

E-Learning

COPY OF THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT: E-LEARNING FOR FRONT LINE WORKERS

The vast majority of the 2.8 million ex-Servicemen and women living in Britain today have successfully adapted to civilian life, putting the skills and experience they acquired while serving in the Armed Forces to good use. However, a significant minority can be in need of support either at the point of discharge or many years afterwards.

This e-learning has been developed by Doncaster Council and Learning Pool. It explains the commitment of the Armed Forces Covenant and how it can be honoured and implemented in the Community. It will help you understand and apply the principles of the Covenant at a local level. It also provides sources of further information and support.

The module contains some references to organisations local to Doncaster and wider regions. You may wish to replace these with details of equivalent organisations in your area.

Select a section number below to get started.



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1. Introduction

The Covenant in the Community

The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise from the nation ensuring 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.

The Armed Forces Covenant is supported by the Covenant in the Community, a partnership agreement between statutory, military and voluntary sector agencies who work together to honour and implement the national Armed Forces Covenant at a local level.

Select the arrow to the left of the image below to learn more.

The Covenant in the Community aims to:

- encourage local communities to support the Armed Forces community in their areas and to nurture public understanding and awareness among the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces

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The Covenant in the Community aims to:

- encourage local communities to support the Armed Forces community in their areas and to nurture public understanding and awareness among the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces community
- recognise and remember the sacrifices faced by the Armed Forces community, including an individual's commitment when serving to potentially be placed in harm's way
- encourage activities which help to integrate the Armed Forces community into local life...

[More](#)

Why Support the Covenant in the Community?

The Armed Forces community is a 'community of interest', that is, they share common characteristics and have specific needs and issues (an example of a more well-known community of interest is the Black and Minority Ethnic community).

The Armed Forces community makes up more than **15%** of the population in your locality with **8-10%** having a direct Armed Forces connection. You're very likely to come into contact with members of the Armed Forces community, but you may not necessarily realise it, unless you ask or they decide to tell you.

They do have needs and issues as a specific community and we need to get better at recognising and addressing them. Understanding and implementing the Covenant in the Community will help us do this.

You have now completed this section.

2. Fact or Fiction

- 6 fact or fiction questions – PTSD, prison system numbers, suicide rate, homeless population and mental illness.

Fact or Fiction?

Is the following statement fact or fiction?

Most ex-Servicemen and women are fit and healthy and psychologically sound rather than physically or psychologically damaged by experiences of armed conflict.

Select your answer, then scroll down to continue.

FACT

FICTION

3. Military and Civilian Worlds


A View From The Inside

Now we have a series of short video clips featuring Warrant Officer Class 2 (WO2) Andy Johnstone, who spent 25 years in the Scots Guards and saw active service in a number of locations around the world.

In these videos, Andy provides an insight into his experiences of being in the Armed Forces and the impact this has had on him.

Please note, these are Andy's personal views and not necessarily those of the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

Select the play button to get started.



- Videos – living with risk, losing a brother, absence from the family, career development and personal support. Each about 2 minutes long.

Education

Select the arrow to see some of the issues affecting education.



Service families have to live highly mobile lifestyles because they are part of the Armed Forces. Some personnel can be posted around the UK every 18 months to 3 years and many have to choose whether to move their families too, or live apart. This can lead to frequent changes in schools and it is not unusual for Service children to have been in more than five schools before they reach secondary school age.



Education and Schooling

A military family have received a short notice posting to a military Unit in the area. They have not been allocated accommodation yet, but don't want to delay applying for a school place for their six year old child. Local school places are full, although the local military schools numbers frequently fluctuate due to postings to and from the barracks.

The family has been told that they need a local address before an application for a school place can be processed.

Is this advice true or false?

- ☐ True, the family will need a local address before the application can be processed.
- ☐ False, the family doesn't need a local address before the application can be processed.

Submit

Feedback

James

Six months into the lease Michael decides to return home to Manchester leaving James to keep up with the rent, which he is unable to do and so rapidly gets into arrears.

James is being threatened with eviction and doesn't know where to turn. What would you advise him to do?

Choose your answer(s), then select Submit to see how you did.

- ☐ Contact the Citizens Advice Bureau
- ☐ Find someone else to share with him
- ☐ Contact the local Council to see if they can house him
- ☐ Take out an interest free credit card to cover the arrears

Submit

Show feedback

Finances

The financial impact of leaving the Services can be significant. It may well be the first time the Service leaver has had to budget for themselves. The point at which they leave can be an expensive time with paying deposits for accommodation and/or upfront for utility services. It may take some time to find paid employment and the pay may not be what they are used to.

Lucinda served as an Analyst in the RAF for six years. Select play to hear about her financial experiences on leaving.



Transition

The vast majority of people who leave the Armed Forces transition successfully, but many of them go through a period of change and adjustment to civilian life. The longer they've been in the Armed Forces, the greater the adjustment can be. There is also a significant minority who struggle with adjustment and can experience difficulties.

Adjustment to civilian life can affect families as well, as they may well have been part of the Service community for many years too. There are also those who adjust well to begin with, but who find that something de-rails them later on, such as the loss of a partner or job.

Research carried out by the Forces in Mind Trust identified a number of transition issues experienced by individuals leaving the Services. These are based on their Service careers as well as their experiences before joining the Services.

Select each heading to learn more.

Skills and Education

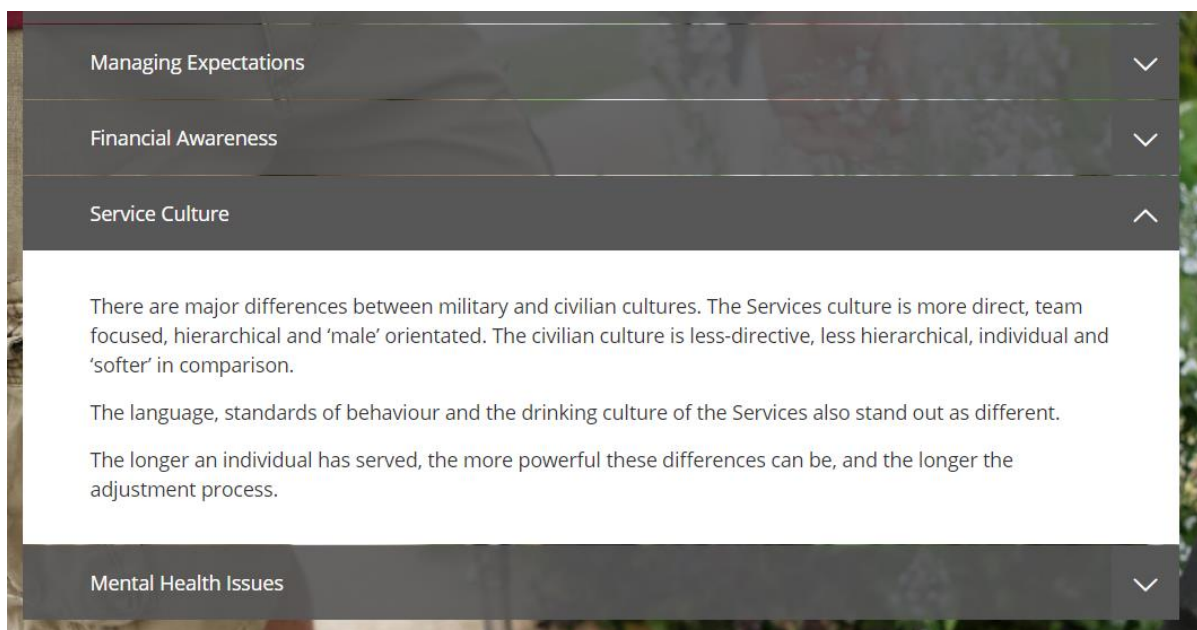


Managing Expectations



Financial Awareness





Successful Transition

A significant factor in determining successful transition is the person's mind set. The earlier they accept they will be leaving the Armed Forces and begin preparing for it, the greater their chances of success.

Those who understand that the military is a time limited career are more prepared than those who join up and don't consider their lives beyond this. Some individuals join because it's the best option open to them and don't consider what might happen when they return to their previous civilian situation.

The Service leaver needs to take ownership of their resettlement process. This can be difficult for those who have been institutionalised by Service life and may be less able to manage their day-to-day lives..

The MOD offers those who are leaving the Armed Forces a variety of support and services, depending on the individual's length of service and reason for discharge. Click or tap the image below to see what these are.

MOD support for personnel leaving the Armed Forces includes:

- support from the Careers Transition Partnership, a career development and outplacement company providing resettlement preparation, training and job finding assistance
- resettlement training courses focused on civilian roles and qualifications
- time off for training courses
- grants for training and education courses.

- Mental Health – 2 videos
- Loss of Identity and Comradeship – 2 stories
- Physical Disability – 1 story
- Loneliness – 1 video

5. Sources of Support

Sources of Support for the Armed Forces Community

Do you know how many military charities exist to support the Armed Forces Community?
Select your answer from the four choices below and see if you were right.

57

208

Charities and Other Veteran Organisations for Further Information and Advice	
Select each heading for contact details and further information.	
Armed Forces Covenant in the Community: Local Authorities	▼
Armed Forces Charities Portal	▼
Cobseo: The Confederation of Service Charities	▼
Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committee	▼
Veterans UK	▼
Veterans' Contact Point	▼

Charities as an Initial Point of Contact for Welfare and Other Needs

Select each heading for contact details and further information.

Citizens Advice Bureau



Help for Heroes



Poppyscotland



The Royal British Legion



SSAFA The Armed Forces Charity



Veterans Assist Scotland



AA Veterans Support



Support for People With Physical Injuries

Select each heading for contact details and further information.

BLESMA: The Limbless Veterans



Blind Veterans UK



Help for Heroes



Support for People With Mental Health Issues

There's a variety of military and non-military related charities providing help with mental health issues.

Select each heading for contact details and further information.

The Big White Wall



[The Big White Wall](#) is an online mental health support service for Veterans and those currently serving, their families and carers, as well as other communities. It's an online support group which aims to reduce the stigma of mental ill health.

This is a free and anonymous service for Service and ex-Service personnel. All they need to do is register.

CALM: The Campaign Against Living Miserably

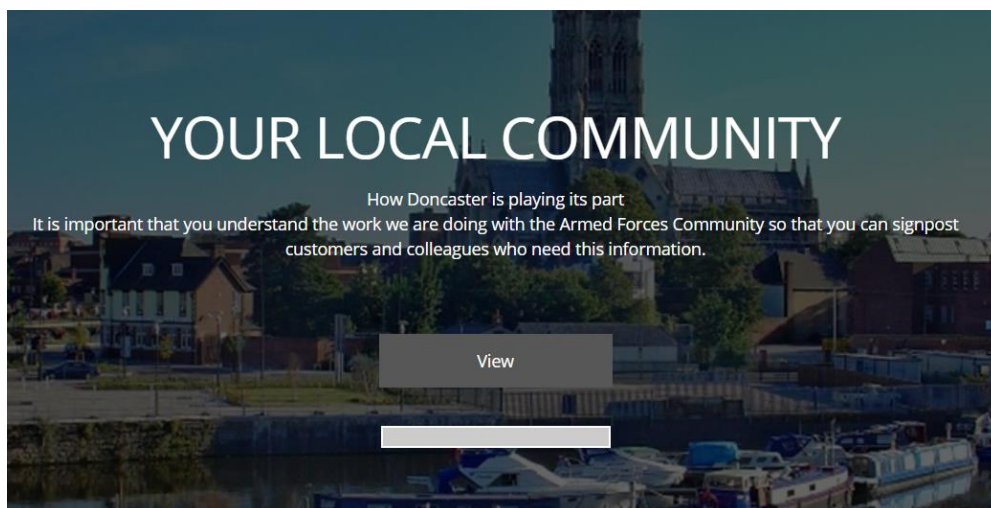


Combat Stress



- Housing and Homelessness
- Money Advice and Financial Issues
- Employment
- Support for Families

6. Your Local Community



- How Doncaster is playing its part
- What difference has the Covenant made in Doncaster
- How other organisations can get involved
- What you can do to help
- Your Life Doncaster

7. Conclusion

What is the Armed Forces Covenant?

Which of the following statements do you think best describes the Armed Forces Covenant?

Choose your answer, then select Submit.

☐ The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise from the nation ensuring 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.

☐ The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise from the nation ensuring that those who serve or who have served in the Armed Forces, and their families, are always given priority treatment in terms of housing, health and other services.

☐ The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise from the government to provide an effective response to all types of emergencies and major crises at national, regional and local level. This means having a pre-planned, coordinated response from the armed forces, emergency services and civil authorities where appropriate.

Ask the question

Members of the Armed Forces community – Regulars, Reservists, former Armed Forces personnel and their families – will not automatically identify themselves as such, especially if they are in difficulties. Therefore staff in support services and agencies may need to ask the question: "Are you, or have you been, a member of the Armed Forces or are you a dependent of someone who is?"

This opens up the discussion so that you can appreciate some of the issues they may be facing. It will also open up the range of agencies that you may be able to refer them to. However, some people may not wish to identify themselves as ex-Armed Forces and you need to respect that.

What will you do differently?

You've now completed this module. The key point now is to consider what you will do differently back in your organisation now that you've completed this learning.

Take a few minutes to think about you're taking from this learning and what you might do differently back in your workplace as a result. Make a note of your thoughts in the space provided.

When you're ready, select Submit to see some ideas that you could take back to the workplace.

1000 Remaining characters

Make a note of your thoughts here