



**ARMED FORCES
COVENANT**

AN ARMED FORCES COVENANT

BETWEEN

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

AND

MEDWAY COUNCIL

AND

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NHS IN KENT & MEDWAY

AND

REPRESENTATIVES OF ARMED FORCES CHARITIES IN KENT & MEDWAY

AND

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN KENT & MEDWAY

03 October 2017

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



**Ministry
of Defence**

Signatories

On behalf of the Armed Forces Community in Kent & Medway:

Signed: 
Colonel Simon Browne OBE
Deputy Commander of 11BDE

Signed: 
Brigadier Matt Bazeley
Commandant of RSME

On behalf of Local Government in Kent & Medway:

Signed: 
Councillor David Brazier
Chairman of Kent County Council and
Kent & Medway Civilian Military Partnership Board


Signed: 
Councillor Howard Doe
Deputy Leader and
Armed Forces Champion at Medway Council

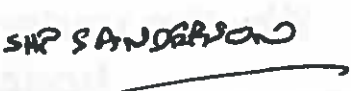
Signed: 
Councillor Richard Long, TD
Armed Forces Champion at Kent County Council

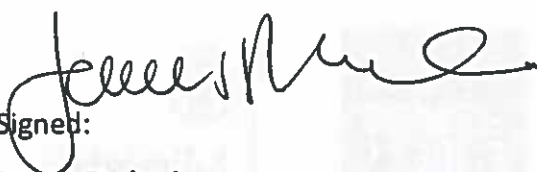
On behalf of the National Health Service in Kent & Medway:

Signed: 
Kate Parkin
Director for Armed Forces Community at NHS

On behalf of Armed Forces Charities in Kent & Medway:

Signed: 
Craig Spence
Area Manager South East at Royal British Legion

Signed: 
Simon Sanderson
Kent Chair at SSAFA

Signed: 
James Rudoni
Director of RBLI Living at RBLI

SECTION 1: PARTICIPANTS

1.1 This Armed Forces Covenant is made between:

The serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing in Kent and Medway

And

Kent County Council

And

Medway Council

And

The NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups in Kent and Medway

And

Armed Forces Charities in Kent and Medway

SECTION 2: PRINCIPLES OF THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT

2.1 The Armed Forces Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. This Covenant encompasses the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces, at a county and sub-county level.

2.1 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 Kent and Medway 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 Kent and Medway.

2.4 For Kent County Council, Medway Council and partner organisations, the Armed Forces 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.

2.5 For the Armed Forces community, the 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 Covenant

3.1 The 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 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 Kent County Council and Medway Council are committed to ensuring it meets its duties and obligations committed to in signing this Covenant, and upholds the spirit of the Covenant.

Kent & Medway Civilian Military Partnership Board oversees the Armed Forces Covenant in Kent and Medway, and works hard to ensure serving and ex-armed forces personnel can enjoy equal access to public services as the civilian community and are not disadvantaged as a result of being in the military.

The Board has sub-groups focusing on Health, Employment & Skills, Housing, Recognise & Remember, and Integration, and seeks to strengthen the relationship between the civilian and military communities and services in the county.

CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ministry of Defence Armed Forces Covenant Team

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Kent County Council Covenant Team

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Medway Council Covenant Team

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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.