



## Veterans' Community Network

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**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.**

Signed on behalf of:  
Veterans' Community Network

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: Service Director \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 4 May 2020 \_\_\_\_\_



# 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 at Veterans' Community Network 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 Veterans' Community Network 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 through providing monthly drop-in Hubs where veterans, reservists and their families can meet to socialise and access advice, information and guidance from our partners including Military Charities, Mental Health, Housing, Drug and Alcohol, and Advocacy Services;*
- *aiming to actively participate in Armed Forces Day through attending organised events and raising awareness of the issues facing veterans, reservists and their families;*
- *Through veteran peer mentoring, support veterans, reservists and family members engage with and remain engaged with treatment and other support agencies so that they can improve their mental health and wellbeing;*
- *Through veteran peer mentoring, support veterans who are experiencing social isolation by offering regular telephone support and face to face contact*
- *Through veteran peer mentoring and community engagement, support homeless veterans into accommodation and resettlement by offering access to free community donations of essential household items, furnishing and food*

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.