**Armed Forces Covenant Partnership**

**Aim**

*“To promote understanding and awareness of issues affecting the Armed Forces community within the Local Authority and related sectors to ensure the Armed Forces Covenant is embedded in mainstream service delivery through sharing and building on best practice”*

* This partnership should be used as an opportunity to promote awareness and improve provision for the Armed Forces community across health, social care, employment, education and housing.
* The partnership will recognise, as well as develop and coordinate potential solutions to, the issues faced by the local Armed Forces community.
* The partnership will support closer working relationships between the Local Authority, service providers, community groups, military charities and military units to ensure accessible front line services.

 **Membership / Attendance**

Chair:

* Council Armed Forces Champion

Open to:

* Council Officers from key departments (such as those potentially working with the Armed Forces community in: Education, Housing, Policy, Public Health, Adult Social Services, Employment, Childrens Services, Community Services)
* Statutory and voluntary sector organisations involved in provision for the Armed Forces community (including but not limited to those involved in: health and social care provision, employment, housing, education and youth work)
* Military Units in the Borough and neighbouring Boroughs
* Local and national Armed Forces charities

Members agree to:

* Attend meetings regularly or send a representative in their absence
* Actively contribute to, and collaborate on, activity supporting the Armed Forces Covenant in the local community
* Provide support for activities and outputs where possible

 **Frequency**

The Armed Forces Covenant Partnership will meet formally on an annual basis to review activity from the previous year, review any arising issues, plan for the following year and deconflict and events or activities as required by members

**Reporting**

Armed Forces Champion to sponsor an annual report to the Executive/Cabinet, detailing the Council’s actions in respect of the obligations to the Covenant.

**Agenda**

* Introductions
*Armed Forces Champion to open meeting, reiterate aims of the partnership and start introduction of members*
* Action points from last meeting
* Update from Armed Forces Champion
*Update on current Armed Forces Covenant commitment, progress and other Borough specific background information*
* Update from Military units
*Update on current unit activities and engagement within the Borough*
* Service Areas
*Information on key service areas from appropriate representatives, any issues encountered with Armed Forces Community or Covenant, new developments, requirements or opportunities*
	1. Housing
	2. Schools
	3. Employment and Adult Learning
	4. Health and Wellbeing
	5. Young People
	6. Council as an employer (Employer Recognition Scheme)
* Events
*Forward look of upcoming Armed Forces events and activities to understand what engagements local military units have in the Borough and an opportunity to deconflict as necessary*
* Review of required actions and next meeting date
* AOB