



HERTFORDSHIRE
HEROES



Hertfordshire Armed Forces Covenant Board Terms of Reference

Context

The Armed Forces Covenant is a pledge that acknowledges and understands that those who serve or who have served in the armed forces, and their families, should be treated with fairness and respect in the communities, economy and society they serve with their lives.

Hertfordshire launched one of the first Armed Forces community covenants (as it was then known) in the country in July 2012.

Hertfordshire is not a garrisoned county but is home to the:

- UK's Permanent Joint Headquarters in Northwood
- 162 Medical Squadron, 254 Medical Regiment RAMC, based at the Army Reserve Centre, Hitchin
- 6 Platoon, 3 (Essex & Hertfordshire) Company, 3rd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment based at the Army Reserve Centre Hertford.

To find out more about the Armed Forces Community in Hertfordshire, please visit [the dedicated page on our website](#).

Aims

The aim of the Hertfordshire Armed Forces Covenant Board is to deliver the pledge working in partnership to ensure that those who serve and have served in the Armed Forces and their families are treated fairly.

- to ensure that veterans and those in the Armed Forces Community are not disadvantaged in accessing services; recognising that special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those such as the injured and bereaved.
- that the sacrifices made by members of the Armed Forces Community are recognised and remembered; and
- to encourage the integration of service life into civilian life.

Membership

Membership is as follows:

Broxbourne Borough Council
Dacorum Borough Council
East Herts District Council
Hertsmere Borough Council

North Herts District Council
St Albans City & District Council
Stevenage Borough Council
Three Rivers District Council

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
Watford Borough Council
Northwood Joint Headquarters
254 Medical Regiment
MOD Military Civilian Integration
Army Families Federation
RAF Families Federation
Naval Families Federation
Royal British Legion
SSAFA
Viewpoint
Ministry of Defence
East & North Herts Clinical
Commissioning Group
Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning
Group
Hertfordshire Public Health

Department for Work and Pensions
Hertfordshire Constabulary
Hertfordshire Committee of the
Reserve Forces and Cadets
Association
East Anglia Reserve Forces and
Cadets Association
East of England Veterans Advisory
Pensions Committee
Stevenage Citizens Advice
Veteran's Support Group Abbots
Langley
Hertfordshire Chamber of Commerce
Hertfordshire Partnership University
NHS Foundation Trust
Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust
Project Nova

New members to the Board are by invitation only from the Chairman.

Remit

- Give strategic direction to and have oversight of the work to deliver the Armed Forces Covenant in Hertfordshire observing the three key themes:
 - Fair access to services - to ensure that veterans and those in the Armed Forces Community are not disadvantaged in accessing services; recognising that special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those such as the injured and bereaved.
 - Celebrating and honouring - to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by members of the Armed Forces Community, particularly those who have given the most such as the injured and the bereaved
 - Community engagement - the Covenant encourages the integration of Service life into civilian life
- Develop, deliver and monitor an engagement programme to foster links between all communities across the County.
- Emphasis is on the individual organisations to bring forward ideas and proposals to the Board for consideration and for those organisations to report back on delivery.
- Promote the objectives of the Covenant.
- Champion the ethos of working in partnership to deliver bigger and better things for veterans, reservists, serving personnel and their families.
- Support military charities both locally and nationally in what they are trying to achieve.
- Ensure remembrance and respect remains visible in the County.
- Give consideration and endorsement to Armed Forces Covenant Fund

applications from groups seeking assistance for initiatives aimed at promoting the objectives of the Covenant.

- To task work to the Board and set up any task and finish arrangements for developing initiatives and work streams.

Meetings

Meetings will be set annually at the end of the calendar year. The arrangement will be for two meetings with provision for ad-hoc meetings to be called if urgent business arises.

Partners shall use their best endeavours to ensure attendance at all meetings. In the event that this is not possible, due notice shall be given at least one week before a meeting and a fully briefed substitute shall be arranged to attend in their place.

Governance of the meetings

Chairmanship

The Board shall be chaired by the Executive Member of Hertfordshire County Council who has responsibility for the Armed Forces Covenant within their portfolio. In the case of the appointed Chair not being able to attend a meeting, the Vice Chair will be called to chair the meeting.

The Vice-Chair will be the Deputy of the Executive Member of Hertfordshire County Council.

Secretariat

The Secretariat shall be provided by Hertfordshire County Council. The Secretariat will be responsible for the following:-

- Issue formal notice of a meeting taking place and circulating agenda items at least one week prior to the meeting date
- Arrange for venues and facilities to be available for the meetings.
- Formulate the final agendas with the Chairman and issue them with appropriate papers etc. at least one week prior to the meeting
- Prepare the minutes, agreeing in principle with the Chairman and issuing them as a draft no later than three weeks after the meeting has taken place
- Deal with all correspondence on behalf of the Board
- Maintain the Hertfordshire Heroes website
- Respond to enquiries received in the Hertfordshire Heroes mailbox within three working days
- Maintain a record of the Board's achievements and publish an annual report

Action Plan

An action plan to deliver the Board's aims will be published annually and progress reviewed at each Board meeting.

The Board will establish Working Groups to deliver specific projects as and when required to deliver the Board's action plan. The Working Group membership will be

dependent on the nature of the work that is being delivered, calling on relevant partner representatives (who are not necessarily members of the Board) with specific expertise to support work streams as necessary.

Accountability mechanisms

An annual report of the work of the Covenant Board will be presented to the relevant Hertfordshire County Council Cabinet Panel and published on the Hertfordshire Heroes website.

Code of Conduct

The Board requires members to behave in accordance with the Seven Principles of Public Life set out in the "[Code of Conduct for Board Members of Professional Bodies.](#)" These principles should inform the actions and decisions as Board members:

- a. Selflessness: Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.
- b. Integrity: Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.
- c. Objectivity: Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.
- d. Accountability: Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.
- e. Openness: Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.
- f. Honesty: Holders of public office should be truthful.
- g. Leadership: Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

Equality and Diversity

- The Board will remember the Public Sector Equality Duty, including the duties to (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination (ii) advance equality and (iii) foster good relations between groups throughout their discussion and work.

Review

- This Terms of Reference is effective from September 2021 and continues until terminated by Hertfordshire County Council.
- The Terms or Reference will be reviewed annually.