



Shropshire - Armed Forces Covenant



Shropshire overview



- Approximately 5,000 veterans in county of Shropshire.
- 2,828 military personnel in Shropshire which equates to just under 2% of UK armed forces population.
- Over 2% of Shropshire residents are active in the forces. We estimate 5-10% of our county population have a connection to someone in the forces.



Housing – What are the challenges in Shropshire?

- Single service leavers exiting the Forces with little money for private rented housing or mortgage.
- Mainly Army service leavers requiring support, however occasionally ex-RAF personnel also need social housing.
- Service leavers leaving the forces with no ‘local connection’ having only worked in the county.
- Service leavers leaving the forces who are disabled or require adaptations.
- Ex-spouses of military personnel needing housing having split from spouse
- High volume of demand for social housing



Shropshire: Rising to the challenge

- Allocations for social housing - Should ex-service member require social housing (i.e. non private), Shropshire Council will give additional preference (gold banding) to those who have served and **have a local connection.**
- Shropshire Council accept a 'local connection' for Forces personnel to mean having worked/lived in the county for their job in the Forces.
- Up to 5% of all Shropshire housing stock across the county is to be allocated for ex-service personnel who have a local connection to Shropshire.
- 'Shropshire HomePoint' wizard is to be made more accessible for those with a Forces connection, which will enable greater access to social housing.



Shropshire: Rising to the challenge

- Shropshire Homepoint is being advertised to military bases locally to ensure Service personnel who are to be discharged within 6 months start the social housing application process as early as possible.
- Shropshire Council to undertake work with private sector landlords and the charity 'Shrewsbury Homes for all' to identify issues preventing ex-forces personnel access to privately rented property.
- Local Housing associations 'Sevenside Housing' & 'Shropshire Housing Group' have signed the 'Corporate Covenant' to offer additional support to their tenants who are ex-service personnel.



The Numbers: Shropshire

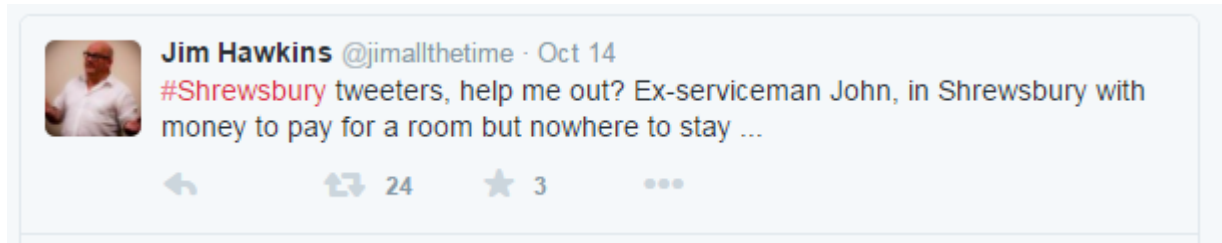
59 ex-service personnel (or those mid-way through transition) have been provided with social housing since April 2014 until present day.

All 59 were given additional preference given their Service for their country.

There are currently 235 applications on the housing register from those with a Forces connection, with an additional 7,315 applicants on the register with a non-military background.



More can still be done!



Shropshire Council is committed in continuing to work with homeless charities and service charities to identify those at most risk. Updating working practices to ensure we don't see issues like the above!

The future.....

In 2016 having worked with the AFF, Shropshire Council will recognise separating military couples applying to the Shropshire Housing Register (Shropshire Homepoint). Under the spirit of the Covenant the local authority aims to provide the non-military spouse with the same level of preference as an ex-service person.



Shropshire Armed Forces Covenant Survey 2015

<http://new.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/>

"Redressing the disadvantages that the armed forces community may face"



Shropshire Armed Forces Covenant Survey 2015

<http://new.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/>



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