



ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT FOR BRISTOL



Community Covenant

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.

The Armed Forces Covenant, above outlines the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces; The Armed Forces Community Covenant, set out in this document, is an additional voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community.

Principles of the Armed Forces Community Covenant

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.

The purpose of this Community Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in Bristol City Council and to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by members of the 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 Bristol. The Council will invite the signatory organisations to review the operation of this Community Covenant at least annually. In order to support the annual review of the operation of this Covenant by signatory organisations, an Action Plan will be developed, based on the priorities outlined in Section 3. This Action Plan will inform the annual review and will enable progress to be measured and reported in a tangible manner.

For Bristol 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.

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.

Aims of the Community Covenant

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

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.

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.

Our Commitments

We will:

- 1. Improve access to community services to the serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families**
 - Ensure that serving and former members of the armed forces and their families can access information about local community services and that public facing systems recognise the armed forces community.
 - Establish armed forces champions in housing, education and in other key sectors and organisations who will work within the terms of the covenant to promote and support smooth and appropriate access to services and support.
 - Work with the local NHS to make sure that service families and dependants can register with a GP and that patient records follow in a timely manner.
 - Work with the local NHS to establish local protocols for serving armed forces personnel and their families who have been referred for specialist treatment.

- 2. Raise awareness of the armed forces community covenant in Bristol.**
 - Work with Armed Forces partners to develop publicity material and a communication plan to raise awareness of the community covenant.
 - Ensure all schools, particularly those close to family quarters, are aware of the schools premium and how to access this.
 - To promote the Corporate Covenant through local procurement and contracts.

- 3. Ensure that the contribution of service men and women and their families is recognised, celebrated and supported by employers in Bristol.**
 - Work the Regional Employer Engagement Board to identify and promote opportunities for the partners of service men and women within the workforce.
 - Identify current and support future reservists within the workforce and to support time off for training and active service.
 - Identify and provide appropriate support for ex- service men and women and their families in the workplace recognising the particular mental, emotional and physical stresses which can impact many years after returning to civilian life.

- 4. Promote and encourage applications for funding from the Armed Forces Covenant Community Grants Fund in Bristol.**
 - Invite applications from all parts of the community throughout the year which promote integration between the civilian and armed forces communities.

- 5. Engage the Armed Forces in local public events**
 - Bristol City Council and other co signatories will work with the Armed Forces to support an annual Armed Forces Day to acknowledge and thank the armed forces family for their sacrifice and duty.
 - The City Council will involve Cadets in local functions and civic events

The Armed Forces Community Covenant for Bristol

This Armed Forces Community Covenant is made between

Bristol City Council

Bristol Clinical Commissioning Group

Local NHS Organisations

Representatives of the Charitable and Voluntary Sectors

The Bristol Business Community

Other Members of the Civilian Community in Bristol

And

the serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working
and/or residing in the city of Bristol

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

Bristol City Council, George Ferguson Mayor

Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant, Mrs M Prior MBE JP

Lord Mayor of Bristol, Cllr Alastair Watson

Leader of the Labour Group

Leader of Liberal Democrat Group

Leader of Conservative Group

Leader of the Green Group

Bristol Clinical Commissioning Group
Dr Martin Jones, Chair

University Hospital Bristol
Robert Woolley, Chief Executive

Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health
Partnership
Iain Tulley, Chief Executive

NHS England
Anthony Farnsworth, LAT Director

Bristol Community Health
Julia Clarke, Chief Executive

North Bristol NHS Trust
Andrea Young, Chief Executive

Bristol Chamber of Commerce, James Durie Executive Director

VOSCUR

Wendy Stephenson, Chief Executive

The Care Forum

Rachel Robinson, Chief Executive

On behalf of the Royal Navy
Commodore A J G Miller CBE,
Naval Regional Commander Wales and Western England

On behalf of the Army
Brigadier Piers Hankinson MBE,
Commander 43 (Wessex) Brigade

On behalf of the Royal Air Force
Air Commodore Neville Parton BSc MA MDA MPhil PhD CEng FRAeS RAF
Head Customer Support Team (Air), Defence Equipment and Support

On behalf of all service Charities
David Lowe, Royal British Legion

The Bristol Armed Forces Community Covenant will be implemented and monitored by a local steering group supported by the involvement of a wider reference group and in collaboration with the local armed forces community.

The contact point for the Bristol Armed Forces Community Covenant is:

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The Contact details for the national community covenant Team are:

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