



# **Community Covenant**

## **AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT**

BETWEEN

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
CHARITABLE AND VOLUNTARY SECTORS  
THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY OF WINCHESTER

AND

THE ARMED FORCES  
COMMUNITY IN WINCHESTER DISTRICT

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

## Signatories

---

Councillor Ernest Jeffs  
The Right Worshipful Mayor of Winchester  
**Signed on behalf of Winchester City  
Council**



Brigadier Allan McLeod  
Commander Winchester Garrison  
**Signed on behalf of the Armed Forces  
Community**



Mr Bill Bates MBE  
County Chairman, Royal British Legion  
Hampshire  
**Signed on behalf of the Service  
Charities**



Colonel (Retired) Stephen J Oxlade MBE  
Chief Executive Reserve Forces and  
Cadets Association  
**Signed on behalf of the Reservists and  
Cadets**



## **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 Winchester District (hereafter known as the Armed Forces Community)

And

Winchester City 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 Winchester District and to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by members of this Armed Forces Community, particularly those who have given the most. This includes serving members of the Armed Forces, Veterans, their families and widow(er)s in Winchester District.

2.3 For Winchester 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 and an opportunity to build upon existing good work such as the Welfare Pathway. It covers amongst other areas, access to healthcare, education and housing, whilst serving, through transition to and life after service.

2.4 The Community Covenant encourages the Armed Forces Community to integrate with the civilian community, to understand their rights and obligations, and seeks to promote close collaboration between the Armed Forces and local communities at all levels within the Winchester District.

2.5 The Council recognises the important role played by the charitable and voluntary sector, especially the Armed Forces charities, in ensuring that practical care, advice and support is available to the Armed Forces Community. Of particular importance is signposting members of the Armed Forces Community towards the services available through local authorities; there should be no disadvantage in access to services or in dealings with wider society as a result of an individual's military service.

## **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. It also complements the Hampshire Armed Forces Community Covenant and aims to add weight to bids to the Hampshire Armed Forces Community Covenant Panel relating to activity within Winchester District.

3.2 This Covenant aims to encourage all parties within the Winchester District to offer support to the local Armed Forces Community and ensure the Armed Forces Community has access to all the help and support available from the MOD, statutory providers and the Charitable and Voluntary Sectors. These organisations already work together in partnership at local level.

3.3 The Covenant is a two-way arrangement and the Armed Forces Community is encouraged to do as much as it can to support their community and promote activity which integrates the Service Community into civilian life. It acknowledges that the Armed Forces Community already provides support to the local community in a number of areas, whilst encouraging further close cooperation.

3.4 Recognising the valuable role undertaken by Reservists in the Armed Forces, Winchester City Council undertakes to support staff members who volunteer to serve as Reservists in the Armed Forces.

## SECTION 4: OUTCOMES

4.1 As part of this Covenant, all parties are encouraged to work together to deliver six key outcomes, which help integrate the Armed Forces Community in Winchester.

<b>01</b>	<b>Education and Young People</b>
	Work in partnership to build and develop further work and relationships to improve outcomes for children and young people of serving families/veterans in Winchester, including those with additional needs.
<b>02</b>	<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>
	Work in partnership to build and develop further work, services and relationships focused on promoting the health, safety and wellbeing of the Armed Forces community, including: access to benefits and health services; focus on mental health and wellbeing, and building a sense of belonging for families locally.
<b>03</b>	<b>Environment and Infrastructure</b>
	Work in partnership to deliver better support to the Armed Forces Community and reduce homelessness amongst veterans and families through improved information and advice on housing options, and access to facilities.
<b>04</b>	<b>Safer and Stronger Communities</b>
	Maximise opportunities to integrate civilian and Armed Forces communities and create opportunities for Armed Forces' representatives to become part of the Local Authority and Community Planning Partnership Structures, including emergency planning, neighbourhood planning and developing local services, including transport.
<b>05</b>	<b>Recognise and Remember</b>
	Support the needs of the Armed Forces Community during Operational deployments and on transition/becoming a veteran, including support for injured and disabled personnel, and celebrate the role played by the Armed Forces Community.
<b>06</b>	<b>Economy and Skills</b>
	Identify measures to support ex and transitioning Service personnel and Service families to achieve positive employment outcomes.

4.2 Agreed measures in support of these outcomes will be detailed in the Community Covenant Action Plan, which will be reviewed quarterly by a Civil-Military Partnership Steering Group (CMPSG). The CMPSG will co-ordinate and direct implementation of mutual support between Winchester City Council and The Armed Forces Community and report bi-annually to the Chief Executive of Winchester City Council and Commander Winchester Garrison in relation to achievement of the outcomes. The CMPSG will comprise representatives from Winchester City Council, the Armed Forces Community and Winchester's wider community, the Charitable and Third Sectors.

## CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### MOD DCDS (Pers&Trg) Covenant Team

Contact Name: covenant-mailbox@mod.uk  
Telephone: 020 7218 9110  
Address: DCDS (Pers) Covenant Team  
Zone D, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Ministry of Defence  
Main Building  
Whitehall,  
London SW1A 2HB

### In-Service representative(s) and Service Charities

Contact Name: Brigadier A McLeod  
Title: Commander Winchester Garrison  
Telephone: 01252 833530  
Address: HQ DCLPA  
Princess Royal Barracks  
Deepcut  
Camberley  
Surrey GU16 6RW

Contact Name: Group Captain P E O'Neill RAF  
Title: Commandant DSPA Worthy Down  
Telephone: 01962 887686  
Address: HQ DSPA  
Worthy Down  
Winchester  
Hampshire SO21 2RG

Contact Name: Lieutenant Colonel M S Lawson MBE  
Title: Deputy Garrison Commander, Winchester  
Telephone: 01962 887295  
Address: Training Support Unit  
Worthy Down  
Winchester  
Hampshire SO21 2RG

Contact Name: Mr B Bates MBE  
Title: County Chairman Royal British Legion Hampshire  
Telephone: 02380 620900  
Address: Northwood House  
117 Leigh Road  
Eastleigh  
Hampshire SO50 9DS

### Winchester City Council and Partners

Contact Name: Mr S Lincoln  
Title: Community Planning Manager  
Telephone: 01962 848110  
Address: City Offices  
Colebrook Street  
Winchester SO23 9LJ

# **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.