



Community Covenant

AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT.

BETWEEN

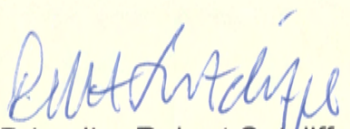
**SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL
NHS SWINDON
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHARITABLE AND VOLUNTARY SECTORS
SWINDON BUSINESS COMMUNITY
THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY OF SWINDON BOROUGH**

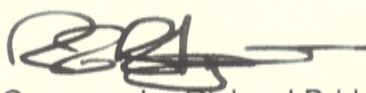
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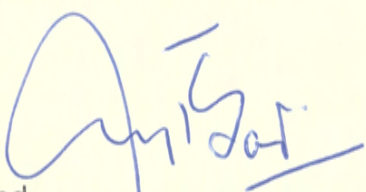
THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

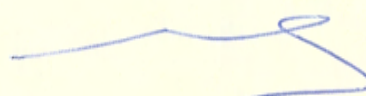
**We, the undersigned, agree to work and act together to
honour the Armed Forces Community Covenant.**


Signatories


Signed 
Name: Brigadier Robert Sutcliffe OBE TD
Position Held: Brigadier Territorial Army AG
Signed on behalf of the Royal Yeomanry
Date: 21st October 2012

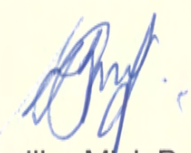
Signed 
Name: Commander Richard Bridger RN
Position Held: Chief of Staff, NRC WWE
Signed on behalf of the Royal Navy
Date: 21st October 2012

Signed 
Name: Wing Commander Guy Sawyer RAF
Position Held: Commanding Officer
Shrivenham Station
**Signed on behalf of the Royal Air Force
and the Defence Community at
Shrivenham Station**
Date: 21st October 2012

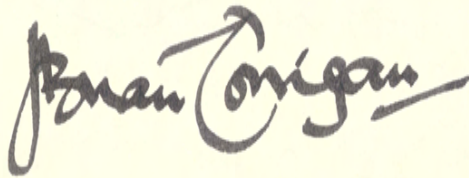
Signed 
Name: Councillor Rod Bluh
Position Held: Leader of the Council
**Signed on behalf of Swindon Borough
Council**
Date 21st October 2012

Signed 
Name: Councillor James Grant
Position Held: Leader of the Labour Group
**Signed on behalf of the Labour Group
Swindon Borough Council**
Date: 21st October 2012

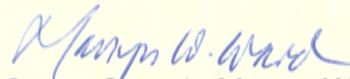
Signed 
Name: Councillor Stan Pajak
Position Held: Leader of the Liberal
Democrat Group
**Signed on behalf of the Liberal Democrat
Group, Swindon Borough Council**
Date: 21st October 2012

Signed 
Name: Councillor Mick Bray
Position Held: Mayor of Swindon
**Signed on behalf of Swindon Borough
Council**
Date: 21st October 2012

Signed 
Name: Alan Baker
Position Held: Chairman, Swindon Branch
**Signed on behalf of the Royal British
Legion**
Date 21st October 2012




Signed
Name: Major J Brian Corrigan KSG RA
(Rtd)
Signed on behalf of SSAFA/FH
Date: 21st October 2012




Signed
Name: Group Captain Martyn Ward OBE
FRCS
Position Held: BLESMA Trustee
**Signed on behalf of the BLESMA
(British Limbless Ex-Service Men's
Association)**
Date: 21st October 2012



Signed
Name: Debra Elliott
Position Held :Cluster Director
Commissioning Development for NHS
Swindon and NHS Gloucestershire
Signed on behalf of NHS SWINDON
Date: 21st October 2012



Signed
Name: David Wray
Position Held: Chief Executive Officer
**Signed on behalf of VAS (Voluntary
Action Swindon)**
Date: 21st October 2012



Signed
Name: Nicky Alberry
Position Held: Chairman
Signed on behalf of Influence, Swindon
Business Partnership
Date: 21st October 2012

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/or residing in the **Borough of Swindon**

And

SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

And

NHS SWINDON AND GLOUCESTER CLUSTER

And

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHARITABLE AND VOLUNTARY SECTORS

And

THE CHARITABLE AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR

And

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

And

SWINDON BUSINESS COMMUNITY

And

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY

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 the Borough of Swindon 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 Swindon. The Council will invite the signatory organisations to review the operation of this Community Covenant at least annually. In order to support the annual review of the operation of this Covenant by signatory organisations, an Action Plan will be developed, based on the measures

outlined in paragraphs 4.1 – 4.14. This Action Plan will inform the annual review and will enable progress to be measured and reported in a tangible manner.

- 2.3 For Swindon Borough 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 Providing a housing ladder of opportunity for veterans who need to access affordable social housing.
- 4.2 The Council will offer additional allocations points for those requiring social housing on leaving the forces
- 4.3 Assisting with requests for adapted homes for wounded soldiers.
- 4.4 The Council will provide a named contact officer to deal with housing applications.
- 4.5 The Council will provide assistance for disabled service personnel to identify suitable new housing.
- 4.6 The council will offer access to the Home Improvement Service for injured veterans.
- 4.7 The Council will have regard to the needs of Service families in relation to allocation of school places under the admissions code.

- 4.8 The Council will recognise the achievement of the Borough's Territorial Army Regiment, the Royal Yeomanry and other military regiments within the Borough and recognise their achievements through Freedom Parades.
- 4.9 The Council and its partners and co-signatories will support annual Armed Forces Day events.
- 4.10 The Council will support and recognise the achievement of its staff who volunteer in Military Reservist Units.
- 4.11 The Council will encourage adult involvement with Cadet Forces by the Mayor attending Passing-out parades, awards evenings and by involving Cadets in Mayoral functions, in Civic events and in the Remembrance Sunday events.
- 4.12 NHS Swindon will support Service personnel, their dependents and veterans to access the health care they need when they need it in co-operation with other local partners and stakeholders.
- 4.13 Swindon's business community will work with partners to develop a business framework for military personnel/veterans to access employment opportunities once leaving the Armed Forces in partnership with Influence, Swindon's Business Partnership and Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership.
- 4.14 Voluntary Action Swindon will broker opportunities for Service personnel and ex-personnel to engage with the Voluntary and Community Sector.

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

SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Contact Name: Stephen Taylor
Title: Director of Law and Democratic Services
Telephone: 01793 463012
Address: Civic Offices, Euclid Street, Swindon, Wiltshire SN1 2JH

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.