



Community Covenant

AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

BETWEEN

DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
CHARITABLE AND VOLUNTARY SECTORS,
THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY OF DARLINGTON AND

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN DARLINGTON

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

Darlington Borough Council Seal

Signatories

Signed

Name

Position Held

Signed on behalf of the Armed Forces

Signed

Name

Position Held

Signed on behalf of the Darlington Partnership

Signed

Name

Position Held

Signed on behalf of the Voluntary Sector

Signed

Name

Position Held

Signed on behalf of the Army Benevolent Fund

Signed

Name

Position Held

Signed on behalf of Darlington Borough Council

Signed

Name

Position Held

Signed on behalf of Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group

Signed

Name

Position Held

Signed on behalf of the Royal British Legion

Signed

Name

Position Held

Signed on behalf of the Business and Commercial Sector

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 Darlington and Darlington Statutory Services and the Voluntary Sector and other members of the civilian community of Darlington.

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 Darlington 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 Darlington.

2.3 For Darlington Borough Council, partner organisations, and the civilian community of Darlington the Community 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 such as joint commissioning and partnership working through Darlington Together.

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, Darlington Partnership, the Clinical Commissioning Group and from the Charitable and Voluntary Sector. These organisations already work together in partnership at a 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: Our Commitment

4.1 Darlington Borough Council recognises its ongoing commitment to the Armed Forces and has appointed Councillor Veronica Copeland as its Member for Armed Forces Champion and the Chief Executive as the Lead Officer for Veterans. The Council intends to use this Community Covenant to further strengthen its close relationship with Catterick Garrison, situated some 14 miles away.

4.2 Darlington Borough Council is one of 12 councils in the North East who have taken part in a major project to review the health inequalities suffered by ex-service personnel and their families during 2010-2011. This work resulted in a number of recommendations for improvements across 47 areas of work, many of which will be directly handled by councils across the region, including Darlington.

4.4 An Action Plan has been developed by Darlington Borough Council and its partners, and the Council pledges to use this plan to work with other councils across the region and relevant stakeholders to implement this for the benefit of Armed Forces Veterans who live in the Borough.

4.5 Darlington Borough Council will research ways to strengthen established community and Army Welfare links and networks with both the serving community and veterans of the Armed Forces through engagement events.

4.6 Darlington Borough Council will develop a dedicated section of the Council's website to publicise and promote our Armed Forces Veterans points of contact and ensure that links are made with other web-based support and networks.

CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

MOD DCDS (Pers&Trg) Covenant Team

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In-Service Representative(s)

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North Yorks, DL9 3AX

Darlington Borough Council

Lead Officer: Ada Burns, Chief Executive

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Darlington DL1 5QT

www.darlington.gov.uk

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Local Strategic Partnership

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Royal British Legion – North East & Yorkshire

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Title: County Secretary

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ABF The Soldiers' Charity – North East & Yorkshire

Contact Name: Amy Simeon

Title: Regional Secretary

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SSAFA – Tees Valley & North Yorkshire

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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.