



Community Covenant

AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

BETWEEN

ORKNEY COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP
AND THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY OF ORKNEY

AND

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN ORKNEY

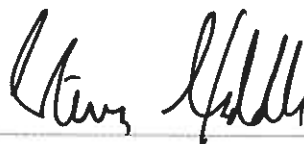
**We, the undersigned, agree to work and act together to
honour the Armed Forces Community Covenant.**

4 October 2012

Signatories

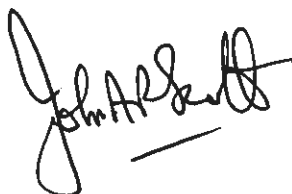


Lieutenant Colonel Nick Mifsud
Commanding Officer,
71 Engineer Regiment (V)
*Signed on behalf of the Armed Forces
Community*



Councillor Steven Heddle
Convener, Orkney Islands Council and Chair,
Orkney Community Planning Partnership
*Signed on behalf of OIC, OCPP and the Civilian
Community of Orkney*

John Ross Scott
Chair, NHS Orkney
*Signed on behalf of NHS Orkney and
OCPP Healthy Communities Group*



Gail Anderson
Chief Executive, Voluntary Action Orkney
*Signed on behalf of VAO and
OCPP Third Sector Forum*



Karen Johnstone
Manager, Orkney JobCentre Plus
*Signed on behalf of JobCentre Plus and
OCPP Employability Strategic Group*



Sally Inkster
Chief Executive, Orkney Housing Association Ltd
*Signed on behalf of OHAL and
OCPP Housing Forum*



Brian Taylor
President, Kirkwall Area Branch, Royal
British Legion Scotland
Signed on behalf of RBLs



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 Orkney

and

Orkney Community Planning Partnership

and

Other members of the civilian community

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 Orkney 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 Orkney.
- 2.3 For Orkney Islands Council and partner organisations, 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.
- 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 and from the Charitable and Voluntary Sector. These organisations already work together in partnership at 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: Undertakings

- 4.1 As part of this Covenant all parties are encouraged to work together to implement key undertakings in support of Armed Forces personnel, their families, and ex-Service personnel on the Orkney Islands.
- 4.2 Agreed actions in support of these undertakings will be included in community planning and partner agency action plans as appropriate, and reviewed regularly by Community Covenant signatories.
- 4.3 **Children, young people and their families**
We will raise awareness among teaching and support staff, pupils and students across the Orkney learning community that we recognise the circumstances and potential needs of children and families of Armed Forces personnel, and will provide a contact point within the Council's Education, Leisure and Housing Service for information, advice and assistance.
- 4.4 **Health and wellbeing**
We will seek to identify the health and wellbeing issues affecting serving and veteran Armed Forces personnel residing in Orkney, and ensure that relevant services are available and readily accessible with a minimum of bureaucracy. We will raise awareness among health professionals of the potential circumstances and needs of Service personnel and veterans.
- 4.5 **Housing**
Social housing providers in Orkney will continue to offer a specified level of priority to serving, transitioning and veteran Armed Forces personnel residing in Orkney, in line with housing legislation. We will provide advice as to the housing options available locally, and access to shared equity schemes to assist with house purchase.
- 4.6 **Employability**
We will raise awareness among partner agencies offering employability support in Orkney of the needs of veteran and transitioning Armed Forces personnel and their families. We will identify any specific targeted measures which might improve employment outcomes for this group, and take steps to implement them.
- 4.7 **Joined-up services**
Orkney Firm Base working group will ensure that a seamless front-line service is offered to serving and veteran members of the Armed Forces and their families. A named individual, with experience of the Forces, will be nominated to act as a single point of contact for clients who need assistance to identify and approach the services that they require. Contact details will be publicised and posted in public places.

4.8 Partnership working

We will embed the Orkney Firm Base working group within Orkney Community Planning Partnership and ensure that its activity is regularly monitored by the Partnership Liaison Group and reported to the Steering Group.

CONTACT PERSONNEL

In-Service representative

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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.