



**HERTFORDSHIRE  
HEROES**



**ARMED FORCES  
COVENANT**

**HERTFORDSHIRE ARMED FORCES COVENANT  
between**

**Representatives of Local Government, the Public Sector, the Charitable and  
Voluntary Sectors,  
Businesses, the Civilian Community of Hertfordshire**

**and**

**The Armed Forces Community in Hertfordshire**

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## **SECTION 1: PARTICIPANTS**

1.1 This Armed Forces Covenant is made between:

The serving and former members of Her Majesty's Armed Forces and their families working and residing in Hertfordshire

And

Representatives of Local Government, the Public Sector, the Charitable and Voluntary Sectors, Businesses, and the Civilian Community of Hertfordshire

1.2 The original Covenant was formally launched on 8 July 2012 and reaffirmed 16 December 2021.

## **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 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 Hertfordshire 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 Hertfordshire.

2.4 For Hertfordshire County Council and partner organisations, the 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.

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 Ministry of Defence, from statutory providers and from the Charitable and Voluntary Sector. These organisations already work together in partnership at local level.
- 3.3 The Covenant 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: HERTFORDSHIRE MEASURES**

### **The Hertfordshire Armed Forces Covenant**

#### **4.1 Our Principle**

It is vital to recognise and celebrate Her Majesty's Armed Forces and all that they do for us. The sacrifice and commitment made by our Armed Forces Community means that we, as a county, should ensure that no serving or retired member of Her Majesty's Armed Forces and veterans, nor their families should be disadvantaged in accessing services as a result of serving their country and should receive fair and proper treatment in recognition of what they have done. Furthermore, special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.

#### **4.2 Developing the Covenant**

The development of Hertfordshire's Community Covenant was a countywide project and a reflection of the support of the principle behind it. On 13 December 2011 over twenty-five organisations from the public, private and charitable sectors came together to sign a pledge to develop the Community Covenant and worked together to identify ways to increase awareness of the contribution made by the Armed Forces and to deliver tangible results.

The Hertfordshire Armed Forces Covenant Board was established in 2012 and works in partnership to:

- Ensure that veterans and those in the Armed Forces are not disadvantaged in accessing services; recognising that special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those such as the injured and bereaved.

- Ensure that the sacrifices made by members of the Armed Forces Community are recognised and remembered
- Encourage the integration of service life into civilian life.

#### 4.3 Fair access to services

Often, due to the transient nature of the work that the Armed Forces do, military personnel can sometimes face hurdles when trying to integrate into everyday community life. In these areas, the Armed Forces want to be treated fairly and properly. In order to ensure that access to services is promoted:

- We will work towards ensuring that all serving or retired Armed Forces personnel have appropriate access to social housing.
- We will work towards ensuring that children from Armed Forces families are not disadvantaged when applying for school places, specifically if moving to Hertfordshire midway through an academic year.
- We will work with the NHS, GP's and others involved in healthcare, to raise awareness of specific issues facing Armed Forces personnel, their families and veterans, and the support available
- We will work to ensure a seamless transition to NHS care, promoting the specific concerns and needs of Armed Forces Personnel

#### 4.4 Celebrating and honouring the Armed Forces Community

There are very few people in Hertfordshire who so readily risk their lives to protect the country and its' residents. It is this commitment that deserves to be recognised within this Covenant and therefore, in order to celebrate and honour the Armed Forces Community:

- We will work to raise the public profile of Hertfordshire's Armed Forces, including informing the community about what it is that the Armed Forces do.
- We will develop ways to facilitate and ease the transition of those leaving the military, into the civilian community in Hertfordshire.
- We will work to improve provision of information and access to public services
- We will encourage local businesses to offer discounts for Armed Forces Personnel as a way of recognising what they have done for all of us.

#### 4.5 Encourage the integration of service life into civilian life

Thankfully, the vast majority of Armed Forces Personnel have no additional needs or requirement of state services than any other resident. However, sometimes, due to the work that they do or have done, serving or retired Armed Forces personnel need a bit of extra support. In recognition of the work they have done for all of us, in order to help them when the need arises:

- We will maintain the Hertfordshire Heroes brand and [website](#), signposting to [Herts Help](#) and other services where serving or retired personnel can find out about the financial and welfare help available to them.

- We will ensure that the advice and support is available to help Military Personnel who are re-locating to Hertfordshire, to support them in their transition from military to civilian life.
- We will seek to promote access to suitable employment and training opportunities for those leaving active service, maximising and building on their skills gained in military service.

#### 4.6 **The Armed Forces in Hertfordshire**

The Hertfordshire Covenant is intended to be a two-way arrangement between the Armed Forces Community and the civilian community of Hertfordshire. The Armed Forces Community will work with the community of Hertfordshire to:

- promote an understanding and awareness amongst the public of the Armed Forces Community, their unique role and issues affecting the Armed Forces Community.
- develop strong relationships with the local communities of Hertfordshire.
- support activities which help integrate the Armed Forces Community into local life, which will aid the civilian community to develop a better understanding of the Armed Forces.

This will be through involvement in community regeneration projects, educational activities, sporting events and other forms of engagement within the Hertfordshire community as well as participation in events such as the Hertfordshire County Show, Freedom Parades, Armed Forces Day celebrations and Remembrance Services.

Hertfordshire is not a garrisoned county but is home to the following military units:

- Northwood Headquarters
- 162 Medical Squadron
- Royal Anglian Regiment – 6 Platoon as part of 3 Company

These are supported by cadet organisations from all three Services, and organisations such as the Royal British Legion, SSAFA the Armed Forces Charity, the Royal Naval Association, the Army Benevolent Fund and the Royal Air Force Association, all of which represent the interests of Military veterans within Hertfordshire.

#### 4.7 **How we will keep this Covenant alive**

The **Hertfordshire Armed Forces Covenant Board** will meet on a six-monthly basis working in partnership to:

- Ensure that veterans and those in the Armed Forces are not disadvantaged in accessing services; recognising that special

consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those such as the injured and bereaved.

- Ensure that the sacrifices made by members of the Armed Forces Community are recognised and remembered
- Encourage the integration of service life into civilian life.
- Prepare and publish an Annual Report on the work and achievements of the Board.

## **SECTION 5: PLEDGE SIGNING**

- 5.1 Representatives from organisations across the county were invited to reaffirm their pledge to the Hertfordshire Armed Forces Covenant on 16 December 2021. Councillor Terry Douris, Executive Member, Education, Libraries & Lifelong Learning and Chairman of the Hertfordshire Armed Forces Covenant Board invited organisations to pledge to continue the work of the multi-agency partnership to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and living in Hertfordshire and to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by members of this Armed Forces Community, particularly those who have given the most.
- 5.2 Previously, on 13 December 2011, the Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, senior representatives of Her Majesty's Armed Forces, the Royal British Legion, Hertfordshire County Council, all ten of Hertfordshire's district and borough councils, NHS Hertfordshire, the Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, Job Centre Plus as well as other key representatives from the private, public, voluntary and charitable sectors assembled at County Hall in Hertford to sign a pledge to develop the Hertfordshire Community Covenant. The aim of the signing ceremony was to kick start the process of establishing the Covenant between the Armed Forces and the Hertfordshire community. Councillor Chris Hayward, Cabinet Member for Localism and Chairman of the multi-agency executive steering group charged with the developing the community covenant took the opportunity at the ceremony to comment that "This is an important way we can show our commitment to ensuring that those in the Armed Forces are not disadvantaged as a result of the vital work that they do for us."

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