

# SIGNING THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT

Understanding, Supporting & Celebrating The Armed Forces Community



**TOOLKIT FOR CHARITIES, CIC'S, VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS AND TOWN & PARISH COUNCILS**

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough  
Armed Forces Covenant Partnership



# PRINCIPLES OF THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT

The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise that together we acknowledge and understand that those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces, and their families, should be treated with fairness and respect in the communities, economy, and society they serve with their lives.

Its two principles are that, recognising the unique obligations of, and sacrifices made by, the Armed Forces:

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.

# ABOUT

- ✓ No direct costs
- ✓ Publicly demonstrates your organisation's commitment to, and support for, the Armed Forces Community
- ✓ Align it with current practices to provide appropriate support and signposting
- ✓ Help with recruitment of staff and volunteers
- ✓ No just a good thing to do, but the right thing to do
- ✓ Positive promotion for your organisation with a public signing ceremony
- ✓ Join the 1000's of organisations across the country

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough  
Armed Forces Covenant Partnership

# WHO ARE THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY?

The Armed Forces Community are made up of,

- Serving Personnel
- Reservists
- Veterans
- and their families including the immediate family of Service Personnel and veterans who have died, whether or not that death has any connection with Service
- Some members of the Merchant Navy
- Cadet Force Adult Volunteers



# ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY – CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH

## VETERANS

29,279\*

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

12 BREAKFAST CLUBS  
3 VETERAN GROUPS  
3 ARMED FORCES DROP INS/HUBS  
2 REMINISCENCE GROUPS

287 AFC BUSINESSES

## UNITS

MRTC BASSINGBOURN (ARMY)  
RAF WYTON (RN/ARMY/RAF)  
RAF WITTERING (RAF)  
158 REGT RLC (RES ARMY)  
254 REGT RAMC (RES ARMY)  
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY OTC (RES ARMY)

## AFC TOWNS & PARISHES

19

## AF COMMUNITY

SERVING (REG/RES)  
VETERANS  
THEIR FAMILIES  
THE BEREAVED  
SOME MN MEMBERS  
ADULT CADET VOLUNTEERS

## HEALTH

ALL HOSPITAL TRUST VA ACCREDITED  
52 VF ACCREDITED GP PRACTICES  
5 VFF ACCREDITED CARE HOMES

\* Source census 2021



## WHY IS THIS WORK IMPORTANT?

The Armed Forces Community are usually more visible around Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday although can become less conspicuous throughout the rest of the year.

Disadvantage due to service, issues around mental or physical health and difficulty with reintegrating back into civilian life can remain and it is essential for organisations to be aware so that they can support this, sometimes, hidden community.

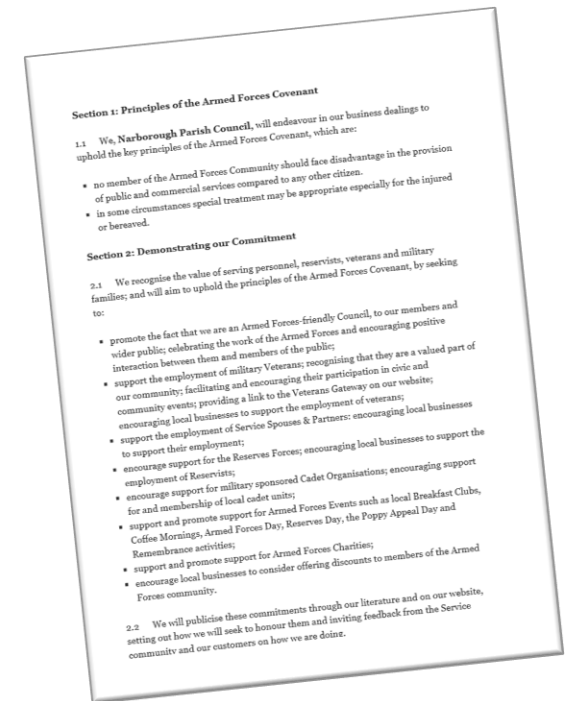
Membership of the Armed Forces Community can present challenges to service spouses and partners as well as children who have parent(s) that are serving or have served.

Knowing where to signpost the individual or family is also very important as there are a high number of Armed Forces Community support organisations.



# WHAT PLEDGES CAN MY ORGANISATION MAKE?

1. Appoint an Armed Forces Champion in your organisation to be to point of contact and knowledge base for Armed Forces Community enquiries and support
2. Encourage staff to undertake Armed Forces Covenant training
3. Ensure staff ask clients if they are a member of the Armed Forces Community and record this in client management systems
4. Ensure that Armed Forces Community status is recorded in client's records and shared, where appropriate, with support services
5. Support the employment of members of the Armed Forces Community through the Forces Families Jobs and Career Transition Partnership platforms
6. Ensure that staff are aware of local support for the Armed Forces Community
7. Display the Armed Forces Covenant logo on hardcopy and digital materials to promote that you are an Armed Forces friendly organisation
8. Promote the benefits of the Armed Forces Covenant to suppliers and partner organisations



The pledges that your organisation make are entirely up to you and the preceding are examples of good practice  
Pledges should align with the services you provide and be achievable

# EXAMPLES & REFERENCES

For info and reference please see below for a list of other organisations that have signed the Armed Forces Covenant and their signatories and the pledges that they have made. You may want to take inspiration from or replicate some of these initiatives.

[Parish Council - Narborough Parish](#)

[Town Council - Aylesbury Town](#)

[Education - Cambridge Regional College](#)

[NHS - Cambridgeshire & Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust](#)

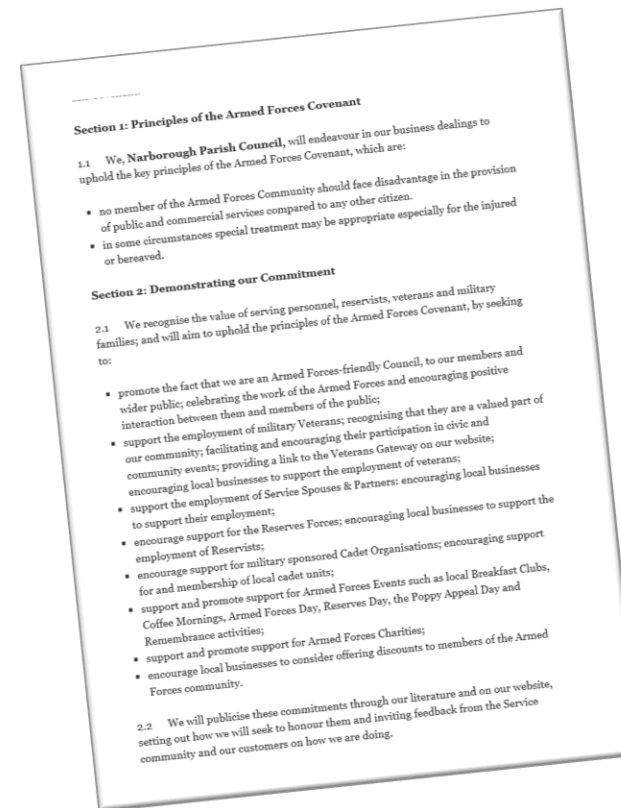
[Sports Club - Exeter Chiefs Rugby Club](#)

[Community Interest Company - Healthier Heroes CIC](#)

[Charity - HighGround Charity](#)

[Large Business - Jackson Civil Engineering](#)

[Small Business – Soaper Stars](#)



# SUPPORT RESOURCES

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Armed Forces Covenant Partnership [website](#) contains guidance signing the Armed Forces Covenant and the process for achieving this.

**In summary.....**

- 1. Understand that the Armed Forces Community may need, and be eligible for, different support to remove disadvantage**
- 2. Understand that you can help them by implementing actions within your organisation**
- 3. Decide on the actions and support that your organisation can deliver**
- 4. Write these onto the Armed Forces Covenant template document and pass this to the [AFCPC](#)**

If your organisation is interested in signing the Armed Forces Covenant, please contact us for more info...

## ARMED FORCES COVENANT PARTNERSHIP COORDINATOR FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH

Tommy Kelly [thomas.kelly@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:thomas.kelly@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

## ARMED FORCES CHAMPIONS

Cambridgeshire County Council – Cllr Yannifer Malinowski  
Cambridge City Council – Cllr Mike Davey  
East Cambridgeshire District Council – Cllr Martin Goodearl  
Fenland District Council – Cllr Susan Wallwork  
Huntingdonshire District Council – Cllr Jon Neish  
Peterborough City – Cllr Jason McNally  
South Cambridgeshire District Council – Cllr Jose Hales

