



Community Covenant

AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

BETWEEN

SEVENOAKS DISTRICT COUNCIL

AND

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN SEVENOAKS DISTRICT

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

Signatories

(This page gives examples of the parties who may sign the Community Covenant. This is an example only and is not limited to the examples given)

Signed:

Signed:

Name:

Name:

Position Held:

Position Held:

**Signed on behalf of the
Armed Forces Community**

**Signed on behalf of
Sevenoaks District Council**

Signed:

Signed:

Name:

Name:

Position Held:

Position Held:

**Signed on behalf of
Royal British Legion**

**Signed on behalf of
SSAFA Kent Branch**

SECTION 1: PARTICIPANTS

1.1 This Armed Forces Community Covenant is made between:

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

And

Sevenoaks District Council

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 Sevenoaks District 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 their families and widow(er)s in Sevenoaks District.

2.3 For Sevenoaks District 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. It also presents an opportunity to build upon existing good work on other initiatives such as the Welfare Pathway.

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. These organisations already work together in partnership at local level.

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

4.1 Sevenoaks District Council will include representatives of the Armed Forces Community in:

- Policy consultations, ensuring that the needs of the Community are taken into consideration when setting new policies;
- Membership of the Council's Voluntary & Community Sector Forum, ensuring that the Armed Forces community is involved and informed about new support and other initiatives available to them. Also so that the Community can take part in new work and events.
- Membership of the Council's Health Action Team, ensuring that the Armed Forces community is aware of and involved in health improvement initiatives taking place in the District.
- Offer a communication channel between the Armed Forces community and the business sector.
- SDC will invite the Armed Forces community to have a link to its website on the Council's website.

CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

MOD DCDS (Pers&Trg) Covenant Team

Email address: covenant-mailbox@mod.uk
Address: DCDS (Pers) Covenant Team
Zone D, 6th Floor
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

In-Service representative(s)

Contact Name:
Title:
Telephone:
Address:

Sevenoaks District Council

Contact Name:
Title:
Telephone:
Fax:
Address:

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.