



Community Covenant

ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

Between

Telford & Wrekin Council, Representatives of the Public, Voluntary Sectors,
The People of Telford and Wrekin

And

The Armed Forces Community in Telford and Wrekin

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

Signatories

Brigadier G Wheeler

Commander 143 (WM) Brigade
14 December 2012

**Signed on behalf of the Armed Forces
Community**

Cllr Kuldip Sahota

Leader of the Borough of Telford and
Wrekin
14 December 2012

**Signed on behalf of Telford & Wrekin
Council**

Cllr Kevin Guy

Mayor of the Borough of Telford and
14 December 2012

**Signed on behalf of Telford & Wrekin
Council**

Mr Paul Raymond

Chief Fire Officer, Shropshire Wrekin
14 December 2012

**Signed on behalf of Shropshire Fire
and Rescue Service**

Lt Col (Rtd) Jenkins

County Chair (Shropshire) ,
Royal British Legion
14 December 2012

Signed on behalf of Royal British Legion

Mr Mick Lloyd

Director, Council for the Voluntary Service,
Telford Wrekin
14 December 2012

**Signed on behalf of the Voluntary
and Community Sector**

Major General Ward

County Chair (Shropshire),
Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families
Association
14 December 2012

Signed on behalf of SSAFA

Mr Phil Wright

Senior External Relations Manager,
Department of Work and Pensions
14 December 2012

**Signed on behalf of Department of
Work and Pensions**

Superintendent Nav Malik

Telford and Wrekin Superintendent,
West Mercia Police
14 December 2012

Signed on behalf of West Mercia Police

Dr Mike Innes

Clinical Chair
14 December 2012

**Signed on behalf of NHS Telford and
Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Group**

Mr Wayne Gethings

Managing Director,
Wrekin Housing Trust
14 December 2012

Signed on behalf of Wrekin Housing Trust

Section 1: Participants

1.1 This Armed Forces Community Covenant is made between:

The serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing in Telford and Wrekin

And

Telford and Wrekin Council

And

The Public and Voluntary Sector in Telford and Wrekin

And

The People of Telford and Wrekin

Section 2: Principles of the Armed Forces Community Covenant

- 2.1 The Armed Forces Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. It is intended to complement the Armed Forces Covenant, which outlines the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces, at the local level.
- 2.2 The purpose of this Community Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in the Borough of Telford and Wrekin and to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by members of this Armed Forces Community, particularly those who have given the most. This includes in-Service and ex-Service personnel, their families and widow(er)s in the Borough.
- 2.3 For Telford & Wrekin Council and partner organisations, the Community Covenant presents an opportunity to bring their knowledge, experience and expertise to bear on the provision of help and advice to members of the Armed Forces Community. It also presents an opportunity to build upon existing good work on other initiatives such as the Welfare Pathway.
- 2.4 For the Armed Forces Community, the Community Covenant encourages the integration of Service life into civilian life and encourages members of the Armed Forces Community to help their local community.
- 2.5 As a Cooperative Council, Telford & Wrekin Council are committed to applying the Cooperative Values of openness and honesty, ownership, fairness and respect and involvement in the delivery of this Community Covenant.

Section 3: Objectives and General Intentions

- 3.1 The Armed Forces Community Covenant complements the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant which defines the enduring, general principles that should govern the relationship between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces community
- 3.2 It aims to encourage all parties within a community to offer support to the local Armed Forces community and make it easier for Service personnel, families and veterans to access the help and support available from the Ministry of Defence, from statutory providers and from the Charitable and Voluntary Sector. These organisations already work together in partnership at a local level.
- 3.3 The scheme is intended to be a two-way arrangement and the Armed Forces Community are encouraged to do as much as they can to support their community and promote activity which integrates the Service community into civilian life.

Section 4: Measures

The Borough of Telford and Wrekin recognises that it can support in-Service and ex-Service personnel their families and widow(er)s through a range of measures that fall broadly within thematic areas;

4.1 Working together

Through the 'Telford and Wrekin Community Covenant Partnership' we will work together to deliver the commitments within this Covenant. The Partnership will comprise of the organisations who have signed the Covenant and a range of partners who can contribute towards identifying and addressing the needs of the Service community.

4.2 Access to information

Telford & Wrekin Council will ensure that information about all of its services are made available to both current and former members of the armed forces, to ensure that they are aware of how they may benefit from the services provided by the Council.

Telford & Wrekin Council will work with the organisations representing both current and former members of the armed forces, to put effective communication channels in place to ease access to Council services.

4.3 Employment

Jobcentre Plus and Department for Work and Pensions are committed to supporting ex-forces personnel in finding and securing employment on entering civilian life through a range of initiatives. We will work with members of the Community Covenant Partnership to identify opportunities where we can work together to promote and deliver these supporting initiatives.

Telford & Wrekin Council Economic Development Team will recognise and promote the skills of the Armed Forces Community during engagements with local businesses and provide support in respect of self employment and business start up.

Telford & Wrekin Council in recognition of the considerable transferable skills that those with an Armed Forces background can bring to the delivery of Council services, will commit to short-listing all former Service personnel who match the person specifications for our vacancies.

Telford & Wrekin Council will support former members of the Armed Forces to gain relevant work experience by providing work placements wherever possible.

4.4 Skills and Training

Telford & Wrekin Council Community Education Team will support any former Service personnel at their job junctions in their local community.

Telford & Wrekin Council's Adult Information and Advice Service, delivering the National Careers Service offer, will make sessions available for those with a services background looking for support with employment and skills.

4.5 Housing

Once discharged Telford & Wrekin Council's Housing Options Team will give advice and guidance on what an can do next. This advice will be tailored to individual circumstances. In certain cases the Local Authority will have a statutory duty to assist with accommodation.

The Home Improvement Agency will support ex-Service personnel and their families in the co-ordination of any adaptations they may need to their home to ensure they remain living independently.

4.6 Health and well-being

Telford & Wrekin Council's Leisure Services will improve access to and encourage use of leisure facilities by in-Service and ex-Service personnel, their families and widow(er)s.

Telford & Wrekin Council's Leisure Services will explore the extension of Health & Fitness Membership and Corporate Golf Membership to serving and former armed service personnel.

Telford & Wrekin Council's Leisure Services will offer a discounted membership of the Health & fitness facilities at Stirchley for serving members of the Territorial Army and Reserves Forces recognising the need for access to suitable, high quality physical training facilities when not on active service.

4.7 Community involvement and engagement

Telford & Wrekin Council will engage with and consult Armed Forces families on service planning, delivery and evaluation. Through high quality inclusive community

engagement the Armed Forces Community will know about how to get involved in decision making.

Telford & Wrekin Council will ensure that where relevant the needs of the Armed Forces Community are considered when developing policies and are documented to ensure equitable treatment.

Section 5: Contact Personnel and Telephone Numbers

MOD DCDS (Pers&Trg) Covenant Team

Address: DCDS (Pers) Covenant Team
Zone D, 6th Floor
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London, SW1A 2HB

Email address: covenant-mailbox@mod.uk

In-Service representative(s)

Contact Name: Sheila Stephenson
Title: Community Engagement Lead
Telephone: 01743 262450
Address: 143 (WM) Brigade
Copthorne Barracks
Shrewsbury, SY3 8LZ

Email address: 143x-hq-g9-mci-so2@mod.uk

Telford & Wrekin Council

Contact Name: Rachael Jones
Title: Community Engagement, Equalities and Priority Action Team
Manager
Telephone: 01952 382135
Address: Co-operative Council Delivery Team
Telford & Wrekin Council
Addenbrooke House
Ironmasters Way
Telford, TF3 4NT

Email address: Rachael.jones@telford.gov.uk

Voluntary Sector

Contact Name: Mick Lloyd
Title: Director,
Telford and Wrekin Council for the Voluntary and Community
Sector
Telephone: 01952 567800
Address: The Glebe Centre
Glebe Street
Wellington, TF1 1PJ

Email address: micklloyd@tandwcvcs.org.uk

The Armed Forces Covenant

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.