The Armed Forces Corporate Covenant

Ashfield Homes Ltd

We, the undersigned, commit to honour the Armed Forces Covenant and support the Armed Forces Community. We recognise the value Serving Personnel, Regular and Reservists, Veterans and military families contribute to our business and our country.

Signed on behalf of Ashfield Homes Ltd

Signed:  

Name: Steven Houlding

Position Held: Managing Director

Date: May 2015

Ministry of Defence
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.
Section 1: Principles of the Armed Forces Corporate Covenant

1.1 We Ashfield Homes Ltd will endeavour in our business dealings to uphold the key principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, which are:

- no member of the Armed Forces Community should face disadvantage in the provision of public and commercial services compared to any other citizen
- in some circumstances special treatment may be appropriate especially for the injured or bereaved.

Section 2: Demonstrating our Commitment

2.1 Ashfield Homes Ltd recognises the value serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families bring to our business. We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, by:

- Promoting the fact that we are an armed forces-friendly organisation;
- Seeking to support the employment of veterans young and old;
- Striving to support the employment of Service spouses and partners;
- Endeavouring to offer a degree of flexibility in granting leave for Service spouses and partners before, during and after a partner’s deployment;
- Seeking to support our employees who choose to be members of the Reserve forces, including by accommodating their training and deployment where possible;

2.2 Ashfield Homes Ltd will publicise these commitments through our literature and/or on our website, setting out how we will seek to honour Armed Forces personnel and inviting feedback from the Service community and our customers on how we are doing.

- Ashfield Homes Ltd will publicise itself as an armed forces-friendly organisation that will assist where reasonably possibly, current and former regular Armed Forces personnel both in employment and in need of housing.
- Prioritise Housing Applications for those in housing need received from:
  - current and former regular Armed Forces personnel, bereaved partners of Armed Forces Personnel and/or
  - existing or former members of the reserve forces, who are suffering from serious injury, illness or disability, which is wholly or partly attributable to their service
- Ashfield Homes Ltd. recognises its obligations regarding the mobilisation of any employees who are volunteer members of the Non-Regular Forces and will support, wherever possible, the departure of, and the re-integration of the employee into the workforce. Where required and appropriate Ashfield Homes Ltd will make reasonable adaptation/adjustments for returning employees affected by injury, disability or illness.

- Ashfield Homes Ltd endorses the principle that volunteer members of the Non-Regular Forces who attend summer camp may be granted additional paid leave subject to the relevant legislative requirements.