



An Armed Forces Covenant

Between

LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL; DISTRICT, BOROUGH, TOWN &
PARISH COUNCILS; NHS; VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND
CHARITABLE SECTOR;
THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY OF LINCOLNSHIRE


and

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN LINCOLNSHIRE
(Serving personnel, both regular and reservist, veterans and military families)


**We, the undersigned, agree to work and act together to honour
the Armed Forces Covenant.**

Signatories


Signed on behalf of the Armed Forces
Community

Signed: 
Name: PSM SQUIRES
Position Held: COMMANDANT
RAF COLLEGE CRANWELL
Date: 20 SEP 17


Signed on behalf of Lincolnshire County
Council

Signed: 
Name: SUE WOOLLEY
Position Held: EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR
Date: 20 SEPT 17


Signed on behalf of Armed Forces Charities

Signed: 
Name: SIMON ERSKINE CRUM
Position Held: PRESIDENT
Date: 20 SEPT 17


Signed on behalf of the Voluntary, Community
and Charitable Sector

Signed: 
Name: KAREN PARSONS
Position Held: CHAIR - INVOLVING
LINES
Date: 20 SEPT 17


Signed on behalf of the Business
and Commercial Sector

Signed: 
Name: DAVID DEXTER
Position Held: DEPUTY CHAIRMAN
GLEP
Date: 20 SEPT 17


Signed on behalf of the Reserve Force

Signed: 
Name: AR FORSYTH
Position Held: COMMANDING OFFICER,
ARMY TRAINING REGIMENT
Date: 20 SEPT 17

Signed on behalf of the Lincolnshire
Partnership Foundation Trust

Signed: 
Name: PAULA JELLY
Position Held: REGIONAL LEAD
Date: 20 SEPT 17

Signed on behalf of United Lincolnshire
Hospital Trust

Signed: 
Name: DEAN FATHERS
Position Held: CHAIRMAN
Date: 20 SEPT 17

Signed on behalf of Lincolnshire Community Health Services

Signed: 

Name: ANDREW MORGAN

Position Held: CEO

Date: 20/9/17

Signed on behalf of Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG)

Signed: ^(RC)


Name: Richard Ching
Position Held: Chair Lincolnshire Joint CCG

Date: 22/9/17. Committee

Signed on behalf of Boston Borough Council

Signed: 

Name: MICHAEL COOPER

Position Held: LEADER

Date: 20 SEPT 2017

Signed on behalf of East Lindsey District Council

Signed: 

Name: GRAHAM MARSH

Position Held: DEPUTY LEADER

Date: 20 SEPT 2017

Signed on behalf of City of Lincoln Council

Signed: 

Name: R. METCALFE

Position Held: leader of the Council

Date: 20 September 2017

Signed on behalf of North Kesteven District Council

Signed: 

Name: RICHARD WRIGHT

Position Held: LEADER

Date: 20 SEPT 17

Signed on behalf of South Holland District Council

Signed: 

Name: COLIN JOHNSON

Position Held: COUNCILLOR

Date: 20 SEPT 17

Signed on behalf of South Kesteven District Council


Signed: 

Name: BOB SAMPSON

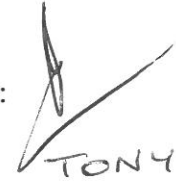
Position Held: CHAIRMAN

Date: 20 SEPT 17

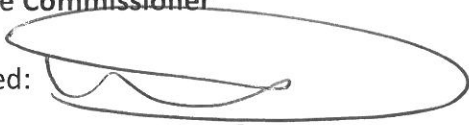
Signed on behalf of West Lindsey District Council

Signed: 
Name: Jeffrey John Summers.
Position Held: Council Leader.
Date: 20-9-2017.

Signed on behalf of Town & Parish Councils (LALC)

Signed: 
Name: TONY HOWARD
Position Held: CHAIRMAN OF LALC
Date: 20 SEPT 17

Signed on behalf of Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Signed: 
Name: Marc Jones
Position Held: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
Date: 20/9/2017

**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: PARTICIPANTS

1.1 This Armed Forces Covenant commitment is made between:

The current and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing in Lincolnshire

and

Lincolnshire County Council

and

District, Borough, Town & Parish Councils

and

NHS Services

and

The Voluntary, Community and Charitable Sector

and

The Signatories above

SECTION 2: PRINCIPLES OF THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT

2.1 This Armed Forces Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between the population of Lincolnshire and the local Armed Forces Community. This Covenant encompasses the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces, at the local level.

2.2 The Armed Forces Covenant is based upon two key principles:

- The Armed Forces Community should not face 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.

2.3 The purpose of this Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in Lincolnshire and to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by those serving members of the Armed Forces and Veterans, particularly those who have given the most. This includes serving personnel, veterans, their families and widow(er)s.

2.4 For organisations in Lincolnshire, the Covenant presents an opportunity to bring knowledge, experience and expertise to bear on the provision of help and advice to members of the Armed Forces Community.

2.5 For the Armed Forces Community, the Covenant encourages the integration of Service personnel, Veterans and their families into civilian life and to engage with their local community. Children of Armed Forces personnel – no matter the marital status of their parents – should always be considered part of this community while still dependent.

SECTION 3: OBJECTIVES AND GENERAL INTENTIONS

3.1 This Armed Forces Covenant defines the enduring, general principles that should govern the relationship between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces Community

3.2 We aim to encourage all parties within our community to offer support to the local Armed Forces Community and make it easier for serving personnel (Regular and Reservists), Veterans and their families to access the help and support available from the MoD, statutory providers, the local community and the Voluntary Sector. These organisations already work together on a Covenant Partnership Board at local level.

3.3 The Covenant is intended to be a two-way arrangement and members of the Armed Forces Community are encouraged to do as much as they can to support all aspects of their local community and promote activity which integrates serving personnel, Veterans and their families into local community life.

SECTION 4: OUTCOMES AND ACTIONS

In consultation with signatories of the Armed Forces Covenant and the Lincolnshire Armed Forces Covenant Partnership Board, a series of outcomes have been identified against which the value and progress of this Covenant can be evaluated. Each of the outcomes is intended to serve as a focus for interested groups to determine mutual action and support in delivering the Covenant. There are some additional details for the outcomes which provide a summary of specific issues and opportunities which have been highlighted, and against which actions can be taken. The outcomes will be subject to review and evaluation of achievement through the Armed Forces Covenant Partnership Action Plan. Success will be determined against agreed criteria laid out by the group leading each outcome. Work will include making best use of the National Armed Forces Covenant Fund, which offers financial support for areas of work.

Health and Wellbeing (including Mental Health and Dementia)

- Strive for equity of access to Primary and Secondary Health Care Services for dependents of Service personnel (provide a list of GPs, Dentists etc.)
- Identify ways in which the Clinical Commissioning Groups can be involved in Covenant delivery
- Work with local providers to ensure movement of personnel does not have a negative effect on referral processes, treatment and NHS waiting lists

- Recognise and work with local providers to address mental health issues that members of the Armed Forces Community may have (this includes drug abuse and alcohol dependency as a result of, or exacerbated by, their service, or external factors such as separation, divorce or bereavement, as well as the prevalence of common mental health problems such as depression and anxiety).
- Support and develop projects that encourage physical activity, and tackle obesity amongst the Armed Forces Community.
- Work with local providers to increase awareness of particular issues faced by the Armed Forces Community who are also carers.

Education

- Work with the Department of Children and Young People (DCYP) and the Local Authorities to determine the numbers and location of the children of serving personnel (regular and reservist), as well as dependent young people, to include Early Years and Children's Centres.
- Determine ways in which Pupil Premium is spent and identify and share areas of good practice.
- Work with schools and local providers to identify where Service personnel's children might require additional support to help them deal with a parent being away from home for long periods of time, often in conflict situations. Children in some Service families may be considered more vulnerable than the general population because of the pressures they face, including PTSD.
- Look at reviewing policy to enable a smooth transition for children from Forces families alleviating any issues that may be experienced finding a school place mid-term, when a serving parent has been transferred to a new area of the UK; assist when issues arise at any other time relating to finding a school place for a dependent child.

Mobility and Deployment

- Identify and share best practice regarding house purchase/rental, enabling service personnel to settle in local communities, working alongside Mortgage providers etc. particularly those who have signed the Corporate Covenant
- Ensure the Armed Forces Community works closely with Council and Private Housing Teams in support of their role of providing advice and support to households leaving the Armed Forces or being re-located within the UK.

Housing

- Maintain strong relationships between local authorities and the Armed Forces Community to ensure timely and accurate information is given and received regarding movement of service personnel and their housing needs and aspirations.
- Ensure that Local Authorities are mindful and remain aware of the particular issues faced by service personnel and their families. This includes identifying best practice in solving the most challenging of circumstances where a service family or household is settling in our region from another part of the UK or where the housing need is the result of separation or divorce within a Service family.
- Raise awareness and develop solutions to housing issues such as homelessness experienced and support systems required to prevent homelessness by Veterans.

Social Isolation and sense of community

- Promote best practice engagement in communities across Lincolnshire and including support to those coping with social isolation.
- Develop projects as identified by local communities making use of the Covenant Fund as appropriate

Transition, Employability and volunteering

- Raise awareness of the issues experienced by the Armed Forces Community, including the challenge of career change, and offer support and information of issues arising during transition into civilian life.
- Raise awareness, during transition, and offer support to get involved in volunteering and community action as a pathway to health and wellbeing, developing personal interests, helping others and increasing employability
- Ensure that injured Service persons transitioning to the civilian world are able to access supported housing or support to enable their existing home to be modified to meet their needs and that they are quickly and compassionately assessed on their level of care requirements.
- Develop a greater understanding of the variety of transferable skills and qualities that the Armed Forces Community bring to the civilian workplace and to the community as an economic asset; promote best practice of how the Armed Forces Community and the Local Enterprise Partnership can contribute to the delivery of strategic economic priorities in our local area.
- Recognising the value the Armed Forces Community bring to employers, encouraging them to:
 - Promote the fact that they are armed forces-friendly

- Support the employment of veterans (young and old), working with the Career Transition Partnership (CTP) in order to establish tailored employment pathways for Service leavers
- Support the employment of Service spouses and partners
- Endeavour to offer a degree of flexibility in granting leave for Service spouses and partners before, during and after a partner's military deployment
- Support employees who choose to be members of the Reserved forces, including by accommodating their training and deployment, where possible
- Aim to participate actively in Armed Forces Day
- Support employees who choose to be adult volunteers in the MOD sponsored cadet units

Information sharing

- Raise awareness of the Armed Forces Covenant throughout Lincolnshire and particularly to the Public Sector through development of resources and discussion
- Identify good practice within communities which promote greater visibility of the Armed Forces, their contribution and needs
- Promote the Armed Forces Covenant Fund to community groups and forces personnel

It is envisaged that the outcomes above will lead to individual action groups taking forward this work.

To achieve the above outcomes, action groups (comprising relevant partners and community representatives) will come together to ensure appropriate tasks are identified and delivered.