



HERTFORDSHIRE
HEROES



Hertfordshire Armed Forces Covenant Board

Action Plan 2023/24

Aim 1: Ensure the Armed Forces Community¹ are not disadvantaged in accessing services; recognising that special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those such as the injured and bereaved.

Objective: Work towards ensuring that the Armed Forces Community have appropriate access to social housing

Key actions	By when	Board lead
Seek to identify any housing issues for the armed forces community, and in particular veterans accessing social housing in Hertfordshire and work together to develop local solutions.	April 2024	Housing subgroup Chair

Objective: 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

Key actions	By when	Board lead
Seek to identify any education issues for the armed forces community in Hertfordshire and work together to develop local solutions.	April 2024	Education subgroup Chair

¹ [the_armed_forces_covenant.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Objective: Work with the NHS, GP's and others involved in healthcare, to raise awareness of specific issues facing the Armed Forces Community, and the support available

Key actions	By when	Board lead
Ensure the needs of the armed forces community are highlighted in social prescribing work. This will also allow the social prescribing subgroup to hear about the wealth of support for the armed forces community that is available from both statutory and voluntary and community sector organisations to be accessed through the Veterans Gateway .	April 2024	Health subgroup Chair
Promote the national RCGP veteran friendly accreditation scheme across the county: aiming for at least one GP practice per PCN in Herts & West Essex integrated care system (ICS)	April 2024	Health subgroup Chair
Promote the NHSE Veteran Covenant Healthcare Alliance with NHS Trusts in the ICS with the aim for all hospital trusts in the county to be accredited Veteran Friendly.	April 2024	Health subgroup Chair

Objective: Work to ensure a seamless transition to NHS care, promoting the specific concerns and needs of the Armed Forces Community

Support the NHSE single point of contact pilot scheme for the Armed Forces Community. An 18-month project funding 2 posts both social prescribing and clinical leads.	Sept 2023	Health subgroup Chair
Work with ICS and system business intelligence analysts to develop better information and needs data on veterans to ensure consistent coding and reporting on access and service issues.	April 2024	Health subgroup Chair

Aim 2: Ensure that the sacrifices made by members of the Armed Forces Community are recognised and remembered

Objective: Work to raise the public profile of Hertfordshire’s Armed Forces Community, including informing the community about what it is that the Armed Forces do.

Key actions	By when	Board lead
Organise the Military Village at the County Show	May 2023	254 Medical Regiment
Conduct the Christmas art competition and host a Day of Adventure at Northwood HQ as prize	September – December 2023	HCC and Northwood HQ
Promote Armed Forces Day and Reserves Day across the County	May/June 2023	All Board members
Promote recognition of Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday across the County	November 2023	All Board members
Raise awareness of Covenant funding opportunities on the Hertfordshire Heroes website and to Board member’s networks	Ongoing	HCC

Objective: Develop ways to facilitate and ease the transition of the Armed Forces Community leaving the military, into the civilian community in Hertfordshire

Key actions	By when	Board lead
Provide free support for veterans and their families, including a helpline, Veterans Welfare Service, Defence Transition Services and injury/bereavement compensation scheme payments.	Ongoing	Veterans UK

Objective: Work to improve provision of information and access to public services

Key actions	By when	Board lead
Maintain Hertfordshire Heroes website and email inbox	Ongoing	HCC

Objective: Encourage local businesses to offer discounts for the Armed Forces Community as a way of recognising what they have done for all of us.

Key actions	By when	Board lead
Promote the Defence Discount Service to local businesses to offer discounts for the Armed Forces community	Ongoing	All Board members

Aim 3: Encourage the integration of service life into civilian life

Objective: Ensure that the advice and support is available to help the Armed Forces Community who are re-locating to Hertfordshire, to support them in their transition from military to civilian life.

Key actions	By when	Board lead
Provide free support for veterans and their families, including a helpline, Veterans Welfare Service, Defence Transition Services and injury/bereavement compensation scheme payments.	Ongoing	Veterans UK
Review Hertfordshire Heroes website quarterly to ensure information is up to date and easily navigated	Ongoing	HCC

Objective: Promote access to suitable employment and training opportunities for the Armed Forces Community, maximising and building on their skills gained in military service

Key actions	By when	Board lead
Promote and share details of the veteran community as shown by Census results due to be released 2022/23	June 2023	All Board members
Encourage HAFCB members to apply to the MOD Employer Recognition Scheme	Ongoing	East Anglia Reserve Forces & Cadets Association (EA RFCA)

Key actions	By when	Board lead
Encourage organisations in Hertfordshire to sign the Armed Forces Covenant	Ongoing	All Board members
Encourage organisations/businesses to take part in Reserves Day June 2023	June 2023	All Board members
Provision of Forces Families (<u>Home - Forces Families Jobs</u>) online platform advertising jobs, where all the employers have signed the Armed Forces Covenant or are able to demonstrate their commitment to the Armed Forces.	Ongoing	All 3 Families Federation