



Community Covenant

AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

BETWEEN

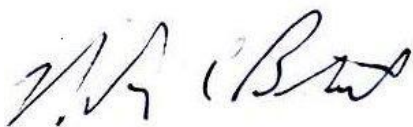
READING BOROUGH COUNCIL, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
CHARITABLE AND VOLUNTARY SECTORS, THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY
AND THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY OF READING

AND

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN READING

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

Signatories



Signed:

Name: Brigadier N A C Baverstock OBE MA

Position Held: Regional Brigade Commander
145 (South) Brigade

**Signed on behalf of the Armed Forces
Community**



Signed:

Name: Dave Peasley

Position Held: Council Manager

**Signed on behalf of Reading Borough
Council**



Signed:

Name: Steve Belam

Position Held: Chair of Board of Directors,
Reading UK CIC

**Signed on behalf of the Business
and Commercial Sector**



Signed:

Name: Iain Cox

Position Held: Chief Fire officer

**Signed on behalf of Royal Berkshire
Fire and Rescue Service**



Signed:

Name: Cllr Jo Lovelock

Position Held: Leader of the Council

**Signed on behalf of Reading Borough
Council**



Signed:

Name: Richard Corbett

Position Held: Director

**Signed on behalf of Reading Voluntary
Action**



Signed:

Name: Bev Searle

Position Held: Director of Joint
Commissioning

Signed on behalf of NHS Berkshire



Signed:

Name: Superintendent Stuart Greenfield

Position Held: Reading Local Police Area
Commander

**Signed on behalf of Thames Valley
Police**



Signed:

Name: John English

Position Held: Honorary Divisional Secretary
Reading

**Signed on behalf of Soldiers, Sailors,
Airmen and Families Association**

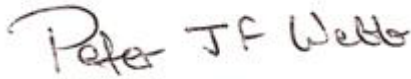


Signed:

Name: Group Captain D J Drew MA

Position Held: RBL County Chairman,
Berkshire and Vale of White horse

**Signed on behalf of the Royal British
Legion**



Signed:

Name: Colonel Peter Webb

Position Held: Commandant

**Signed on behalf of Berkshire Army Cadet
Force**

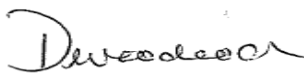


Signed:

Name: Andrew Wall

Position Held: Chairman

**Signed on behalf of Reading Sea
Cadet Corps**



Signed:

Name: Debbie Woodcock

Position Held: Customer Services Operations
Manager

**Signed on behalf of Jobcentre Plus
Reading**



Signed:

Name: Colonel (Retired) S J Oxlade MBE

Position Held: Chief Executive

**Signed on behalf of South East
Reserve Forces' and Cadets'
Association**

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 Reading

And

Reading 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 Reading 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 Reading.

2.3 For Reading 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: ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN READING

Although there are no regular forces stationed in Reading, Brock Barracks is the headquarters for the Territorial Army unit 7th Battalion The Rifles and for Berkshire Army Cadet Force, as well as home to the Air Training Corps and Sea Cadet Corps. There are also likely to be a number of veterans living in Reading, in particular a large ex-Gurkha community.

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, 6th Floor
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

In-Service representative(s)

Contact Name: Lt Col T J Harper (Tim)
Title: Commanding Officer, 7 Rifles
Telephone: 0118 953 0202
Address: Brock Barracks, Oxford Road, Reading, RG30 1HW

Reading Borough Council

Contact Name: Jill Marston
Title: Senior Policy Officer
Telephone: 0118 937 2699
Address: Civic Centre, Reading, RG1 7AE

Contact Name: Derek Plews
Title: Head of Communications
Telephone: 0118 937 2333
Address: Civic Centre, Reading, RG1 7AE

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.