

Armed Forces Covenant: Housing and finance task group

Memorandum of understanding:

Background: In 2016 Portsmouth City, Southampton City, Gosport Borough and Isle of Wight County Councils came together to strengthen local covenant delivery across the Sub-Solent. In 2018 the Solent Armed Forces Covenant Partnership Board undertook a needs assessment to establish priority actions for strengthening Covenant delivery.

Purpose: The purpose of this group will be to provide support, guidance and scrutiny that enables housing and finance actions from the Solent Armed Forces community assessment.

This will be accomplished by adopting the following principles:

- Having a unified ethos that extends past our own local boundaries;
- Taking nothing for granted in our considerations and ensuring we always cover the basics first;
- Ensuring that our messaging is inclusive, clear and consistent;
- Taking learning from best practice and pulling in the expertise of others as required;

Activities of the group:

- The group shall meet on a monthly basis;
- Agreed sub-groups will work together to progress projects;
- To draw in feedback and further support from the wider armed forces community and partnership as required.

Key objectives of the group:

- a) Encourage Veteran-specific housing providers within the Solent to register and utilise the Veterans Gateway housing support service.
- b) Map and communicate demand for further and future veteran-specific accommodation within the Solent; especially in relation to younger veterans, older veterans, families and areas without existing veteran-specific accommodation.
- c) Embed the process of asking the question and clarify the local housing offer to the Armed Forces community.



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d) Support a proactive approach to reducing homelessness and rough sleeping within the Armed Forces community.

e) Work to understand and address drivers for veteran financial hardship in the Solent and remove barriers to accessing the support available.

Membership:

- Navy Housing Office
- RNBT
- Veteran Specific Housing Associations (Alabaré, HAIG, Agamemnon)
- CAB
- Housing officers from Councils across the partnership;
- Council Officers with responsibilities for ensuring effective Covenant Delivery.

Reporting:

- We will evaluate the effectiveness and adherence to this agreement via the outputs of group through the Solent Armed Forces Covenant Partnership Board.

Duration:

- This MOU will be effective upon agreement by the Armed Forces Covenant, Employment and resettlement task group. It will remain in effect until modified or terminated by mutual consent.



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