



KINGSTON UPON HULL

THE ARMED FORCES AND VETERAN'S CHARTER



THE ARMED FORCES AND VETERAN'S CHARTER

An enduring Charter & Community 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 and Carer**

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 Charter and Community Covenant.

CITY OF HULL ARMED FORCES AND VETERANS PARTNERSHIP

The partnership is committed to delivery of the principles and key pathways of this charter. We will promote fairness, equality and simplicity of access to four key pathways for all.

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER

This Charter recognises that the men and women of Hull in-service and ex-service personnel have served our nation and our nation's interests through dedicated service. They may have been called on to serve in circumstances that have led to their physical and mental harm.

As such this Charter establishes the principles upon which public bodies and partner organisations in Hull should

recognise the unique characteristics of military service in delivering public services and which affords all members of the Veterans Community, their families and carers the dignity, respect and level of service that corresponds to their needs. The core principles being that members of the Armed Forces Community do not suffer disadvantages as a result of their Service and that they receive appropriate support.

PURPOSE OF THE CHARTER

The Armed Forces and Veterans Charter is a voluntary statement of intent and of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces and Veterans 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.

The purpose of this Community Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in Hull. This includes in-Service and ex-Service personnel their

families and widow(er)s in Hull. For the partnership, the Charter presents an opportunity to bring their knowledge, experience and expertise to bear on the provision of cohesive help and advice to members of the Armed Forces and Veterans Community. It also presents an opportunity to build upon existing good practice, and enhanced present services.

For the Armed Forces and Veterans community, the Charter encourages the integration of Service life into civilian life and encourages members of the Armed Forces and veterans community to help their local community.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CHARTER

The Armed Forces and Veterans Charter 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

It aims to encourage all parties within a community to offer support to the local Armed Forces and Veterans 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.

The Charter is intended to be a two-way arrangement and the Armed Forces and Veterans 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.

DEFINITION OF THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY

Regular Personnel	Currently serving; Royal Navy, Army, Royal Air Force
Merchant Navy	Served for at least one day on active service
Reservists	Volunteer Reservists and Regular Reservists
Veterans	Served for at least one day, Regular or Reservist
Families	Immediate family; Spouses, civil or other partners, children for whom the veteran or partner are responsible
Bereaved	Immediate family; Services Personnel/ Veterans have died
Carers	Carers for Service Personnel and Veterans

OUR PLEDGES

We Pledge to:

- Honour the commitment and sacrifices of the Armed Forces Community
- Take positive measures to prevent disadvantage for the Armed Forces Community
- Recognise, respect and show gratitude for the Military Services

OUR ASPIRATIONS

- Co-ordinated and shared provision of services - a joined up approach to offering advice and support through the introduction of referral and data sharing protocols
- A greater understanding of need - a shared approach to enhanced use of data collection
- Ensure residents value the Armed Forces Community and the Armed Forces Community feel valued and recognised - improve awareness of the Armed Forces Covenant
- Ensure the Armed Forces Community are able to integrate into their local community - improve and introduce new measures to reduce social isolation and loneliness

WE WILL DELIVER ON FOUR KEY PATHWAYS:



Pathway 1: **Housing and Related Support**

The Armed Forces Community will be provided with high quality guidance and support when applying for social housing and private rented accommodation.



Pathway 2: **Health and Wellbeing**

The Armed Forces community will enjoy the same standard of, and access to, healthcare as that received by any other citizen in the local community. Veterans will receive priority treatment where it relates to a condition which results from their Service, subject to clinical need.



Pathway 3: **Supporting and Advising Veterans**

The Armed Forces community will have access to the same welfare benefits as any other UK Citizen.



Pathway 4: **Employment, Education and Training, and Self Employment**

Children of members of the Armed Forces will have the same access to education (including early years services), as any other local resident.

Access to training, education and skills support will be provided to Veterans to assist them to find suitable employment after services.

“ *Hull’s Armed Forces and Veterans Charter demonstrates our commitment to working together to support our Armed Forces Community. Together we can put in place measures to prevent disadvantage, respect and recognise sacrifices made and show gratitude for the Military Services* ”

Lt Col D Aspin RLC

