

# Community Covenant

## An Armed Forces Community Covenant

Between

West Lothian Council, NHS Lothian, Armed Forces Charities, Jobcentre Plus, Local Communities, the Business and Commercial Sector and the Third Sector in West Lothian

### The Armed Forces Community in West Lothian

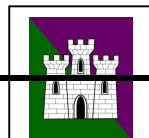
The first duty of Government is the defence of the realm. Our Armed Forces fulfil that responsibility on behalf of the Government, sacrificing some civilian freedoms, facing danger and, sometimes, suffering serious injury or death as a result of their duty. Families also play a vital role in supporting 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.

## We, the undersigned, agree to take all reasonable measures to honour the Armed Forces Community Covenant

Signed:	Signed:	Signed:	Signed:
Name: Colonel Philip Bates	Name: Graham Hope	Name: Doctor David Farquharson	Name: Mr Bob McFarlane
Position Held: Commander Edinburgh Garrison <b>Signed on behalf of: Armed Forces Community</b>	Position Held: Chief Executive <b>Signed on behalf of: West Lothian Council</b>	Position Held: Medical Director NHS Lothian <b>Signed on behalf of: NHS Lothian</b>	Position Held: General Secretary <b>Signed on behalf of: Armed Forces Charities Sector (Veterans Scotland)</b>
Date	Date	Date	Date
Signed:	Signed:	Signed:	Signed:
Name: Mr Jim McGonigle	Name: Mr Dave McDougall	Name: Mr Nick Davies	Name: Mr Jim Gallagher
Position Held: Area and District Manager <b>Signed on behalf of: Jobcentre Plus</b>	Position Held: Chief Executive <b>Signed on behalf of: West Lothian Chamber of Commerce</b>	Position Held: Chairperson <b>Signed on behalf of: West Lothian Federation of Community Councils</b>	Position Held: Chief Executive <b>Signed on behalf of: West Lothian Voluntary Sector Gateway</b>
Date	Date	Date	Date



## **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 WEST LoTHIAN

And

WEST LoTHIAN Council

And

NHS Lothian

And

Job Centre Plus

And

The Charitable and Voluntary Sector in West Lothian

And

The Veterans Charitable and Voluntary Sector

And

Other members of the civilian community are represented by the Federation of Community Councils and the Business and Commercial Sector.

## **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. In Scotland, the Scottish Government has played a significant role in delivering the 2008 Service Personnel Command Paper and published its own parallel commitments paper setting out specific actions in respect of devolved responsibilities. Similarly, Scottish Ministers have given unequivocal support to the Armed Forces Covenant published in June 2011 and made clear that a roadmap setting out a programme of future actions in respect of devolved responsibilities that complement and augment the Today & Tomorrow paper will be published in spring 2012.

2.2 The purpose of this Community Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in West 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 in West Lothian.

2.3 For West Lothian Council, NHS Lothian and partner organisations, the Community Covenant presents an opportunity to bring their knowledge, experience and expertise to bear on the provision of support services, 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. It also encourages formed units to support activity and provide suitable representation within their local communities, within their capabilities and availability.

### **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 the usual 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 Charitable and Voluntary Sector within their community. These organisations already work together in partnership at a 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 6 key outcomes in support of Service personnel, their families and ex Service personnel in West Lothian.

4.2 Agreed measures in support of these outcomes will be detailed in the Community Covenant Action Plan and reviewed quarterly by the Community Covenant signatories.

<b>01</b>	<b>Children, Young People and their Families</b>
	Work in partnership to build and develop further work and relationships to improve outcomes for children and young people of serving families/ veterans in the communities of Midlothian.

<b>02</b>	<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>
	Work in partnership to build and develop further 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.

<b>03</b>	<b>Housing</b>
	Develop clear direction and guidance within the Local Authority and the Armed Forces as to what levels of service provision can be expected from Local Authority Providers and what is required of the military community to enable them.

<b>04</b>	<b>Community Partnerships - Working in Partnership</b>
	Create opportunities for Armed Forces representatives to become part of the Local Authority and the Community Planning Partners and Structures - including emergency planning, neighbourhood planning, and developing local services.

<b>05</b>	<b>Support to Veterans and their Families</b>
	Consider and support the needs of Service personnel during and after their transition to becoming a veteran.

<b>06</b>	<b>Employability</b>
	Identify measures to support ex and transiting Service personnel and their families to achieve positive employability outcomes.

## **CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

### MOD DCDS (Pers&Trg) Covenant Team

Contact Name: Lisa Harper  
Title: DCDS (Pers) Sec Covenant 1  
Telephone: 020 7218 9110  
Address: DCDS (Pers) Covenant Team  
Zone D, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Ministry of Defence  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2HB

### In-Service representative(s)

Contact Name: Colonel Philip Bates  
Title: Commander Edinburgh Garrison  
Telephone: 0131 310 5020  
Address: Garrison Headquarters  
The Castle  
Edinburgh  
EH1 2YT

### WEST LOTHIAN Council

Contact Name: Graham Hope  
Title: Chief Executive  
Telephone: 01506 281697  
Address: Civic Centre  
Howden South Road  
Livingston  
EH55 6FF

### Charities/Voluntary Sector

Contact Name: Jim Gallagher  
Title: West Lothian Voluntary Sector Gateway  
Telephone:  
Address: North Bridge Street  
Bathgate

### Charities/Voluntary Sector on behalf of the armed forces Veterans

Contact Name: Robert McFarlane  
Title: Veterans Scotland  
Telephone: 0131 550 1569  
Address: New Haig House  
Logie Green Road  
Edinburgh  
EH7 4HR

## NHS Lothian

Contact Name: Linda Irvine  
Title: Strategic Programme Manager Mental Health and Wellbeing  
Telephone: 0131 465 5554  
Address: NHS Lothian  
Waverley Gate  
2 -4 Waterloo Place  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3EG

## Jobcentre Plus

Contact Name: Callum Grigor  
Title: Employment Advisor and District Armed Forces Champion  
Telephone: 0131 555 8157  
Address: Jobcentre Plus  
East and South Scotland District  
Lyndean House  
199 Commercial Street Leith  
Edinburgh  
EH6 6QP

## Midlothian Federation of Community Councils

Contact Name: Nick Davies  
Title: West Lothian Federation of Community Councils  
Telephone:  
Address:

## Mid and East Lothian Chamber of Commerce

Contact Name: Dave McDougall  
Title: West Lothian Chamber of Commerce  
Telephone:  
Address: