



East London Foundation Mental Health NHS Trust

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:

East London NHS Trust

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be a stylized name.

Position: Chief Medical Officer

Date: 3rd June 2021

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. We at East London NHS Trust will endeavour in all our business dealings within our organisation and with all our stakeholders and partners 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. We recognise the value serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families bring to our business and to our country. We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, by:

- **Promoting the Armed Forces:** promoting the fact that we are an Armed Forces-friendly organisation, to our staff, service users and their families, partner organisations and the wider community. Ensuring that all our staff are aware of our commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant and have access to appropriate resources and information to enable them to provide the best quality interventions possible. This includes a dedicated webpage, training sessions and focus groups.
- **The Veterans Alliance:** to continue to facilitate a regular co-produced forum for our local Armed Forces Community, ELFT Staff and our partners to share information, good practice, resources and to identify gaps in resources that require addressing.
- **Veterans:** supporting the employment of veterans, recognising military skills and qualifications in our recruitment and selection process; working with the Career Transition Partnership (CTP) to support the employment of Service leavers; Ensuring that the employment of Veterans and their families is supported across the organisation as part of the wider Recruitment Strategy.
- **Valuing the Voice of the Armed Forces Community :** ensuring all the work undertaken via both the Trust Veterans Alliance Forum and Veterans Triple Aim Programme is co-produced from the very beginning and throughout by providing both employment and training opportunities for our Veterans Champions.
- **Ensuring that Veterans and their families receive the best quality care:** to ensure Veterans and their families receive timely evidence based clinical care from both East London NHS Trust and specialist services via Operation Courage.
- **Reserves:** supporting our employees who are members of the Reserve Forces; granting additional paid/unpaid leave for annual Reserve Forces training; supporting any mobilisations and deployment; actively encouraging members of staff to become Reservists;
- **National Events:** supporting Armed Forces Day, Reserves Day, the Poppy Appeal Day and Remembrance activities.