THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

between

The London Borough of Barnet

Representatives of the Health, Education, Employment, Housing, Multi-Faith and Voluntary Sectors in Barnet

Representatives of the Emergency Services

and

The Armed Forces Community in Barnet
Participants

This Armed Forces Community Covenant is made between:

The serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing in the London Borough of Barnet

and

Barnet Council

and

The Caring and Voluntary Sector

and

Other members of the civilian community in Barnet

Principles of the Armed Forces Community Covenant

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.

The purpose of this Community Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in Barnet and to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by members of this Armed Forces Community, particularly those who have given the most. This includes Pre-Service, Serving and Ex-Service personnel, their families and widow(er)s in Barnet.

For Barnet 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.

For the Armed Forces Community, the Community Covenant encourages the integration of Service life into Civillian life and encourages members of the Armed Forces Community to help their local community.
Aims of the Community Covenant

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.

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 Caring and Voluntary Sectors. These organisations already work together in partnership at local level.

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.

Measures

The Armed Forces Community Covenant seeks civic support in the following broad areas: adult support to cadet forces; enabling recruitment; allowing work and training; housing; school transition for Service children; medical and welfare pathways; veterans’ local security; post operational home-coming parades and support to reservists.

The Armed Forces Community Covenant suggests military support in the following areas: aid in civil emergencies as permitted by legislation; periodic access to our estate and its facilities; representation at celebrations, commemorations and parades; single Service Presentation teams; and sharing with partner organisations such as uniformed youth, veterans and the third sector.

It is acknowledged that support in all directions will have periodic resource constraints.
We, the undersigned, agree to work and act together to honour the Armed Forces Community Covenant.

SIGNATORIES

Councillor Brian Schama
The Worshipful the Mayor
of the
London Borough of Barnet

Colonel Alastair Bruce OBE
TA Colonel (North) London District
On behalf of the
Armed Forces Community

Martin HC Russell Esq. DL
Representative
Deputy Lieutenant for Barnet
On behalf of the
Greater London Lieutenancy

Colonel Hugh Purcell OBE DL
Chief Executive
On behalf of the
Reserve Forces and Cadet Community

Mr Nick Walkley
Chief Executive
On behalf of Barnet Council

Councillor Richard Cornelius
Leader of the Council
London Borough of Barnet

Alison Blair
Borough Director
NHS North Central London
On behalf of the Health Service Community

Tracey Lees
Chief Executive
Barnet Homes and Your Choice Barnet
On behalf of the Housing Sector
Warren Forsyth  
Middlesex University  
On behalf of Education in Barnet

Kit Davies  
Barnet and Southgate College  
On behalf of Education in Barnet

Terry Cameron  
Representing Job Centre Plus and Department of Work and Pensions  
On behalf of the Employment Sector

Tom Nathan  
General Manager Brent Cross  
On behalf of the Business and Commercial Sector

Reverend Bernd Koschland  
On behalf of the Multi Faith Community

Denise Murphy OBE  
Comm’UNITY Barnet  
On behalf of the Voluntary and Community Sector

Nigel Ward  
Chief Inspector  
On behalf of the Metropolitan Police Service

Peter Wolfenden  
Station Manager  
On behalf of the London Fire Brigade

Dated this First day of July 2012  
on the occasion of the Armed Forces Week in  
Her Majesty The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Year
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 Royal Navy, 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 caring 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.