



Ministry
of Defence

The Armed Forces Community Covenant Next Steps

The Armed Forces Covenant Conference



Armed Forces
Covenant

Armed Forces Covenant Team

Armed Forces Community Covenant

Our Aim

Embed and sustain activity, through the Community Covenant, to ensure that members of the Armed Forces Community receive the support they need in their local communities.



Armed Forces Community Covenant

- Good record of achievement
- Top Government support for the Covenant Initiative
- 100% sign up of Local Authorities at District/Borough level and above
- The final year of Community Covenant Grant Scheme and introduction of the Armed Forces Covenant Grant Scheme (£10M per annum) in 2015
- Re-basing



Community Covenant - Challenges

How do we ensure all Local Partnerships can share and maintain good practice?

- TRBL's Best Practice Guide examples of good work but not consistent take up across Local Authorities
- How do we share best practice
- Help local partnerships to establish not only how to support AF Community but the best way to do it



Community Covenant - Challenges

- **How do we maintain regular engagement between Local Authorities, Armed Forces and Local Partnerships?**
 - CGS coming to an end
 - Re-configuration of existing meetings or forums
 - Funding for Family Federations Regional co-ordinators ending April



Community Covenant - Challenges

- **How do we ensure Local Partnerships can remain focused on addressing Community Covenant issues?**
 - Resourcing pressures adding to challenge of delivering Covenant
 - Drawdown from Afghanistan and risk that public awareness of Armed Forces issues decreases among public
 - Drawdown from Germany – increasing pressure on public services
 - Awareness of Covenant in LAs often isolated individual points of contact



Community Covenant - Challenges

- **How do we manage the Armed Forces Communities expectation of the Covenant?**
 - Differences in application of policy (council tax)
 - Further devolution of powers to UK countries and regions
 - Communication challenge
 - Expectation management



Community Covenant Next Steps

What have we been doing....

- **Open Policy-Making and Consultation – Next Steps.**
- **Letter from Minister (DPWV) to all Local Authorities.**
- **Organised National Regional Conferences.**
- **Re-establishing our Covenant Newsletter.**
- **Investigating through our Internal Delivery Group how we can better inform our people.**



Community Covenant Next Steps

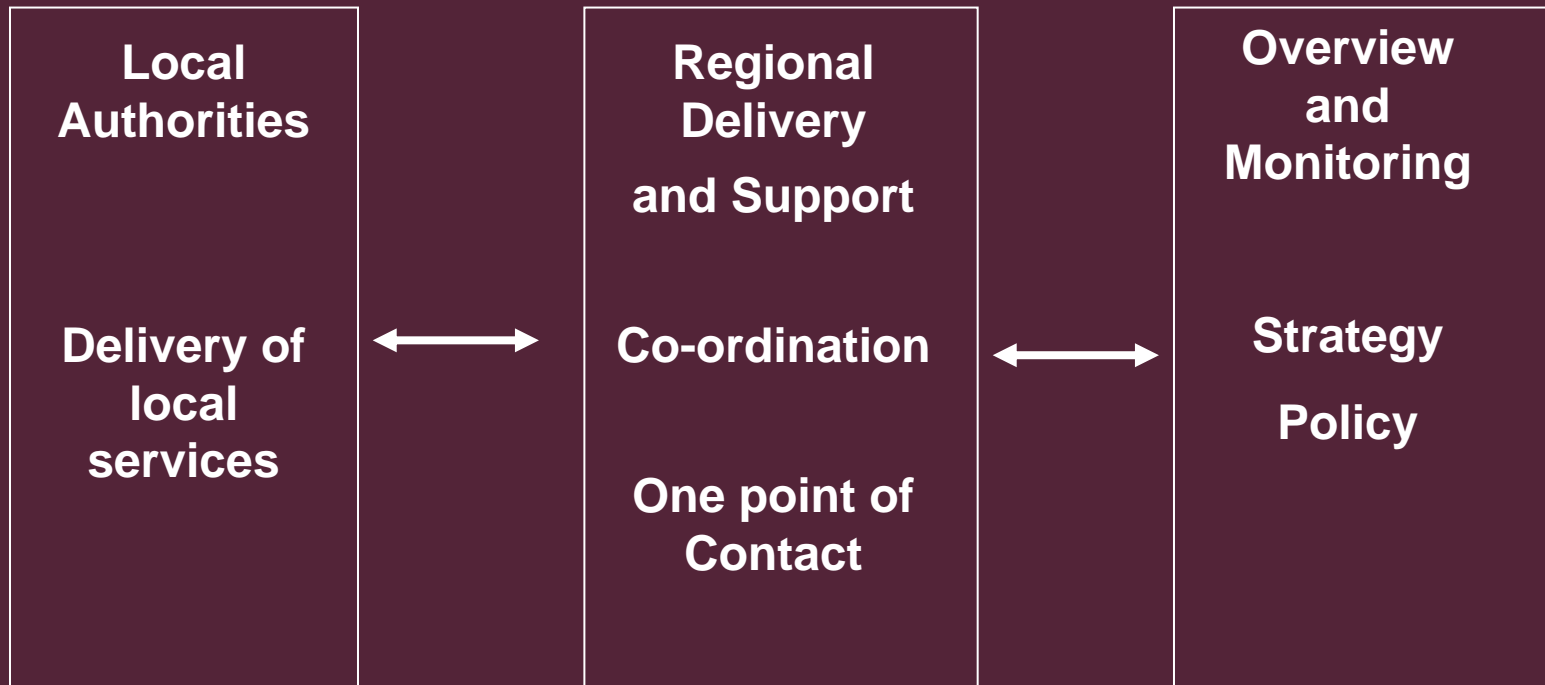
COMMENTS INCLUDE:

- **CCGS an invaluable tool in taking forward Covenant work.**
- **LAs should publish Action Plans.**
- **Inform LA and Service providers of the what the Armed Forces community require.**
- **Continuing to raise awareness of examples of good practice nationally.**
- **local authorities are under heavy financial pressure and are increasingly having to focus on maintaining core services.**
- **Paper takes little account of the excellent work that is already harnessed in some regions.**



Armed Forces Community Covenant

■ Delivery Process



The Covenant Team

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