

# **An Armed Forces Community Covenant**

#### Between

# **Flintshire County Council**

Representatives of the Charitable and Voluntary Sectors,

the public sector, business community, further and higher education establishments

and

The Armed Forces in Flintshire County Council

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

#### LIST ALL THE AGENCIES:

## Suggestions to date:

Flintshire County Council

Local Communities

The Armed Forces:

Regional brigades

Local regiments

Territorial Army

Cadet Forces

Armed Forces Charities and Organisations including The Royal

British Legion

Health Care Providers

Chamber of Commerce

Local Enterprise Partnership

Local Service Board (LSB)

Business Representatives

Local Colleges and Universities

Jobcentre Plus

Citizens Advice Bureaux

Probation Service

Drug and Alcohol Services

## **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

Flintshire

And

Flintshire County Council

And

Representatives of the public sector, the charitable and voluntary sectors, health sector, businesses, further and higher education and the civilian community of Flintshire

### **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 a local level.
- 2.2 The purpose of this Community Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in Flintshire 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 Flintshire.
- 2.3 For Flintshire 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. 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 compliments 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 the can to support their community and promote activity which integrates the Service community into civilian life.

### **Section 4: Measures (Version 1)**

#### Our Principle:

"Flintshire County Council recognises the importance of what personnel serving in Her Majesty's Armed Forces do for all of us. The 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 in accessing public services; they should receive fair and proper treatment in recognition of their commitment. This Community Covenant is a live document which will be reviewed on a 6 monthly basis buy relevant stakeholders."

#### What we will do:

- 4.1 Establish an on-line service library of organisations with a remit to provide assistance and support to members of the Armed Forces Community. A designated web page will enable the service library to be accessible for members of the Armed Forces Community to find the assistance they need and will be used by council staff as a signposting resource.
- 4.2 Flintshire County Council will publicise an established single point of contact via its Flintshire Connects Centres; employees will be trained to provide appropriate advice and support, or provide a "signpost" facility to encourage the community to make their status known so that all available help and advice form the council and other organisations can be provided.
- 4.3 Flintshire County Council will collect data on the range and frequency of services accessed by the Armed Forces Community. The management information derived from this data will be utilised to help improve services offered to the Armed Forces Community.
- 4.4 Flintshire County Council will engage with its partners in the private, public and voluntary sectors, health and business sectors, in addition to Reservists, TAs and Cadet Forces to identify opportunities to fulfil the objectives of the Community Covenant.

#### **Development of the Covenant**

The development of Flintshire's Community Covenant will be a countywide project – a reflection of the countywide support of the principle behind it!

We could have an open day with all the agencies involved to explore what a Community Covenant means for Flintshire and set up a Member/Officer Board to:

Improve the sharing and recording of information where appropriate to support serving and ex-service Armed Forces members whether Regular or Reserve and their families in Flintshire.

Provide strategic direction and approval for any bids made to the Community Grant.

Champion communication to ensure Armed Forces personnel know who to contact for support at a local level.



# **Contact Personnel and Telephone Numbers**

#### MOD DCDS (Pers&Trg) Covenant Team

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## In-Service representative

Contact: tbc

Telephone:

Address:

## **Flintshire County Council**

Contact: Sharron Jones

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# **Signatories**

(Dependant upon who it is agreed that we jointly work with)

