

Armed Forces Covenant Outreach Offer

Charnwood - Melton - Rushcliffe

What we can do to support organisations and groups:

- Support with signing the Armed Forces Covenant
 - Benefits of having an Armed Forces Champion within your organisation
 - Support to identify an Armed Forces connection and “why ask the question?”
 - Information and support on applying to the Employer Recognition Scheme Awards after signing the Covenant
 - Providing training to your staff on how life in the Armed Forces can impact on individuals and families in civilian life and what additional needs they may have
 - A comprehensive resource pack detailing Armed Forces specific support
 - Funding available
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Why sign the Armed Forces Covenant?

The Armed Forces Covenant represents a promise by the nation that those who serve or have served, and their families, are treated fairly.

The Armed Forces Covenant can be signed by:

- Businesses of all sizes
- Charitable organisations
- Local authorities
- Public sector organisations
- Single services: Royal Navy, British Army, Royal Air Force

Signing the Covenant means that you are supporting your employees such as reservists and veterans and the Armed Forces community. In becoming a forces-friendly employer you can benefit from the wide range of unique skills and experiences that reservists and veterans can bring to your organisation. Employing Armed Forces community members can help diversify the talent in your workforce.

Employers can choose specific promises or pledges to support their employees within the Armed Forces community. Local authorities promise to encourage local communities in supporting the Armed Forces community, including promoting understanding and awareness. We can help you to write pledges appropriate to your organisation and how to upload to the Covenant website.

Benefits of having an Armed Forces Champion within your organisation

Appointing an Armed Forces Champion within your organisation provides you with a point of contact that can remain up-to-date on the support available for the Armed Forces community through services available by military charities, enabling more tailored support to individuals.

We can provide training to your Champion so that they are able to deliver awareness training to all new employees. The Champion can support your organisation in the processing of Armed Forces data and identify gaps in services to source external funding opportunities to support the Armed Forces community.

“Are you or have you been a member of the Armed Forces?”

The importance of ‘asking the question’ is not just about identifying an individual as currently serving or ex-service. It is about understanding what disadvantage they may have experienced or priority they may be given. This will open up access to a range of military welfare charities who can provide support to this group.

“Asking the question” will enable signposting to support from military charities and also, recording the answers will help us to develop an evidence base. This will lead to more improved targeting of interventions and potentially feed into the commissioning processes of a range of statutory agencies, access to funding and grants. There are many resources local authorities and their partners have that will help our service personnel, veterans and their families including:

- Housing
- Employment
- Physical and mental health

Training and resources

We can offer the following training packages:

Awareness training focuses on the reality of life within the Armed Forces and how this can impact on transition to civilian life.

Advanced package includes more detailed scenarios to inform your organisation about where they can make a difference to the AF community. It outlines a range of resources (financial, support and advice) that the AF can access in addition to what is available to the general population. We will also provide you with a link to an e-learning module.

All organisations will receive a resource pack which includes Armed Forces national charities and services available regionally.

Employer Recognition Scheme and funding

Once you have signed the Covenant you are eligible to apply for the Bronze Employer Recognition Award. Support can be provided if you are interested in applying for the award and/or applying for Covenant funding to support the Armed Forces community. Further details can be found on the Governments website: www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk

What can the Armed Forces Covenant Outreach Team do for local communities?

Charnwood, Melton and Rushcliffe Borough Councils (CMR) are working together to provide the following:

- Support for veterans through mobile information hubs, offering signposting and guidance to specialist services
- Link veterans together to offer support and companionship
- Deliver training to raise awareness of the needs of veterans and sources of support
- Supporting services to be Armed Forces friendly

More help and advice:

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