

ARMED FORCES COVENANT REVIEW

Select Committee Review

**Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity response:**Questions posed:

- What you think the Community Covenant is
- What you think has gone well with the Community Covenant over the past 10 years
- What you think could have been done better
- What you would like to see happen in the future (whether continuation of work, specific improvements or new activities)
- If you would also be happy to come and talk to the Select Committee when they meet to discuss this further

Q1. The Armed Forces Covenant is an agreement from the nation and those authorities that sign up to it, to ensure that those who serve or have served in the armed forces, and their families, are treated fairly. By signing up to the covenant each authority demonstrates its commitment to improving services to the serving and veteran community. It is a platform to work together to identify gaps in support or provision to meet its mission statement.

Q2. Over the past 10 years' service family and veteran support has improved due to the work that the covenant has done, by looking at improving such issues as non-core healthcare services for veterans, removing barriers to family life, extra support, both in and after Service, for those that need help, coupled with putting in measures to integrate military and civilian communities and allow the Armed Force community to participate as citizens. In Plymouth, the veteran community and service community are very well represented across the city and have numerous avenues of support. Improving Lives Plymouth is a very good example to name only one of many, of the provision that is in place in the city, and some grants from the Covenant are utilised to fund elements of the services provided there.

The communication and understanding of the Covenant and its role have also improved over the past 10 years, and the participation in meetings is better represented across all sectors of support and industry so this can only gain momentum over the next 10 years and therefore enhance the effectiveness and understanding of the covenants work and remit to the service community, providing people and the organisations involved continue to back the concept.

Q3. As practitioner in the transition space of service to civilian life, the constant issue that is faced by many personnel and their families transitioning is that of Social Housing provision and the process that must be undertaken to secure housing upon leaving the service. It is my thoughts that this is an area that requires more resources and work to be done on the process to enable social housing to be more accessible for all i.e Single service leavers as well as families that are leaving the safety net of service family accommodation.

Q4. –

Q5. Paul Gray (Transition Support Guide) (Social Worker) Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity (Attended Covenant Meetings when Possible)