



FORCES CONNECT SOUTH EAST

ELECTED COUNCILLOR ARMED FORCES TRAINING

Delivered and Developed by

CANON PETER BRUINVELS CC

Welcome, Aims and Objectives

- Why you are here
 - What is the Armed Forces Covenant?
- What are the new legal requirements under the Armed Forces Act?
 - How you can support the Armed Forces Covenant
 - What is a Civilian-Military Partnership Board?
 - Who is an Elected Councillor Armed Forces Champion?
 - Who are the Armed Forces Community?
 - Where are the Military in your Area?
 - How you can understand their needs
 - How you can get closer to them and strengthen the links
- Provide you with the knowledge and capability to strengthen your role as an Armed Forces Champion
- How to work with Covenant Lead Officers and Service Champions
 - Understanding the role of Task Force Commanders
 - Linking with Local Civil-Military Panels, where present
 - Service Charities and how they can help?
 - FCSE and other sources of Training, including e-Learning
 - Your experiences so far as an Armed Forces Champion
 - Top Tips
 - Questions and Answers from the Floor

INTRODUCTION

The Armed Forces Covenant MoD definition

What is the Armed Forces Covenant?

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

“To those who proudly protect our nation, who do so with honour, courage, and commitment, the Armed Forces Covenant is the nation’s commitment to you”.

It is a pledge that together we acknowledge and understand that those who serve or who have served in the armed forces, and their families, should be treated with fairness and respect in the communities, economy and society they serve with their lives.

www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk



What is being done?

The covenant focusses on helping members of the armed forces community have the same access to government and commercial services and products as any other citizen.

This support is provided in a number of areas including:

- ******education and family well-being - school places -- SEN – School Transport - SPP
- ******having a home - Homelessness – Council Waiting list – DFGs – RBLI – Housing Associations
- starting a new career – employment advice – Transferrable Skills – Mentoring – Spousal Employment (gaps in CV)
- ******access to healthcare - GP waiting lists - Hospital waiting lists – Adult Social Care – Dentists – Mobility
- financial assistance - Advice and support – Citizens Advice
- discounted services – Defence Discount Card

******Subject to the **Armed Forces Act** where ‘**due regard**’ has to be shown in all Service Family cases involving Education, Healthcare and Housing provision

Who is involved?

The covenant supports serving personnel, service leavers, veterans, and their families. And is fulfilled by the different groups that have committed to making a difference.

These include:

- Central Government – All Government Departments have a Covenant Minister
- Single services (Royal Navy, Royal Marines, British Army, Royal Air Force)
- **8250+** Businesses of all sizes
- Local government - All **407** Local Authorities have signed the Armed Forces Covenant
- **2500+** Service Charities
- Communities
- Cadet forces and their adult volunteers

Civilian-Military Partnership Board - Surrey slide as an example

- **To provide a strategic link within partner organisations with regard to the Armed Forces Covenant**
- **To give strategic direction in order to strengthen links between communities and the Military**
- **To champion the Armed Forces and honour the commitment given by the men and women of the Armed Forces**
- **To review the work of the Armed Forces Covenant on an annual basis**
- **To acknowledge and promote the value role Reservists play within the community**
- **Encourage recognition and remembrance of the role played by the Armed Forces**
- **Work collaboratively with the task groups and act as final arbiter**



Elected Councillor Armed Forces Champion

ONCE YOU ARE APPOINTED

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!

1. How were you appointed?
2. How were you recruited?
3. Did you have any links / an interest in the Military?
4. Was it at the Annual Meeting of Council?
5. Are you aware that the Military view your role as a Public Appointment?
6. Have you seen the Armed Forces Elected Councillor Job Description?
7. Do you know your Armed Forces Covenant Lead Officer?
8. Does your Council have an Armed Forces website up to date?
9. Does your Council issue an Armed Forces Newsletter?
10. Have you checked with Housing about the ending of the Local Connection criteria?
11. Have you considered an Armed Forces Covenant Action Plan?
12. If a Unitary / County – does your Council monitor how the Service Pupil Premium (£310) is spent?
13. Have you checked that the Military Personnel / Bases are on your Electoral Roll?
14. Have you considered mentoring Service Personnel seeking employment?
15. Have you considered Military Spousal Employment?
16. Do you know the needs of the Armed Forces Community?
17. Have you met your fellow Armed Forces Champions?
18. Have you met your Task Force Commander and how often?
19. Have you identified one key lead Community Engagement Event / Activity?
20. Have you linked up to a local Reserve Centre / Reservists?
21. Are you linked into Cadet Units / Detachments?
22. Have you been present at a Cadet Annual Inspection?

JOB DESCRIPTION – approved by the MoD

Armed Forces Champions for the County Council and Borough and District Councils in Local Authorities

The Profile:-

A Member of the Executive/Cabinet, or Chairman of an appropriate Scrutiny Committee, or a Member with an interest in the Armed Forces community.

Some Armed Forces experience would be an advantage.

Appointed annually by Council (on the recommendation of the Executive/Cabinet) to emphasise the importance the Council places on the role.

The Role:-

To raise the profile and needs of the Armed Forces community (serving personnel, both regular and reserve, their families, ex-service, veterans and Cadets), internally and externally with the County and the Borough/District council.

To keep informed of all relevant developments through attendance at the annual conference, seminars and Task Groups, where appropriate.

To work closely with the senior members of County/Borough/District staff, who are appointed as Armed Forces Covenant Officers, with particular reference to the Council's obligations undertaken through the Armed Forces Covenant and the Armed Forces Act 2021 and also through the recently published Statutory Guidelines.



To ensure close liaison and involvement on all military ceremonial matters in which the Mayor/Chairman is involved. (eg ranging from Armed Forces Day flag raising, Reserves Day, attendance at local Armed Forces events, to Freedom Marches).

Regular liaison with the Civic Secretary to ensure that all forthcoming military ceremonial events are included in the Civic Diary and County Armed Forces Calendar.

To keep the local Member/s of Parliament informed of the activity and issues within the County/Borough/District in relation to the Armed Forces community on at least a quarterly basis.

To encourage the formation of local Armed Forces Covenant Panels to:

- Ensure all areas of Council Policy/business take into account the needs of the Armed Forces community (education, housing, welfare, health and employment) and the impact of the Armed Forces Act 2021 is fully understood and implemented.
- Ensure that Members and Officers are aware of forthcoming military ceremonial events
- Encourage and support local applications to the Armed Forces Covenant Grant Fund

To form positive working relationships with the local Task Force Commander and the other district and borough councils within their area of responsibility (District and Borough councils) and 11 Infantry Brigade (County Council) to better understand and address the needs of the Armed Forces Community within the context of local authority roles and responsibilities.

To work with SERFCA to engage with key local businesses to promote the Armed Forces Covenant, the Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition Scheme, the employment of Reservists and the appointment of Cadet Force Adult Volunteers.

To develop links and support local Cadet units by acting as the key link with the local authority, and to look to provide local ceremonial, remembrance and volunteering opportunities.

To sponsor an Annual report to the Executive/Cabinet/Local or Joint Committee detailing the Council's activities and achievements over the past 12 months in respect of the obligations to the Covenant.

The Military Presence

Map of the Area

Service Charities – COBSEO

Forces Connect South East

Top Tips

How you see your role as an AFC

Questions and Answers



SURREY

©PETER BRUINVELS ASSOCIATES

4 Dunkeld Place, Roman Road, DORKING RH4 3EU

canonbruinvels@gmail.com

07721 411 688