



Community Covenant

AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

BETWEEN

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
CHARITABLE AND VOLUNTARY SECTORS,
THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY OF DENBIGHSHIRE

AND

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN DENBIGHSHIRE

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

Signed:

Signed:

Name:

Name:

Position Held:

Position Held:

Signed on behalf of the Armed Forces Community

Signed on behalf of Denbighshire County Council

Date:

Signed:

Name

Position Held:

Signed on behalf of Armed Forces Charities

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 Denbighshire

And

Denbighshire County Council

And

The Charitable and Voluntary Sector

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 Denbighshire 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 Denbighshire

2.3 For Denbighshire County 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.

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 Specific Measures to be taken in ensuring Denbighshire supports the Armed Services in a tangible way.

- ❖ Denbighshire County Council will offer Council Tax discount to Forces personnel who have second homes in Denbighshire but live in MOD accommodation.
- ❖ Families of UK Service personnel and other Crown Servants are subject to frequent movement within the UK and from abroad, often at relatively short notice. Denbighshire will ensure that the needs of the children of these families are taken into account and School places will be allocated to children and their families in advance of the approaching school year if accompanied by an official Ministry of Defence (MOD) or Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) letter declaring a return date.
- ❖ Service personnel who are registered to vote in Denbighshire and have a postal vote with a BPFO address will be given priority at any given election and sent en masse to the Electoral Services Department at Rushmoor Borough Council in Hampshire coordinator for all local authorities in the UK.
- ❖ Serving Armed Forces personnel will be offered discounted entry to Council operated Leisure Centres and its facilities.
- ❖ Veterans, single persons and/or families are already priority on discharge from the forces in line with the Homelessness Act 2002. Denbighshire's Homelessness services will prioritise decisions on ALL veterans, including those injured/disabled/NFA (No fixed abode), or disadvantaged due to relationship breakdown or inability to sustain a tenancy, or on release from hospital, or with vulnerability e.g. mental health and enhance the service by proactively trawling local estate agents to identify a suitable property.
- ❖ Denbighshire will offer proactive housing advice and assistance with prevention deposits/bond etc payable to facilitate uptake of accommodation. We will offer support to include financial inclusion - assistance with energy efficiency, budgeting, sourcing furniture, credit union, access to training and employment through the enhanced housing options protocol.
- ❖ Denbighshire's new Allocations policy gives highest medical points for injured/disabled veterans, therefore promoting access to suitable and affordable accommodation for veterans and their families.

- ❖ Service personnel and veterans will receive priority for 'Homebuy', dependant on their individual financial circumstances and lenders borrowing rules.
- ❖ Denbighshire County Council's Partnerships and Communities Team will be the designated liaison officers with the Armed Services and the community in meeting the aims of the Covenant.
- ❖ The Council will regularly review its services in relation to the Covenant and implement improved delivery of services to the Armed Services community.

CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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Charities

Contact Name:
Title:
Telephone:
Address:

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.