



# **Community Covenant**

**AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT**

**BETWEEN**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
CHARITABLE AND VOLUNTARY SECTORS,  
THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY OF RICHMOND**

**AND**

**THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY OF LONDON**

## **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 Richmond

And

Richmond Borough Council

And

The Charitable and Voluntary Sector

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 London and to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by members of this Armed Forces Community, particularly those who have given the most. This includes Pre-Service, Serving and ex-Service personnel their families and widow(er)s in London.

2.3 For Richmond Borough 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 such as the Welfare Pathway.

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: Measures**

4.1 The London Armed Forces Community Covenant seeks civic support in the following broad areas:

- adult support to cadet forces
- enabling recruitment
- allowing work and training
- housing
- school transition for service children
- medical and welfare pathways
- veterans
- local security
- post operational home-coming parades
- and support to reservists.

4.2 The London Armed Forces Community Covenant suggests military support in the following areas:

- aid in civil emergencies as permitted by legislation
- periodic access to our estate and its facilities
- representation at celebrations
- commemorations and parades
- single Service Presentation teams
- and sharing with partner organisations such as uniformed youth, veterans and the third sector.

4.3 It is acknowledged that support in all directions will have periodic resource constraints.

4.4 In response the Richmond Partnership agrees to provide support the Covenant and specifically as follows:

- London Borough of Richmond upon Thames will keep under review activities being undertaken to support the Armed Forces Community, including progressing the measures being taken in response to the Armed Forces Covenant, especially in regard to health, housing, education and benefits and tax service provision.
- The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames will engage with its partners in the private, public and voluntary sectors to identify opportunities to fulfil the objectives of the Community Covenant.
- Richmond Council for Voluntary Service (RCVS) will seek to support the Armed Forces Community offering support for managing grant funding and exploring opportunities for existing groups to get involved with projects aimed at supporting the Armed Forces Community and meeting any specific needs in the borough.

- Groundwork London will seek to support the Armed Forces Community through direct, and group, volunteering opportunities via the volunteer recruitment and placement scheme.
- The Mental Health improvement plan pan London (development of a veteran's mental health service) went live on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2012. NHS London has appointed a GP Veterans Champion for the region from NHS SWL who will support the PCT cluster lead in the delivery of the framework. NHS Richmond will support the Armed Forces Community Covenant in Richmond providing support to veterans and their families and where possible involve the local community to fulfill the objectives of the Community Covenant.

## CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### MOD DCDS (Pers&Trg) Covenant Team

Contact Name: John Shivas  
Title: DCDS (Pers) Sec Covenant 1  
Telephone: 020 7218 9110  
Address: DCDS (Pers) Covenant Team  
Zone D, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Ministry of Defence  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB

### In-Service representative(s)

Contact Name: Major Richard Bagnold\*  
Title: London District  
Telephone: 020 7414 2437  
Address: HQ London District, Horse Guards Whitehall London  
SW1A 2AX

### Richmond Council:

Contact Name: Lord True  
Title: Leader of the Council  
Telephone: 020 8487 5001  
Fax: 020 8891 7701  
Address: 3rd Floor York House, Richmond Road Twickenham  
TW1 3AA

### NHS Richmond:

Contact Name: Dagmar Zuener  
Title: Director of Public Health Richmond NHS and Council  
Telephone: 020 8973 3067  
Address: NHS Richmond, Thames House 180 High Street Teddington TW11 8HU

### Charities

Contact Name: David Sidonio  
Title: Chief Executive  
Telephone: 020 8255 8193  
Address: Richmond upon Thames Council for Voluntary Service 1 Princes Street,  
Richmond, Surrey, TW9 1ED

Contact Name: Lucy Gannon  
Title: Community and Education Manager  
Telephone: 020 8687 4080  
Address: Groundwork London, 6 Stanley Gardens, London, W3 7SZ

\*The military point of contact name/appointment may rotate every 2 years in accordance with military posting requirements.

## **THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT**

An Enduring Covenant Between:

1. The People of the United Kingdom;
2. Her Majesty's Government;
3. All those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces of the Crown;
4. 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.

Dated: 14 October 2011

## Signatories

Signed:

Name: Colonel Michael Kelly

Deputy Chief of Staff London District

**Signed on behalf of the Army  
Community of London**

Signed:

Name: Mark Richards

Greater London SaBRE Campaign Director

**Signed on behalf of the Reserve Forces  
and Cadet Community**

Signed:

Name: Group Captain Sandy Davie

Royal Auxiliary Air Force

**Signed on behalf of the Royal Air Force  
Community of London**

Signed:

Name: David Sidonio  
CEO Richmond Council for Voluntary Service

**Signed on behalf of the Voluntary Sector**

**Dated: Friday 11 May 2012**

Signed:

Name: Lord True

Leader of the Council

**Signed on behalf of The Borough of  
Richmond**

Signed:

Name: Commodore Martin Atherton

Naval Regional Commander (SE England)

**Signed on behalf of the Royal Navy  
Community**

Signed:

Name: Emma Seria-Walker

A/ Consultant in Public Health NHS Richmond

**Signed on behalf of the Primary Care  
Trust/NHS Body**