



**ARMED FORCES
COVENANT**

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

Isle of Wight NHS Trust

Signed:

Position: *RESOURCE MGR*

Date: 12 November 2019

The Ministry of Defence

Signed:

Name: *Jon Lowe Lt. Col*

Position: *CO 6 REGT AAC*

Date: 12 November 2019

NHS
Isle of Wight
NHS Trust



**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 Covenant

1.1 We the Isle of Wight NHS Trust 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 The Isle of Wight NHS Trust 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;*
- *Encourage all business clients to actively support the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant.*
- *Publicising on the Trust website*
- *Display the Armed Forces Covenant logo to show that members of the Armed Forces community are welcome customers*
- *Displaying the Bronze Award Certificate and aiming for the Silver Award Certificate*
- *Support drop in sessions for our Armed Forces Community*
- *Maintain an active Armed Force network within the Trust and link in with the local Armed Forces networks & other Trusts to ensure we collaborate fully.*
- *Seek to support the employment of veterans young and old*
- *By working in partnership with CTP to support and employ veterans who are leaving the Armed Forces*
- *Registered with CTP Right Jobs so as to publish and advertise IOW NHS Trust jobs*
- *Recognise military skills and qualifications when interviewing for Trust vacancies*
- *Include Armed Forces information to all new staff attending Trust induction, as a way to raise awareness of the opportunities of employment with our Trust*
- *Offer placement opportunities where appropriate to work with the Trust as part of their personal development. Look sympathetically on requests for holidays before, during or after a partner's overseas deployment, when the service person has leave to spend time with their family*
- *Consider whether special paid leave is appropriate for employees who are bereaved or whose loved ones are injured*
- *Give special consideration to Career breaks.*

- *Seeking to support our employees who choose to be members of the Reserve forces, by accommodating their training and deployment where possible and applying policies to accommodate requests relating to the training and deployment where possible, by offering two weeks (10 days) paid leave to attend annual camp being granted at the Managers discretion*
- *Accommodate additional short periods of training with unpaid leave at the discretion of the line manager and maintaining the policies which support any such requests.*
- *Work with Defence Relationship Management to build an open and supportive relationship which encompasses management of absence due to operational reasons.*
- *To focus on recruitment effort through the Armed Forces Community*
- *The Trust will offer support to our local cadet units, either in our local community or in local schools, where possible*
- *The Trust will aim to actively participate in Armed Forces Day by following Armed Forces Day through social media. The Employer Recognition Scheme has been awarded a Bronze Award and we would like to upgrade that to a Silver status through agreed actions. We will publicise these commitments through our website and by participating in various publicity events to promote Armed Forces Reserves. We will work in partnership with other local organisations and we will endeavour to work closely with other local Health Foundation Trusts, CCGs and voluntary organisations who are also working with Armed Forces.*
- *We will also support ex-service personnel through honorary contracts to complete their practice hours*
- *Support Regular and/or Reserve personnel through honorary contracts to complete courses and their practice hours where needed*
- *Offer an enquiry telephone number for the armed forces community where they can speak to a member of staff with in-depth knowledge of the armed forces and the protocols that exist.*
- *Seeking to support the employment of veterans by:*
 - *Advertising external vacancies through the Career Transition Partnership.*
 - *Participating in forces resettlement events.*
- *Endeavouring to offer a degree of flexibility in granting leave for service spouses and partners before and after a partner's deployment.*
- *Encouraging support for military charities with fundraising and support.*
- *Offering support to wounded sick and injured service personnel looking to make a Career Transition into civilian employment.*

2.2 We will publicise these commitments through our literature and on our website, setting out how we will seek to honour them and inviting feedback from the Service community and our customers on how we are doing.