



AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

BETWEEN

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL, REPRESENTATIVES OF BUSINESS AND
THE CHARITABLE AND VOLUNTARY SECTORS,
THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY OF WILTSHIRE

AND

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN WILTSHIRE

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

Signatories

Signed: 

Name: Col Ed Heal OBE

Position Held: Commandant

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

Date: 9th March 2017

Signed: 

Name: Baroness Scott of Bybrook, OBE

Position Held: Leader

Signed on behalf of Wiltshire Council

Date: 9th March 2017

Signed: 

Name: Angus Macpherson

Position Held: Police and Crime
Commissioner

**Signed on behalf of the Office of
the Police and Crime Commissioner**

Date: 9th March 2017

Signed: 

Name: Dr Martin Hamer

Position Held: Chair of Community First

**Signed on behalf of the Voluntary
Sector**

Date: 9th March 2017

Signed: 

Name: Vic O'Brien

Position Held: SWLEP Board Member

**Signed on behalf of the Wiltshire
Business Community**

Date: 9th March 2017

Signed: 

Name: David Noyes

Position Held: Director

Signed on behalf of NHS Wiltshire CCG

Date: 9th March 2017

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 Wiltshire

And

Wiltshire Council and other public bodies in Wiltshire

And

The Wiltshire Business Community

And

The Charitable and Voluntary Sector

And

Other members of the civilian community

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 Wiltshire 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 Wiltshire

2.3 For Wiltshire 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.

SECTION 3: OBJECTIVES AND GENERAL INTENTIONS

Aims of the Community Covenant

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 MOD, from statutory providers and from the Charitable and Voluntary Sector. These organisations already work together in partnership at 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

4.1 Wiltshire has an established history in working closely with its Armed Forces community. Since 2007 the Military Civilian Integration (MCI) Programme has been in place delivering initiatives under the strategic leadership of the MCI Partnership. The Partnership provides the opportunity for Wiltshire Council and partners, including the Armed Forces Services, to work together proactively to co-ordinate and implement measures which benefit our communities.

4.2 The MCI Partnership was established to optimise the economic and social benefits of the military presence in the county. The programme has 7 main objectives:

- To identify and respond to the changing military 'footprint' in Wiltshire
- To ensure the council and its partners can meet the needs of military personnel, their families and veterans as changes occur
- To ensure the county remains an attractive location for our Armed Forces and long-term investment by MOD
- To capitalise on opportunities for regeneration and building sustainable communities
- To maximise the economic contribution of the military to the county
- To assist service leavers in career transition and into employment in the area, helping soldiers back into civilian society
- To encourage local communities to support for the AF through the Wiltshire Community Covenant.

See: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/army-basing-mci-partnership#sthash.9KwIQO1h>.

4.3 The MCI Partnership will continue to provide leadership, decision-making, and oversight for initiatives and measures which support our Armed Forces Community in order to evidence this Community Covenant.

CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

MOD DCDS (Pers&Trg) Covenant Team

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In-Service representative(s)

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Wiltshire Council

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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.