

# **Community Covenant**

## **AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT**

BETWEEN

Buckinghamshire County Council, the District Councils of Buckinghamshire, NHS Buckinghamshire, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Thames Valley Police, Bucks Fire & Rescue, Thames Valley Probation, Jobcentre Plus, Community Impact Bucks, representatives of the Armed Forces Charities, representatives of Buckinghamshire based charities and the business community of Buckinghamshire





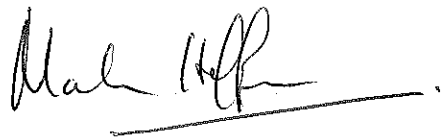


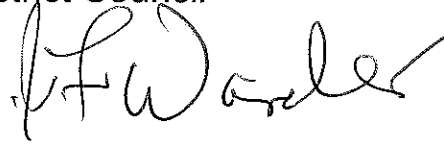
AND

The Armed Forces Community in Buckinghamshire

**We, the undersigned, agree to work and act together to  
honour the Armed Forces Community Covenant**

**5th July 2012**

**Signatories**

<p>Cllr Marion Clayton Chairman and Armed Forces Champion Signed on behalf of Buckinghamshire County Council</p> 	<p>Brigadier Neil Baverstock OBE MA Signed on behalf of the Army</p> 
<p>Martin Tett Leader Signed on behalf of Buckinghamshire County Council</p> 	<p>Commodore Martin Atherton Signed on behalf of the Royal Navy</p> 
<p>Group Captain Mark Heffron Signed on behalf of RAF High Wycombe</p> 	<p>Group Captain Christina Elliot Signed on behalf of RAF Halton</p> 
<p>Cllr Derrick Isham Chairman Signed on behalf of Aylesbury Vale District Council</p> 	<p>Cllr John Warder MBE Chairman Signed on behalf of Chiltern District Council</p> 

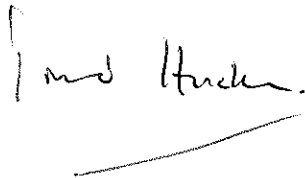
Cllr Alan Walters  
Chairman  
Signed on behalf of South Bucks  
District Council



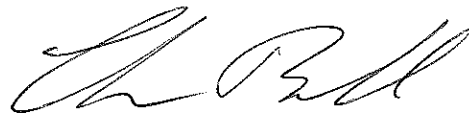
Cllr Wendy Mallen  
Chairman  
Signed on behalf of Wycombe  
District Council



Fred Hucker  
Chair, NHS Buckinghamshire and  
Oxfordshire Cluster  
Signed on behalf of NHS  
Buckinghamshire



Dennis O'Driscoll  
Area Manager for  
Buckinghamshire  
Signed on behalf of Bucks Fire &  
Rescue



Oliver Wright  
Chief Inspector  
Signed on behalf of Thames Valley  
Police



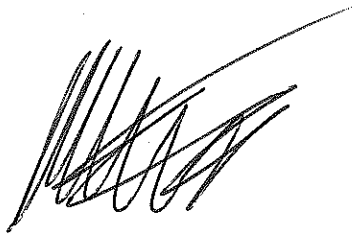
Dr Graham Jackson  
GP Chair of Aylesbury Vale Clinical  
Commissioning Group  
Signed on behalf of the  
Buckinghamshire  
Clinical Commissioning Groups



Sue Cooke  
Director for Bucks  
Signed on behalf of Thames Valley  
Probation



Alex Pratt  
Chairman,  
Signed on behalf of Bucks  
Business First



Mike Barry  
Buckinghamshire County  
Chairman  
Signed on behalf of the Royal  
British Legion



John Stevens  
Branch Chairman  
Signed on behalf of SSAFA Forces  
Help Buckinghamshire



Martine Bantick  
Customer Service Operations  
Manager  
Signed on behalf of Jobcentre Plus



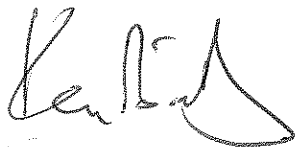
Professor Peter Thomas MBE  
Chairman  
Signed on behalf of the Bucks &  
Milton Keynes Sports Board



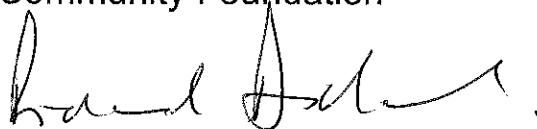
Barry Clarke  
Vice Chairman  
Signed on behalf of Community  
Impact Bucks



Ken Birkby  
Chairman  
Signed on behalf of Action4Youth



Richard Dickson  
Development Director  
Signed on behalf of Bucks  
Community Foundation



## **SECTION 1: PARTICIPANTS**

This Armed Forces Community Covenant is made between:

The serving, reservists and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing in Buckinghamshire

- And Buckinghamshire County Council
- And Aylesbury Vale District Council
- And Chiltern District Council
- And South Bucks District Council
- And Wycombe District Council
- And NHS Buckinghamshire
- And Clinical Commissioning Groups
- And Thames Valley Police
- And Bucks Fire & Rescue
- And Thames Valley Probation
- And Buckinghamshire Business First
- And Jobcentre Plus
- And Royal British Legion
- And SSAFA Forces Help
- And Community Impact Bucks
- And Bucks & Milton Keynes Sports Board
- And Bucks Community Foundation
- And Action4Youth

## **SECTION 2: PRINCIPLES OF THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT**

2.1 The Armed Forces Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. It is intended to complement the Armed Forces Covenant, which outlines the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces, at the local level including the military charity sector.

2.2 The purpose of this Community Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in Buckinghamshire and to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by members of this Armed Forces Community, particularly those who have given the most. This includes in-Service and ex-Service personnel their families and widow(er)s in Buckinghamshire.

2.3 For Buckinghamshire County Council and partner organisations, the Community Covenant presents an opportunity to bring their knowledge, experience and expertise to bear on the provision of help and advice to members of the Armed Forces Community. It also presents an opportunity to build upon existing good work of other initiatives.

2.4 For the Armed Forces Community, the Community Covenant encourages the integration of Service life into civilian life and encourages members of the Armed Forces to help their local community.

## **SECTION 3: OBJECTIVES AND GENERAL INTENTIONS**

### **Aims of the Community Covenant**

3.1 It aims to encourage all parties within a community to offer support to the local Armed Forces Community and make it easier for Service personnel, families and veterans to access the help and support available from the MOD, from statutory providers and from the Charitable and Voluntary Sector. These organisations already work together in partnership at local level.

3.2 The scheme is intended to be a two-way arrangement and the Armed Forces Community are encouraged to do as much as they can to support their community and promote activity which integrates the Service community into civilian life.

## **SECTION 4: ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

Buckinghamshire has enduring links with the RAF with RAF High Wycombe and RAF Halton. It is also the home of the Defence School of Languages in Beaconsfield (DSL) and a significant reserve, primarily 7 Rifles as well as the Army Cadet Force, Air Training Corps and Sea Cadet Corps. There are also a substantial number of veterans and their families living throughout the County.

## **SECTION 5: MEASURES**

The Community Covenant provides the opportunity to work more strategically and collaboratively with the armed forces community. This work will be driven through the Community Covenant action plan and monitored through the Bucks Network.

The action plan has been crafted around the six strategic themes of the Community Covenant and delivers measurable outcomes. The signatories of this covenant and their representatives agree to take a joint and collaborative approach to achieve the general aims identified in the Community Covenant action plan, as it changes to meet new priorities.

# THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT

An Enduring Covenant Between

The People of the United Kingdom  
Her Majesty's Government

– and –

All those who serve or have served in the  
Armed Forces of the Crown

and their Families

The first duty of Government is the defence of the realm. Our Armed Forces fulfil that responsibility on behalf of the Government, sacrificing some civilian freedoms, facing danger and, sometimes, suffering serious injury or death as a result of their duty. Families also play a vital role in supporting the operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces. In return, the whole nation has a moral obligation to the members of the Naval Service, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families. They deserve our respect and support, and fair treatment.

Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.

This obligation involves the whole of society: it includes voluntary and charitable bodies, private organisations, and the actions of individuals in supporting the Armed Forces. Recognising those who have performed military duty unites the country and demonstrates the value of their contribution.

This has no greater expression than in upholding this Covenant.