



**Community  
Covenant**

## **AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT**

**BETWEEN**

**SOUTH RIBBLE BOROUGH COUNCIL,  
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHARITABLE,  
PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY SECTORS,  
THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY OF SOUTH RIBBLE**

**AND**

**THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN SOUTH RIBBLE**

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

## **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 Preston

And

South Ribble Borough Council

And

The Public Sector in South Ribble

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 and 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 and Community working and residing in South Ribble and to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by members of this Armed Forces and Community, particularly those who have given the most. This includes in-Service and ex-Service personnel their families and widow(er)s in South Ribble.
- 2.3 For South Ribble 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 and Community.
- 2.4 For the Armed Forces and Community, the Community Covenant encourages the integration of service life into civilian life and encourages members of the Armed Forces and Community to help their local community.

## **SECTION 3: OBJECTIVES AND GENERAL INTENTIONS**

### Aims of the Community Covenant

- 3.1 It aims to encourage all parties within a community to offer support to the local Armed Forces and Community and make it easier for service personnel, families and veterans to access the help and support available from the Ministry Of Defence, from statutory providers and from the Charitable and Voluntary Sector. These organisations already work together in partnership at local level.
- 3.2 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 and Community.
- 3.3 The scheme is intended to be a two-way arrangement and the Armed Forces and 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.
- 3.4 Recognise the status of serving soldiers and veterans through public events and other public support.

## **SECTION 4: MEASURES**

- 4.1 The South Ribble Community Covenant recognises the veteran community spans the Preston and South Ribble boundaries. Therefore the Council and the Community will, where appropriate, link with the Steering Group and Working Groups that already exist in the Preston Community Covenant measures.

There will be an annual report to South Ribble Borough Council and Commander 42 (North West) Brigade on actions taken.

- 4.2 Working through the Working Groups we will work in partnership to develop and deliver action plans for in service, ex service personnel and their families where appropriate. The priorities are set out below:
  - Family life
  - Skills and employment
  - Housing
  - Health.

- 4.3 The development of a communication strategy in order to ensure that key services are effectively signposted to members of the Armed Forces Community.
- 4.4 Encourage the recognition of the Armed Forces through such activities as Freedom, Homecoming and Remembrance Parades and support to the annual Armed Forces Day.
- 4.5 Work with the South Ribble community to access the £30M Community Covenant Fund, in order to deliver financial support to projects at the local level which strengthen the ties or mutual understanding of the Armed Forces and Community and the wider community in which they live.

# 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.