

Appendix 1 – ‘Pillars’ of the Armed Forces Covenant

Covenant ‘Pillars’	
Healthcare	The armed forces community should receive the same standard of, and access to healthcare as that received by any other citizen in the area they live.
Education	Children of members of the Armed Forces should have the same standard of, and access to education as any other UK citizen in the area in which they live. Service Personnel should expect to receive appropriate training and education for both personal and professional development, including the opportunity to gain nationally recognised civilian qualifications.
Housing	Where Serving personnel are entitled to publicly provided accommodation, it should be of good quality, affordable and suitably located. The MOD should promote home ownership and offer support where this is desired. They should have priority status in applying for Government sponsored affordable housing schemes, and Service leavers should retain this status for a period after discharge.
Benefits & Tax	Members of the Armed Forces Community should have the same access to benefits as any UK Citizen, except where tailored alternative schemes are in place.
Family Life	Family members should have the same access to childcare, training and employment opportunities as any other citizen. Support should be available to minimise the impact of mobility
Transition	Support should be available for all Service Personnel in order to assist their transition from Service to Civilian life.
Recognition	The Armed Forces Community is entitled to appropriate, recognition for the unique Service which it has given, and continues to give to the nation.
Participation as Citizens	– The Armed Forces Community should be able to participate as citizens to the same extent as any UK citizen, subject to necessary constraints on the activities of public servants. This includes taking full part in the electoral process.
Recourse	Members of the Armed Forces Community should have means of recourse open to them, if they believe that they are not being treated in a fair and appropriate way.