

Armed Forces Community Research



worcestershire
county council

It is estimated there are over 20,000 former military personnel who have left the Armed Forces living in Worcestershire. If you served as a Regular or as a Reservist, either very recently or sometime ago, we are keen to find out your experiences living and working in the county. We are also interested in any challenges you may have faced or are currently facing. We will be asking you about your time in the military and your return to civilian life.

Your involvement will help shape the way Worcestershire supports the Armed Forces Community. The results of this research will influence a list of needs and priorities for the Worcestershire Armed Forces Covenant Partnership, in order to improve services and networks for our Armed Forces community now, and in the future.

The survey should take no more than 20 minutes to complete. We need to hear from as many people as possible to ensure our results are valid, so please do spread the word - your participation counts.

The information you provide us will be collated by Worcestershire County Council, as part of a wider research project being undertaken to improve support for our armed forces communities. We may share results with our stakeholders; however, the survey results will be statistical and will never contain personal details that could identify you. We may publish anonymous results but will never link to your details or opinions in any way.

The closing date for this survey is **Thursday 18th April 2019**

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey – your contribution really matters to us. If you have any concerns or would like to contact us please email us at **WAFCC@worcestershire.gov.uk**

About you

Q1 In which of the Armed Services did you serve? Please tick all that apply

- Army
- Navy
- Air Force
- Royal Marines
- Other

Please specify in the box below

Q2 Are you...

- Male
- Female
- Prefer to self-describe
- Prefer not to say

Please specify below

Q3 What is your age?

- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65+

Q4 To which of these ethnic groups do you consider you belong?

- White English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British
- White Irish
- White Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- Any other White background - please describe below
- Mixed - White and Black Caribbean
- Mixed - White and Black African
- Mixed - White and Asian
- Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background - please describe below
- Asian / Asian British - Indian
- Asian / Asian British - Pakistani
- Asian / Asian British - Bangladeshi
- Asian / Asian British - Chinese
- Any other Asian background, please describe below
- Black / African / Caribbean / Black British - African
- Black / African / Caribbean / Black British - Caribbean
- Any other Black / African / Caribbean background - please describe below
- Arab
- Any other ethnic group, please describe below

Q5 Do you have dependent children (aged 16 or under?)

- Yes
- No

Q6 What is your full postcode (this information will be in strict confidence and not passed to any third party)

Q7 What was your rank (when you left the armed forces)

- Senior Commissioned Officer
- Commissioned Officer
- Senior Non-Commissioned Officer
- Junior Non-Commissioned Officer
- Other
- Don't know

Please specify in the box below

Q8 Were you deployed on any of the following operational or overseas duties? Please tick all that apply

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> World War II | <input type="checkbox"/> Falklands War |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Germany, since World War II (British Forces Germany) | <input type="checkbox"/> First Gulf War (1990-91) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Malaya | <input type="checkbox"/> Bosnia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Korea | <input type="checkbox"/> Kosovo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nuclear weapons testing (South Pacific and / or Australia) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sierra Leone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Suez War | <input type="checkbox"/> Afghanistan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Borneo | <input type="checkbox"/> Iraq |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Ireland | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

Please specify in the box below

Q9 Are you aware of the Armed Forces Covenant?

- Yes
- No

Please indicate how often you and / or your family have used the following public services in the last year

Q10 District Council

	Not at all	Once or twice	Three to five times	More often
Sport / leisure facilities and provision	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Planning and building control	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Housing support services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Council Tax and Housing Benefits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

County Council

	Not at all	Once or twice	Three to five times	More often
Local bus services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Libraries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Education services (e.g. school places)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Children's Centres	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public Health services (e.g. Health Visitors, School Nursing, Sexual Health Services)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adult Social Care Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Children's Social Care Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other Public Services

	Not at all	Once or twice	Three to five times	More often
Citizen's Advice Bureau	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Libraries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q11 In the past 3 years which charities, if any, have you gained help or information from?

Please tick all that apply

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Army Benevolent Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Warrior Programme |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RAF Benevolent Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Age UK Herefordshire & Worcestershire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Naval Benevolent Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> St. Paul's Hostel, Worcester |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blesma , The Limbless Veterans | <input type="checkbox"/> Armed Forces Education Trust |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Combat Stress | <input type="checkbox"/> Armed Forces Veterans Breakfast Clubs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Families Federation (Army, Navy or RAF) | <input type="checkbox"/> Blind Veterans UK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help for Heroes | <input type="checkbox"/> Care After Combat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Royal British Legion | <input type="checkbox"/> Defence Medical Welfare Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SSAFA | <input type="checkbox"/> Other(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Gateway | <input type="checkbox"/> None – I have not needed help |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tommy Atkins Centre, Worcester | |

Please specify where else you have gained help or information from in the box below

Q12 How did you find out about services and support available to the armed forces community?

Please select all that apply

- Leaflets
- Newspapers
- TV or radio
- Newsletters
- Email
- Friends/ family
- Colleagues
- Worcestershire Armed Forces Covenant website
- Internet search
- Social media e.g. Facebook, Twitter
- Other (please state)
- None – I have not needed help

Please specify where else you found out about services and support in the box below

Q13 Below is a list of difficulties which you may have faced. Which, if any, of these have you or your household experienced over the last 3 years. Please tick all that apply

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not having enough money for day to day living | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of training/ qualifications/skills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not having enough savings to buy or replace items you need | <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty getting school place(s) or appropriate educational support for your child(ren) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Getting into debt | <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty getting childcare |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty finding out about services or benefits that you may be entitled to | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of recreational facilities/ social life |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty getting medical treatment you need | <input type="checkbox"/> Fear of violence/ crime outside the home |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poor housing/ inappropriate housing for your needs | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of home security/ feeling safe in your own home |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty getting a council housing place, or from a housing association | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of suitable transport (your own or public transport) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty with house and garden maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Not feeling part of a local community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployment | <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty making the transition from military to civilian life |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fear of unemployment | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Having to take a job for which you are over-qualified, or at a lower rate of pay than you would have liked | |

Please specify the difficulty(ies) in the box below

Q14 Are you, or your household, experiencing any difficulties at the moment, where you are not receiving the help, advice or support you need?

- Yes No

If so, please give details below of the problem and the help you need, and include your contact details (we will only use these to contact you with regards to this issue)

Q15 Were any of the following factors in your decision to leave the armed forces? Please tick all that apply

- Opportunities in civilian life, e.g. career change
- Impact of service on my family and personal life
- Retiring – end of military career
- Spouse/partners career
- Personal issues
- Wounded, injured or sick
- Mental health issues including PTSD
- None of these
- Other factors

Please state in the box below

Q16 When applying for jobs, were / are your military qualifications and experience recognised by employers

Yes

No

Don't know

About your skills, education and employment

Q17 What is the highest level of qualification that you have received from school, college or since leaving education? Please include any work-based or vocational training

- Postgraduate degree
- Degree level qualification (or equivalent)
- Higher educational qualifications such as HNC/HNC/Foundation Degree
- A-Levels or Scottish Highers
- BTEC Level 3 or equivalent qualification
- GSCE (Grade A - C)
- GSCE (Grade D - F)
- BTEC Level 2 qualification
- Work-related or vocational qualification
- Other(s)
- Don't know

Please specify in the box below

Q18 How much of your past experience, skills and abilities which you gained in the armed forces can you make use of in your present job?

- Very little
- A little
- Quite a lot
- Almost all
- Don't know
- Not applicable

Q19 Which of these activities best describes what you are doing at present?

- Employee in full-time job (30 hours plus per week)
- Employee in part-time job (under 30 hours per week)
- Self-employed or own my own business
- On a government supported training programme (e.g. Modern Apprenticeship / Training for Work)
- Full-time education at school, college or university
- Unemployed and available for work
- Permanently sick/disabled
- Currently unfit to work
- Retired and volunteering
- Fully retired
- Caring for a family member
- Looking after the home
- Doing something else

Please state in the box below

Q20 How easy was it to find suitable employment when you left the armed forces?

- Very easy
- Fairly easy
- Neither easy nor difficult
- Fairly difficult
- Very difficult
- Not applicable
- Don't know

Q21 How long did it take to find employment when you left the armed forces?

- 3 months or less
- 3 to 6 months
- 6 to 12 months
- 1 to 2 years
- 2 to 5 years
- 5 years or more
- Not yet found work
- Did not look for employment after leaving the armed forces
- Don't know

I feel I've been fairly treated in civilian life



Is there anything else you would like to add? Please describe any other experiences in the box below

Q28 Would you be interested in taking part in further face to face sessions to give us more feedback on your experiences?

Yes

No

Please provide your contact details below. We will **only** use these to invite you to participate in future research on support for the Armed Forces community in Worcestershire.

Name

Email address