North Tyneside Armed Forces Covenant 2018 - 2021



An Armed Forces Covenant between

North Tyneside Strategic Partnership

and

The Armed Forces Community in North Tyneside Signatories





SECTION 1: PARTICIPANTS

1.1 This North Tyneside Armed Forces Community Covenant is for serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing in the civilian community of North Tyneside. This includes members of the Armed Forces both Regular and Reserve, in the Naval Service, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families.

SECTION 2: PRINCIPLES OF THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

- 2.1 A Covenant is a promise ensuring that those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces, 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.
- 2.2 A Covenant focuses on helping members of the Armed Forces Community have the same access to government and commercial services and products as any other citizen.
- 2.3 The Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community.
- 2.4 The purpose of the North Tyneside Covenant is to support the Armed Forces Community working and residing in North Tyneside and to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by members of this Armed Forces Community. This includes in-Service and ex-Service personnel their families and widow(er)s.
- 2.5 For North Tyneside Council, partner organisations, and the civilian community of North Tyneside the 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.
- 2.6 For the Armed Forces community, the Covenant encourages the integration of Service life into civilian life and encourages members of the Armed Forces community to help their local community.
- 2.7 By signing up to the Covenant organisations are committing to produce an annual statement of how they have used this Covenant, and plans for the coming year. These reports will be produced in January each year and reviewed by the North Tyneside Armed Forces Forum.

SECTION 3: OBJECTIVES AND GENERAL INTENTIONS

Aims of the Covenant

3.1 The North Tyneside Covenant complements the principles of the Our Community

– Our Covenant Armed Forces Covenant and support already has been
acknowledged by awarding North Tyneside Council a silver level in the employer

- recognition scheme. Over the life span of this Covenant we are aiming to achieve a gold level.
- 3.2 The Covenant aims to encourage all parties within the 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 Community and Voluntary Sector. These organisations already work together in partnership, the updated Covenant will ensure we actively review and develop, continuing to make North Tyneside a welcoming and supportive place for individuals and their families.
- 3.3 The Covenant 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 North Tyneside Council will actively support a local Armed Forces Forum that will bring together all stakeholders and be the focus for overseeing the Covenant. Notes from the meeting will be produced that will be available to any interested party.
- 4.2 The North Tyneside Armed Forces Forum will feed directly into the regional Armed Forces Forum.
- 4.3 Individual signatories to this Covenant will produce an annual report updating on any actions taken over the past year and identified action plans for the coming year. These plans will be available on the Council's website.
- 4.4 A named lead will be appointed by Cabinet and will work alongside a named senior officer from the Council.
- 4.5 A single point of contact officer will be identified and their name and contact details will be made available on the Council's website.

CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS MOD DCDS (Pers&Trg) Covenant Team

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Single Point of Contact

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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.