



Mid Sussex District Council



Armed Forces of the
United Kingdom

Community Covenant

AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

BETWEEN

MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL

AND

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN MID SUSSEX

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

Councillor Gordon Marples
Chairman of the Council

**On behalf of
Mid Sussex District Council**

Major Charles Field
The Royal Yeomanry

**On behalf of
The United Kingdom Armed Forces**

Mr. Les Coppard
Chairman, Sussex County

**On behalf of
The Royal British Legion**

Mr. Alan Tait, JP, DL
Branch Chairman, Sussex

**On behalf of
SSAFA Forces Help**

Signed this day, Saturday, 13th September 2014.

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 Mid Sussex

And

Mid Sussex 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 Mid Sussex 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 Mid Sussex.

2.3 For Mid Sussex District Council the Community Covenant presents an opportunity to bring its 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 The Council will mark the annual Armed Forces Day with an appropriate public event to raise community awareness.
- 4.2 The Council will continue to fulfil its housing function with due regard to the needs of Ex-Service personnel, through its housing allocation scheme
- 4.3 The Council will encourage local businesses to participate in a 'Heroes Welcome' scheme offering discounts to Service and Ex-Service personnel.
- 4.4 The Council will promote the Community Covenant Grant Scheme administered through West Sussex County Council.
- 4.5 The Council's Champion, as part of the Sussex Armed Forces Network, will monitor progress within the District which will be reported annually to West Sussex County Council Cabinet and the Ministry of Defence.
- 4.6 The Council and the Council's Champion will actively seek opportunities to support the Armed Forces Community within the District.

CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

MOD DCDS (Pers&Trg) Covenant Team

Email address: covenant-mailbox@mod.uk
Address: DCDS (Pers) Covenant Team
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MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL

Member Contact: Councillor Lin Stockwell

Title: Armed Forces Community Champion
Telephone: 01444 831493
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Officer Contact: Regina Choudhury

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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.