date: 11th July 2017

Signed on behalf of the Third Sector Leaders

Signed: 

Name: Val Johnson

Position Held: Third Sector Leaders

Date: 11th July 2017

SECTION 1: PARTICIPANTS

1.1 This Armed Forces Covenant is made between:

The serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing in the Borough of Kirklees.

And

Kirklees Council

And

The Charitable and Voluntary Sector

And

West Yorkshire Police

And

Other members of the civilian community

SECTION 2: PRINCIPLES OF THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT

2.1 The Armed Forces Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. This Covenant encompasses the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces, at the local level.

2.1 The Armed Forces Covenant is based upon two key principles:

- The Armed Forces community should not face 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.

2.3 The purpose of this Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in the Borough of Kirklees 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 Kirklees.

2.4 For Kirklees 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.

2.5 For the Armed Forces community, the 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 Covenant

3.1 The Armed Forces Covenant 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 Kirklees Council and its partners will:

- Introduce a Cabinet Member to act as the Champion for the Armed Forces whose role will be to lead on the issues relating to the Covenant.
- Report back to full Council on an annual basis with respect to actions taken, impact and emerging issues.
- Develop a Covenant Board comprising of all relevant Council Services and its key partners. To be chaired by the Armed Forces Champion.
- Identify a senior manager to support the Armed Forces Champion, service the Covenant Board and to be the lead contact within the Authority for liaison with the Armed Forces.
- Produce a “SMART” action plan based on the key issues of Health, Housing, Education, Community and Employment.
- Take part in wider regional initiatives designed to improve the support provided to Residents who have served in the Armed Forces.
- Support employees who volunteer for Reserve duties.
- Work to identify Armed Forces personnel / Veterans within the Borough.

- Develop a dedicated section of the Council's website, and ensure that appropriate links are made with other web-based support, and networks.

4.2 The Armed Forces will:

- Deliver an annual presentation to local elected Members and the partners of Kirklees Council to present their operational experiences and what any planned changes as a result of defence policy might mean at a local level.
- Attend Kirklees Council Covenant Board.
- Liaise with the lead senior manager to ensure that relevant information is disseminated effectively.
- Undertake involvement in community activities as required and when available and practical.

CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

MOD DCDS (Pers&Trg) Covenant Team

Email address: covenant-mailbox@mod.uk
 Address: DCDS (Pers) Covenant Team
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In-Service representative(s)

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Kirklees Council

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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.