



*An Armed Forces Covenant
for the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees*

between

*Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council,
the Voluntary, Community and Charitable Sector;
the Civilian Population of the Borough*

and

*the local Armed Forces Community in the Borough
(Serving personnel, reservists, veterans, cadets and military families)*



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

October 2018

Signatories

We the undersigned, agree to work and act together to honour this Armed Forces Community Covenant.

Signed:

Name: **Councillor Bob Cook**

Position Held: **Leader of the Council**

Signed on behalf of:

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Date: **October 2018**

Signed:

Name: **Lieut. Col. Nathan Teale**

Position Held: **CO 8Rifles**

Signed on behalf of:

The Armed Forces Community

Date: **October 2018**

Signed:

Name: **Councillor Eileen Johnson**

Position Held: **Civic Mayor**

Signed on behalf of:

The Civilian Population of the Borough

Date: **October 2018**

Signed:

Name: **Mr. Steve Rose**

Position Held: **Chief Executive of
Catalyst Stockton**

Signed on behalf of:

**Voluntary, Community and Charitable
Sectors of the Borough**

Date: **October 2018**

Section 1 – Participants

1.1 This local Armed Forces Covenant is made between:

The current and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees

and

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

and

the local Voluntary, Community and Charitable sectors

and

the Civilian Community of the Borough.

Section 2 – Principles of the Armed Forces Community Covenant

2.1 This local Armed Forces Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between the population of the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees and the local armed forces community. This Covenant encompasses the moral obligation between the nation, the Government and the Armed Forces at a local level.

2.2 The Covenant is based on two key principles:

- i) The Armed Forces Community should not face disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services; and
- ii) Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given the most such as the injured, or the bereaved.

2.3 The purpose of this Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in this borough and to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by those serving members of the Armed Forces and veterans, particularly those who have given the most. This includes serving personnel, veterans, their families and widow(er)s.

2.4 For organisations in the Borough, the Covenant presents an opportunity to bring 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 personnel, Veterans and their families into civilian life and to engage with their local community, Children of Armed Forces personnel – no matter the marital status of their parents – should always be considered part of the community while still dependent.

Section 3 – Objectives and General Intentions

- 3.1** This 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** We aim to encourage all parties within our community to offer support to the local Armed Forces Community and make it easier for serving personnel (Regular and Reservists), Veterans and their families to access the help and support available from the MoD, statutory providers, the local community and the Voluntary Sector Covenant Pillars
- 3.3** The Covenant is intended to be a two-way arrangement and members of the Armed Forces Community are encouraged to do as much as they can to support all aspects of their local community and promote activity which integrates serving personnel, Veterans and their families into local community life.

Section 4 – Actions and Measures

- 4.1** This Borough has a long and proud tradition of supporting the Armed Forces community. This support was made official with the signing of the original Armed Forces Community Covenant in March 2012.
- 4.2** This new updated version of the Covenant recognises the need to ensure that the work being done to meet the needs of the local armed forces community are both relevant and focused. This will be achieved through:
- i) the appointment of an elected Member as ‘Armed Forces Champion’ whose main priority will be to actively promote the fulfilment of the Covenant commitments and work to remove obstacles;
 - ii) the establishment of a Steering Group (by the Council) to develop a specific local ‘Armed Forces Covenant Action Plan’ based on the ‘pillars’ identified nationally – healthcare , education, housing, benefits and tax, family life, transition, participation as citizens, and recourse. The plan will be used to monitor and measure success. It will be reviewed and updated annually;
 - iii) carrying out an annual ‘Stock Take’ (by the Council) to measure the effectiveness of delivering the Covenant pillars and using it to improve service delivery and inform the next Armed Forces Covenant Action Plan;
 - iv) utilising the latest information and research from sources such as the Ministry of Defence, Forces in Mind Trust, the Royal British Legion, the Defence Secretary’s annual Armed Forces Report to Parliament;
 - v) working in partnership with the armed forces community, and organisations / charities, which support the aims of the Covenant;
 - vi) active membership of the Tees Valley and North East Armed Forces Forums to share information and best practice;

Contact Information

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MOD DCDS (Pers & Trg) Covenant Team

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In-Service representative – Lt. Col. Nathan Teale

E-mail: Nathan.Teale400@mod.gov.uk Tel: (01388) 660081

Commanding Officer, 8 Rifles, Battalion HQ, The Eden Armoury, St. Andrew’s Road, Bishop Auckland, DL14 6RX.

The Armed Forces Covenant (National)

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.