



AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

BETWEEN

REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL AND CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, THE LOCAL HEALTH BOARD, POLICE, ENVIRONMENT AGENCY, FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE, CHARITABLE AND VOLUNTARY SECTORS, BUSINESSES, FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION, REGISTERED SOCIAL LANDLORDS AND THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY OF CARMARTHENSHIRE

AND

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN CARMARTHENSHIRE

SECTION 1: PARTICIPANTS

This Armed Forces Community Covenant is made between:

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

And

Representatives of local and central government, the local Health Board, Police, Environment Agency, Fire and Rescue Service, Charitable and Voluntary sectors, Businesses, Further and Higher Education, Registered Social Landlords and The Civilian Community of Carmarthenshire.

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 Carmarthenshire 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 whether Regular or Reserve, their families and widow(er)s in Carmarthenshire.
- 2.3 For Carmarthenshire County 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.
- 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.
- 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

The Carmarthenshire Community Covenant

4.1 Our Principle

It is vital to recognise and celebrate what personnel serving in Her Majesty's Armed Forces do for all of us. The sacrifice and commitment made by our Armed Forces community means that we, as a county, should ensure that no serving or retired or member of the Armed Forces whether Regular or Reserve and veterans, nor their families should be disadvantaged as a result of serving their country and should receive fair and proper treatment in recognition of what they have done for all of us. This Community Covenant is a living document and will be regularly revisited and updated.

4.2 Developing the Covenant

The development of Carmarthenshire's Community Covenant has been a truly countywide project – a reflection of the countywide support of the principle behind it.

On 2nd October 2012 over twenty organisations from the public sector, further and higher education, private sector and Charitable organisations came together to explore what the Community Covenant means for Carmarthenshire. As a result of this session, a Steering Group has been created.

The role and function of the Steering Group will be to:

- Improve the sharing and recording of information where appropriate to support serving and ex-serving Armed Forces members whether Regular or Reserve and their families in Carmarthenshire.
- Provide strategic direction and approval for any bids made to the Community Grant.
- Champion communication to publicise the work under the Carmarthenshire Armed Forces Community Covenant and to ensure Armed Forces personnel know who to contact for support at a local level.
- Receive quarterly progress reports from the sub groups.
- We will develop a joint website, and promote a single phone number to be a gateway to the support available from relevant organisations in Carmarthenshire.

The following sub groups will be established.

- Education, Employment and Offending
- Health, Wellbeing and Leisure
- Housing and Community

The subgroups will:

- Identify the needs of serving and ex-serving service personnel and families
- Develop ways to signpost to available support
- Liaise with the Armed Forces in relation to re-settlement information
- Develop projects
- Develop training where appropriate to raise awareness amongst the workforce

CONTACT DETAILS

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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.