



Department  
of Health

# Armed Forces Community Covenant Conference

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DH – Leading the nation's health and care

# Armed Forces Community

**Serving personnel** - approx. 120,000 personnel – with planned reduction to circa 80,000 by 2020

**Veterans** - approx. 2.8m in the UK of which approx. 2m in England



**Reservists** – approx. 15,000 with planned increase to 30,000 by 2020

**Families** of serving personnel, reservists and veterans – approx. 20,000 family members registered with Defence Medical Services

**Overseas** – over 30,000 serving and dependents in Germany, all due to return to the UK over the coming 2-3 years and over 10,000 in other postings

# Armed Forces Community



Primary care for serving personnel, reservists (when mobilised) and families registered with Defence Medical Services is provided by the MoD



Secondary care for this cohort is provided by the NHS and commissioned by NHS England

Primary and secondary care for reservists (when not mobilised), families and veterans is the responsibility of the NHS and commissioned by CCGs

# Armed Forces Covenant: Key Principles

*“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.”*



# Armed Forces Covenant: Key Principles



- No disadvantage in the provision and continuity of public services
- Minimise the social and economic impact of military life
- Positive measures to enable equality of outcome
- Special treatment for the injured & bereaved as a proper return for sacrifice



# NHS Constitution and Mandate

*'As part of this the NHS will ensure that in line with the Armed Forces Covenant, those in the Armed Forces Community are not disadvantaged in accessing health services in the area they reside.'*

[extract from consultation document]



*NHS England's objective is to make partnership a success. This includes, in particular, demonstrating progress against the Government's priorities of: upholding the Government's obligations under the Armed Forces Covenant;*

[extract from NHS England Mandate]



# The health & care system from April 2013

The changes set up a system of DH stewardship, with organisations responsible for:

- Regulation and safeguarding;
- National organisations such as PHE NHS England and HEE
- Organisations dealing with local issues in commissioning, education etc; and,
- Those responsible for delivery

