

## **Armed Forces Covenant Action Plan**

### **Newark and Sherwood District Council**

### **November 2018 – November 2019**

*The Armed Forces Covenant works to ensure Armed Forces personnel, both current and past, and their families, receive equal treatment and equal access to facilities and services. It also seeks to encourage local communities to develop a relationship with the service community in their area.*

The Armed Forces Covenant defines the general principles that should govern the relationship between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces community. The Armed Forces Covenant aims to ensure that those who serve or have served and their families are treated fairly and are not disadvantaged because of their Service. The Armed Forces Covenant also encourages local communities to develop a relationship with the service community in their area. This includes serving members of the Armed Forces, their families, and veterans.

Newark and Sherwood District Council signed the Community Covenant on July 16 2013. Newark and Sherwood District Council also signed a revised copy of the 'Armed Forces Covenant' on 6 November alongside all local authorities within Nottinghamshire to reaffirm Nottinghamshire's commitment to the Armed Forces Community as part of the World War One commemorations.

Every Local Authority adhering to the Covenant is committed to produce and publish an Action Plan to underpin the Covenant. This forms part of the 'Core infrastructure for Covenant Delivery' which includes naming an Armed Forces Champion and attending the relevant Civil and Military Partnership Board. This action plan sets out the overall direction of the Covenant and helps ensure that Newark and Sherwood keeps on track with its commitments.

## 2018- 2019 Newark and Sherwood Armed Forces Action Plan

Aims	Actions	Comments/ Date for Next Review
<p><b>1. Recognise and remember the sacrifices and challenges faced by the Armed Forces community</b></p>	<p><b>1.1 Protection of the War Memorials of Newark and Sherwood</b> The planning department is undertaking a survey of all war memorials with a view to getting all memorials listed. This is being done as part of the NSDC Conservation Plan.</p>	<p>Next Review November 2019</p>
	<p><b>1.2 Remembrance and Recognition Days</b> Promote participation in, and support events and functions, to celebrate and remember the sacrifices of Armed Forces personnel, both past and present. Armed Forces ‘Remembrance and Recognition’ days to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Armed Forces day</li> <li>• Poppy Appeal</li> <li>• Remembrance Sunday</li> <li>• Reserves Day</li> <li>• Armistice day</li> </ul>	<p>Next Review November 2019</p>
	<p><b>1.3 Centenary Events</b> Promote and support events occurring around the district to mark the Centenary Year of World War One. The calendar of events will be promoted in the Voice and on NSDC social media.</p>	<p>Next Review November 2019</p>
<p><b>2. Promote understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces community</b></p>	<p><b>2.1 Publicize the Commitments made in the Armed Forces Covenant</b> Publicize NSDC’s commitment to Armed Forces personnel, and their families, receiving equal access and opportunity, through a dedicated webpage. <a href="http://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/armedforcescovenant/">www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/armedforcescovenant/</a></p>	<p>Next Review November 2019</p>
<p><b>3. Encourage the local community to support the Armed Forces community in the district</b></p>	<p><b>3.1 Community Volunteering</b> Encourage collaborative community volunteering by signposting to charities and volunteering opportunities in the district. <a href="http://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/armedforcescovenant/armedforcessupport/">www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/armedforcescovenant/armedforcessupport/</a></p>	<p>Next Review November 2019</p>

4. Encourage activities which help to integrate the Armed Forces Community into local life	<p><b>4.1 Signpost</b> Direct Armed Forces Community members to volunteering opportunities, additional support, services, sports clubs, charities and activities such as Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Clubs. <a href="http://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/armedforcescovenant/armedforcessupport/">www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/armedforcescovenant/armedforcessupport/</a></p>	Next Review November 2019
	<p><b>4.2 Promote best practice engagement with communities</b> Work with CMPB to identify and promote examples of good practice for community engagement and integration across Nottinghamshire</p>	Next Review November 2019
5. Encourage the Armed Forces Community to help and support the wider community, whether through participation in events and joint projects, or other forms of engagement, utilising funding obtained through the Community Covenant Grant scheme as appropriate	<p><b>5.1 Volunteering and Community Action</b> Support members of the Armed Forces Community to access volunteering and community action opportunities, especially for Forces personnel during transition <a href="http://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/armedforcescovenant/armedforcessupport/">www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/armedforcescovenant/armedforcessupport/</a></p>	Next Review November 2019
	<p><b>5.2 Access to NSDC Services</b> Support Armed Forces Personnel, and their families, as well as service leavers and veterans to access Newark and Sherwood District Council Services. For example, serving forces personnel can receive discounted 'corporate membership' at Active4Today leisure centres.</p>	Next Review November 2019
6. Provide advice, support and information to service personnel regarding their housing needs	<p><b>6.1 Housing Allocations Scheme</b> Priority status is awarded to Armed Forces personnel that meet the criteria set out in the 2017 Housing Allocations Scheme.</p>	Next Review November 2019
	<p><b>6.2 Support and Advice</b> NSDC promote the Veterans' Housing Advice Service. This service provides a pathway for ex-Service personnel in housing need by supporting them to move into a permanent home. It is provided in partnership with The Royal British Legion, Shelter and Connect Assist.</p>	Next Review November 2019
	<p><b>6.3 Homelessness</b> The Housing Options Team are undertaking a comprehensive homelessness review in preparation for the compilation of a new five year Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan for 2018-2022. Armed Forces personnel will be considered throughout the review with the aim of understanding any concerns relating to service leavers at risk of homelessness within the district and possible solutions. These findings will be considered and reported on within the strategy.</p>	Next Review November 2019

<b>7. Maintain core infrastructure for Covenant delivery</b>	<b>7.1 NSDC to be represented on the Civil Military Partnership Board</b> NSDC will send representative/s to the Nottinghamshire CMPB quarterly meetings and support the work of the board.	Next Review November 2019
	<b>7.2 Name an Armed Forces Champion and Armed Forces council officer lead</b> Armed Forces Champion: Councillor Bruce Laughton Armed Forces officer lead: Ella Brady, Organisational Development Officer	Next Review November 2019
	<b>7.3 Newark and Sherwood District Council Armed Forces Action Plan</b> The Newark and Sherwood District Council Armed Forces Action Plan will be updated annually and reported to Policy and Finance Committee.	Next Review November 2019
<b>8. Support the recruitment of members of the Armed Forces community</b>	<b>8.1 NSDC to maintain Silver in the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme</b> The Defence Employer Recognition Scheme recognizes employers who support defence and the armed forces community. <a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-employer-recognition-scheme/defence-employer-recognition-scheme">www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-employer-recognition-scheme/defence-employer-recognition-scheme</a>	Next Review November 2019