

Plymouth Armed Forces Community Covenant
BETWEEN

Plymouth City Council, Representatives of the Charitable and Voluntary Sectors, the Civilian Community and the Plymouth Armed Forces Community

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

The Lord Mayor of Plymouth Councilor Mike Wright
On behalf of the City of Plymouth

XXXX
On behalf of the Young People of the City of Plymouth

Commodore Jamie Miller
Signed on behalf of the Royal Navy

Brigadier Hankinson
On behalf of the Army

Air Commodore Tunncliffe
On behalf of the Royal Air Force

Cllr xxxxxx.
On behalf of the Community Covenant Team

Basil Dowling Waite
On behalf of the Federation of Ex Service Men and Women

Carole Arnolde
On behalf of the Royal British Legion, Devon

Capt David Tall RN Ret
On behalf of Sports Clubs Plymouth

Rev. Chris Clewer
On behalf of the Council of Faiths

Rev. David Evans
On behalf of Higher Education Institutions

Wendy Jones
On behalf of Babcock and the Business Community

Dan Richmond
On behalf of the NPFS and RM Welfare

Carol Rashleigh
On behalf of Community and Social Action Plymouth

Deepak Shreesanth
On behalf of the Ghurka Community

Commander Damon Knight
On behalf of the Royal Navy (Plymouth)

Captain Steve O'Sullivan.
On behalf of the Royal Marines (Plymouth)

Lt. Colonel Dawes
On behalf of the Army (Plymouth)

Commander Charles Crichton RN Ret.
On behalf of the Armed Forces Week Group

Chief Superintendant Andy Bickleigh
On behalf of Devon and Cornwall Constabulary

XXXX On behalf of
Health and Wellbeing

This Armed Forces Community Covenant is made between:

The serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing in Plymouth; Plymouth City Council and members of the charitable, community and voluntary sectors.

**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 fulfill 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.

Plymouth Armed Forces Community Covenant

The Armed Forces Community Covenant is a commitment to mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. It complements the Armed Forces Covenant, that outlines the obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces, at the local level.

This Community Covenant contributes to the support for, and raises the profile of, the Armed Forces Community working and residing in the city of Plymouth and recognises the sacrifices made by members of this Armed Forces Community, both serving and veterans, with a special focus on their families.

The Community Covenant presents an opportunity to bring together partners, in mutual trust and understanding, to share their knowledge, experience and expertise to offer help and advice to members of the Armed Forces Community. It will enable closer working relationships with neighboring counties and cities, nationwide.

At the heart of the Covenant is the shared understanding that the Service community will be supported and enabled as a fully integrated part of the wider society of the City of Plymouth, contributing fully to City life and benefitting from all the City has to offer. This includes ease of access to the help and support available from the MOD, statutory providers and from the Charitable and Voluntary Sector. These organisations already work together in partnership at local level, especially in support of Service children.

As a City with strong roots in Service life, having been a Naval Dockyard, Army and Royal Air Force base for many years, Plymouth has strong and active links with the Armed Forces community. This is especially strong between the partners linked support for children and young people.

Plymouth City Council has a dedicated Service Children's officer and support team, that regularly liaises with the Royal British Legion; the Naval Personal Family Services and Royal Marines Welfare (NPFSS & RMW) and the Armed Forces groups based in the City. These partners work together to ensure that the welfare of young people is a key focus of their support for Service families. The Service pupil voice group, Her Majesty's Schools Heroes, is a driving force for the further development of this work and will extend its influence to encompass wider support for families as it grows in the direction the young people believe it should.

The success the City has had in support for children and young people now needs to be reflected across the breadth of services provided by the signatories. It is our intention to review the way the Services (both regular and reserve), their families and veterans are supported by the education, housing, health, criminal justice, business and charity sectors within the City and to implement measures, as we see fit, to ensure there is no disadvantage.

The Covenant will encourage the widest community support for the local Armed Forces, Veterans and their families, making it easier for them to access help and support available across all sectors including the MOD, statutory providers and the third sector.

In addition, the Armed Forces community, including veterans, will be encouraged to make a positive contribution to their community and promote community integration.