WORCESTERSHIRE ARMED FORCES COVENANT ACTION PLAN 2019-2022

**Worcestershire ARMED FORCES COVENANT**

**ACTION PLAN December 2019 – December 2022**



The Worcestershire Armed Forces Covenant Partnership represents the public sector, charitable and voluntary sector, council members (Armed Forces Champions representing Worcestershire's six District Councils), public health, police, and the regional Army Welfare team. The main aims of the Partnership are:

* To foster collaboration and integration between the Armed Forces and civilian communities and make it easier for service personnel, families and veterans to access help and support available from statutory providers and from the charitable and voluntary sector.
* To implement a framework to gain a better understand of local issues in relation to members of the Armed Forces Community.
* To prioritise and address key areas of need, driven by an Action Plan
* To raise awareness of the Armed Forces Covenant to wider stakeholders such as employers, the business community and local communities.

The following action plan has been adopted based on the findings of Worcestershire’s Armed Forces community needs assessment and the recommended outcomes, based on key areas of need.

The overarching principle of the partnership is to ensure fair access to the most in need, to a wide range of services, through independence and dignity, fairness and respect, to those who are serving or have served their country.

**FINANCE & BENEFITS (INCLUDING HOUSING)**

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| **Recommendation** | **Key Lead** |  | **Partners / Collaboration** |  | **Outcome / Measure** |  |
| 1. Improve access/advocacy for |  |  |  |  |  |
| veterans (particularly early service |  |  |  |  |  |
| leavers), in debt and struggling with |  |  |  |  |  |
| housing, welfare/benefits rights |  |  |  |  |  |
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| 2. Influence local housing service |  |  |  |  |  |
| providers to be veteran aware and |  |  |  |  |  |
| identify PTSD is a recognised |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| illness, giving the right priority for |  |  |  |  |  |
| housing |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **HEALTH & WELL-BEING** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  |  | **Recommendation** | **Key Lead** | **Partners / Collaboration** |  | **Outcome / Measure** |  |
|  |  | 3. Gain better understanding of |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | veteran substance misuse and |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | where intervention may be needed |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  |  | 4. Increase awareness of the AFC |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Covenant to GPs and Hospitals |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  |  | 5. Recognise that many |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Worcestershire veterans are older. |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Seek to improve health & well- |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | being services tackling social |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | isolation and advocacy in the |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | veteran community |  |  |  |  |  |
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| **CRIMINAL JUSTICE** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  |  | **Recommendation** | **Key Lead** | **Partners / Collaboration** |  | **Outcome / Measure** |  |
|  |  | 6. Gain a better understanding of |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Worcestershire veterans in the |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Criminal Justice System and build- |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | on access to local support |  |  |  |  |  |
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**COMMUNICATION, AWARENESS AND WIDER ENGAGEMENT OF THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT**

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| **Recommendation** | **Key Lead** | **Partners / Collaboration** | **Outcome/Measure** |
| 7. Increase the level of understanding |  |  |  |
| of the covenant through |  |  |  |
| Awareness training |  |  |  |
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| 8. Improve communication and |  |  |  |
| promotion of the covenant locally |  |  |  |
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| 9. Increase numbers of Forces |  |  |  |
| friendly employers |  |  |  |
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**FOSTERING COLLABORATION AND SUSTAINING THE PARTNERSHIP**

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| **Recommendation** | **Key Lead** | **Partners / Collaboration** | **Outcome/Measure** |
| 10. | Ensure the partnership is |  |  |  |
| sustained by all 6 District |  |  |  |
| Councils in order to influence |  |  |  |
| funding & changes across |  |  |  |
| Worcestershire |  |  |  |
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| 11. | Establish an Operational |  |  |  |
|  | working group for case |  |  |  |
|  | workers to improve outcomes |  |  |  |
|  | for complex needs |  |  |  |
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**RECOGNISE & REMEMBER**



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| **Recommendation** | **Key Lead** |  | **Partners / Collaboration** |  | **Outcome/Measure** |  |
| 12. Worcestershire coming |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| together to celebrate and |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| commemorate our Armed |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Forces community |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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