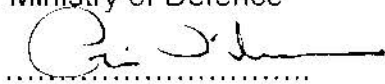


## CARE LEAVER COVENANT

Through signing this document I commit the Ministry of Defence to support the principles of the care leaver covenant, and to provide the support detailed below to help care leavers in their transition from care to independence in order to improve their life chances.

Signed on behalf of: Ministry of Defence

Signature



Name

*The Rt Hon. Gavin Williamson CBE MP*

Position

*Secretary of State for Defence*

Date

*24<sup>th</sup> October 2018*



Ministry  
of Defence

### Principles of the care leaver covenant

The Ministry of Defence supports the key principles of the care leaver covenant, which are:

- that all parts of society have a responsibility to help care leavers to avoid poor outcomes and make a successful transition to adulthood; and
- that action to support care leavers should be in their best interests, promote their health and well-being and secure the best possible outcomes for them.

### Demonstrating our commitment

The Ministry of Defence will demonstrate its commitment to the care leaver covenant through the following actions:

- participating in the care leavers internship scheme and providing civil service employment opportunities;
- offering an enhanced package of support to those joining MoD on the care leavers scheme, to include as a minimum access to mentoring and career management advice;
- seeking the views of serving personnel and civil servants who have a care background to better understand their needs and develop appropriate measures of support, recognising their vulnerability by prioritising and referencing them in policy documents;

- developing a protocol and guide for young people from care joining the Armed Services and Civil Service which details both the Local Authority and the Armed Services ongoing responsibilities, including law, policy and best practice to support care leavers;
- ensuring all staff involved in the care and training of care leavers undertake learning on what it means to be a care leaver, including the ongoing challenges. This training will be refreshed every three years;
- applying the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant to ensure care leavers joining the Armed Forces continue to receive advice and services from the responsible Local Authority in accordance with statutory guidance for care leavers;
- establishing consistent and efficient systems to gather information and data about care leavers joining, serving and leaving the Armed Services and Civil Service;
- ensuring specialist welfare services are responsive towards care leavers' individual needs and collective issues, providing access to timely specialist support; and
- ensuring that care leavers can access independent advice and support, at all times, outside the line management chain.