

THE CITY OF KINGSTON UPON HULL

The Armed Forces and Veterans` Charter



THE HULL ARMED FORCES AND VETERANS 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, 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 Royal Navy, the Merchant Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families and carers. 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, their families and carers, 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 & 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 the three key pathways for all.

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER

This Charter recognises that the men and women of Kingston upon 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 has 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; a bond 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, and aims to improve support to the Armed Forces Community at the local level.

The purpose of this Charter is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in Hull. This includes in-Service and ex-Service personnel their families, widow(er)s, and carers 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 enhance 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 and 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, veterans and carers to access the help and support available from the MOD, from statutory providers and from the Charitable and Voluntary Sector. These organisations 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

Group Defined as:

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; Service Personnel/Veterans have died
Carers	Carer for Service Personnel and Veterans

We Pledge to:

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

Aspirations

We aspire to deliver further support and enhanced service provision summarised below within all current legislation and policies in place at all times:

- Enhanced support provision for those in priority need
- SPOC = Services “Single Point of Contact” – One Stop Shop
- Customer Care Focus – “Priority First” Scheme
- Enhanced Working Partnerships & Service Level Agreements

We will deliver on three key pathways:

Pathway 1: Housing and Related Support

The Hull Armed Forces and Veterans partnership recognise the benefits of good quality affordable housing and rental accommodation that help bring stability and community inclusion. The Armed Forces community should have high quality guidance and support when applying for social housing and private rented accommodation, to ensure they are able to find housing appropriate to their circumstances. Those injured in Service should be supported to access appropriate housing schemes, as well as assistance with necessary adaptations in line with the relevant legislation and policies in place at that time.

Pathway 2: Health & 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. Those injured in Service, whether physically or mentally, will be cared for/enabled in a way which reflects the City’s moral obligation to them whilst respecting the individual’s wishes. All veterans with concerns about their mental health will be able to access services with health professionals who have an understanding of Armed Forces culture.

Pathway 3: SAV(e) (Supporting Advising Veterans)

Members of the Armed Forces Community should and must have the same access to welfare benefits as any UK Citizen.

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

The partnership will provide access pathways to those who provide training, education and skills support, recognising that ex service personnel may need additional support to find suitable employment after service.



“Hulls Armed Forces and Veterans Charter isn't about solving individual problems; it is about developing the Pathways from identified pinch points and developing sustainable solutions to Veterans affairs”.

Brigadier Greville Bibby CBE.

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