

Community Covenant

AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

BETWEEN

LONDON BOROUGH OF WANDSWORTH, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HEALTH, CHARITABLE AND VOLUNTARY SECTORS, THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY OF WANDSWORTH

AND

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY OF LONDON

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 Wandsworth

and

Wandsworth Borough Council

and

the Health, Charitable and Voluntary Sectors

and

other members of the civilian community

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 London and to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by members of this Armed Forces Community, particularly those who have given the most. This includes Pre-Service, Serving and ex-Service personnel, their families and widow(er)s in London.
- 2.3 For Wandsworth Borough Council and its 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 to 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 Sectors. 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 is encouraged to do as much as it can to support the local community and to promote activity which integrates the Service community into civilian life.

SECTION 4: Measures

- 4.1 The London Armed Forces Community Covenant seeks civic support in the following broad areas: adult support to cadet forces; enabling recruitment; allowing work and training; housing; school transition for service children; medical and welfare pathways; veterans; local security; post operational home-coming parades; and support to reservists.
- 4.2 The London Armed Forces Community Covenant suggests military support in the following areas: aid in civil emergencies as permitted by legislation; periodic access to our estate and its facilities; representation at celebrations, commemorations and parades; single Service Presentation teams; and sharing with partner organisations such as uniformed youth, veterans and the third sector.
- 4.3 It is acknowledged that support in all directions will have periodic resource constraints.

CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

MOD DCDS (Pers&Trg) Covenant Team

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Title:

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(Elected Member) Armed Forces Champion

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^{*}The military point of contact name/appointment may rotate every 2 years in accordance with military posting requirements.

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

An Enduring Covenant Between:

- 1. the People of the United Kingdom;
- 2. Her Majesty's Government;
- 3. all those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces of the Crown;
- 4. 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, 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.

Dated: 30th June 2012

Signatories

Signed:

Name: Councillor Adrian Knowles

Mayor of Wandsworth

Signed on behalf of the Mayor and Burgesses of the London Borough of Wandsworth

Signed:

Name: Brigadier Matthew Lowe MBE

Deputy Commander London District

Signed on behalf of the Armed Forces
Community of London

Signed:

Name: Colonel Hugh Purcell

Chief Executive RFCA

Signed on behalf of the Reserve Forces and Cadet Community

Signed:

Name: Mr Jon Goodhand

Regional Director, DC Leisure Management

Ltd

Signed on behalf of the Business and Commercial Sector

Signed:

Name: Mr Chris Wyatt

Chairman, Wandsworth Chamber of Commerce

Signed on behalf of the Business and Commercial Sector

Signed:

Name: Mr Paul Martin

Chief Executive

Signed on behalf of The London Borough of Wandsworth

Signed:

Name: Commodore Martin Atherton RN

Naval Regional Commander (SE England)

Signed on behalf of the Royal Navy

Signed

Name: Mr Miles Scott

Chief Executive, St George's Healthcare

NHS Trust

Signed on behalf of the Health Sector

Signed:

Name: Mr John Mason

Chairman, Putney Branch, Royal British

Legion

Signed on behalf of the Business and Commercial Sector

Signed:

Name: Air Commodore David Prowse OBE Directorate of Media and Communications, Ministry of Defence Signed on behalf of the Royal Air Force