



Between
Crawley Borough Council
and
The Armed Forces Community
in Crawley
2013

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



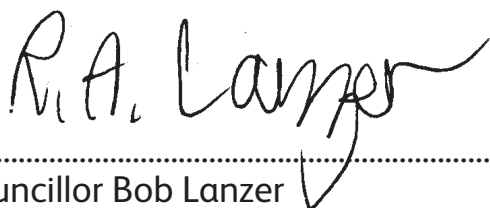
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE



The Armed Forces Community Covenant for Crawley

Signatories

Signed on behalf of
Crawley Borough Council

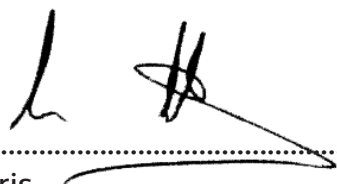


.....
Councillor Bob Lanzer
Leader of Crawley Borough Council

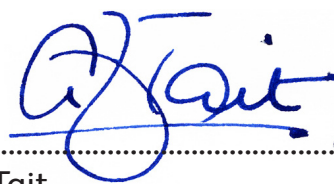
Signed on behalf of the
military community



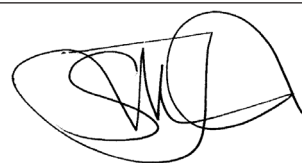
.....
Lieutenant Colonel Paul Johnson
Commanding Officer
103 Battalion REME



.....
Lee Harris
Chief Executive
Crawley Borough Council



.....
Alan Tait
Branch Chairman
SSAFA Sussex



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Sandra Fruish
Area Manager South East
Royal British Legion



The Armed Forces Community Covenant for Crawley

SECTION 1: Participants

1.1 This Armed Forces Community Covenant is made between:

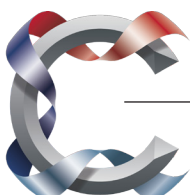
The serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing in Crawley

and

Crawley Borough Council and its partners

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 Crawley and to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by members of this Armed Forces Community, particularly those who have given the most. This includes full-time and part-time service personnel including reservists, veterans, and the families of all who live or work in Crawley.
- 2.3 For Crawley Borough Council, the Community Covenant presents an opportunity to bring its 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 support existing initiatives such as E2H2W (Education, Employment, Health, Housing and Welfare), and Armed Forces Day, working with the Armed Forces to build upon existing good work.
- 2.4 For the Armed Forces Community, the Community Covenant encourages the integration of Service life and civilian life and encourages members of the Armed Forces Community to support and play an active part in their local community. For example supporting initiatives such as local regeneration projects or youth engagement by volunteering their time or resources.



The Armed Forces Community Covenant for Crawley

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 This Community Covenant is intended to demonstrate the Borough Council's willingness to work with others to ensure the Armed Forces Community suffers no disadvantage in accessing public services and to encourage other organisations to make their own explicit statements about their support. Where other Community Covenants exist (such as that between West Sussex County Council and The Military Community), this Covenant is intended to strengthen the position in accessing national funding to support projects which help foster and support the ties and mutual understanding between members of the Armed Forces Community and the wider community in which they live.
- 3.4 The scheme is intended to be a two-way arrangement and members of 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.



The Armed Forces Community Covenant for Crawley

SECTION 4: Measures

- 4.1 Crawley Borough Council aims to recognise the specific needs of the Armed Forces community through engagement, and through benchmarking with other Local Authority areas where Covenants are in place. It will install mechanisms to enable joint response to identified issues based upon evidence and individual needs.
- 4.2 The signatories of this covenant will establish a Civil Military Partnership Board (Armed Forces Working Group) to bring key partners including the Armed Forces Community, statutory providers, the Business Sector and voluntary and community sector together where appropriate, to identify, develop and support projects meeting the aims of the Armed Forces Covenant. There will be an annual review of local issues and opportunities for joint working, with commitment to an annual action plan.
- 4.3 Crawley Borough Council will support the work that is being undertaken by West Sussex County Council as part of the West Sussex Armed Forces Community Covenant.
- 4.4 The Armed Forces Working Group will measure success and report annually to Crawley Borough Council Cabinet, The Crawley Local Strategic Partnership and the Ministry of Defence.



The Armed Forces Community Covenant for Crawley

Contact personnel and telephone numbers

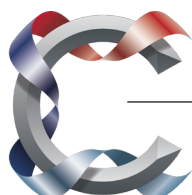
Crawley Borough Council

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RH10 8BD



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.

