AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

BETWEEN


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: Cllr Jo Lovelock
Position Held: Leader of the Council
Signed on behalf of Reading Borough Council

Signed:
Name: Dave Peasley
Position Held: Council Manager
Signed on behalf of Reading Borough Council

Signed:
Name: Richard Corbett
Position Held: Director
Signed on behalf of Reading Voluntary Action

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: Bev Searle
Position Held: Director of Joint Commissioning
Signed on behalf of NHS Berkshire

Signed:
Name: Iain Cox
Position Held: Chief Fire officer
Signed on behalf of Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service

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.