



Community Covenant

AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

Between

EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL

EAST LoTHIAN COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

and

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN EAST LoTHIAN

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

Signatories

Councillor Willie Innes
Chairperson, East Lothian
Community Planning Partnership
Signed on behalf of
East Lothian Community
Planning Partnership

Lieutenant Colonel James Cook
Commanding Officer,
105 Regiment Royal Artillery (Volunteers)
Signed on behalf of the
Armed Forces Community

Ms Angela Leitch
Chief Executive, East Lothian Council
Signed on behalf of East Lothian Council

February 2013

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 EAST LOTHIAN

And

East Lothian Council and East Lothian Community Planning Partnership

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

2.3 For East Lothian Council and East Lothian Community Planning Partnership and its constituent 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 ensure that Service personnel, their families and ex-Service personnel are not, in any way, disadvantaged in the provision of their entitlements and support from statutory services due to the transient nature of their military employment.

3.3 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 Enterprising Third Sector within their community. The Covenant aims to strengthen the links and partnership working between these organisations at the local level.

3.4 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, providing visibility and understanding of the military within the local community.

SECTION 4: OUTCOMES

4.1 As part of this Covenant all parties are encouraged to work together to deliver six key objectives in support of Service personnel, their families and ex-Service personnel in East Lothian. Agreed measures in support of these objectives will be detailed in the Community Covenant Action Plan and reviewed by the Community Covenant signatories.

Objective 1: Children, Young People and their Families

Work in partnership to build and develop further work, services and relationships to improve outcomes for children and young people of serving families / veterans in the communities of East Lothian.

Objective 2: Health and Wellbeing

Work in partnership to build and further develop work, services and relationships focused on health and wellbeing, including access to health services, focus on mental health and wellbeing and building a sense of belonging for families locally.

Objective 3: Housing

Develop clear direction and guidance within the Local Authority and the Armed Forces as to what levels of service provision can be expected and what is required of the military community to enable them.

Objective 4: Community Partnerships – working together

Create opportunities for Armed Forces representatives to become part of the Community Planning Partnership structures and to help them to contribute to their local communities.

Objective 5: Support to Veterans and their Families

Consider and support the needs of Service personnel during and after their transition to becoming a veteran.

Objective 6: Employability

Identify measures to support ex and transiting Service personnel and their families to achieve positive employability destinations and outcomes.