

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau
Minister for Local Government and Communities



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref

Leaders and Chief Executives of Local
Authorities

Chairs of Local Service Boards

16th July 2012

ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT AND ARMED FORCES CHAMPIONS IN LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Thank you to those of you that attended the "Supporting our Armed Forces Community" Conference on 8 February. Now that new Local Authorities are in place it is an opportune time to follow up on some of the issues raised at the event.

John Davies wrote to me on 28 February to provide me with an update on developments within WLGA, focussing on plans to develop a Memorandum of Understanding to act as a spur for further development of relationships between local authorities and the Armed Forces Community. John also sought representation for Local Government on my Expert Group on the Needs of the Armed Forces Community in Wales and I am pleased to confirm that a WLGA representative attended the meeting on 2 May.

I welcome the approach being taken by WLGA and look forward to seeing a protocol in place to which all local authorities in Wales have signed up to. I would not want though for local authorities to wait for the introduction of this protocol before pressing ahead with plans for introducing community covenants. I made clear in my speech at the conference that I expected all local authorities in Wales to explore options for introducing a covenant and I pleased that several local authorities have made progress on this. Now that the new authorities are in place I am would like to remind you of my position on this matter and to seek an update from you on your plans/progress. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) does of course have a Community Covenant Grant Scheme which delivers financial support to projects at the local level, and those Local Authorities that have introduced a Community

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CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg: 0845 010 4400
Correspondence: Carl.Sargeant@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Printed on 100% recycled paper

Covenant are eligible to apply. The MoD deadline for the next tranche of applications is Friday 24 August followed by a further round by 28 November.

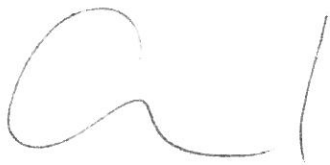
On 19th June I published 'Shared Purpose—Shared Delivery' guidance for local authorities and their partners on integrated planning and service delivery. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that consideration should be given to the specific requirements of the armed forces community as part of your strategic needs assessment to feed into Single Integrated Plans. The armed forces community is clearly one where factors inter-relate with the health and wellbeing of individuals such as housing, education, healthcare provision etc, and it is important that the appropriate links are made through the work of Local Service Boards. We need to ensure that the armed forces community has equality of access to public services so that they are in no way disadvantaged by their military service.

I am aware that some local authorities have introduced community champions. I plan to consider through my Expert Group how such roles might be formalised in the future e.g. through the introduction of consistent terms of reference across Wales, but would wish to establish initially the role being undertaken where such champions have already been introduced.

I would be grateful if you could provide information on :

- Progress on introducing a community covenant
- Whether you have introduced an Armed Forces Community Champion
- The role and function of that Champion.

to one of my officials (Laura Thomas in Fire and Armed Forces Branch laura.thomas@wales.gsi.gov.uk) by 10 August 2012.



Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau
Minister for Local Government and Communities



Community Covenant

AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

BETWEEN

WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
WREXHAM LOCAL SERVICE BOARD,
THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY OF WREXHAM

AND

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN WREXHAM

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

Signed by the following organisations on 5th April 2013:

All logos of organisations signing

SECTION 1: PARTICIPANTS

1.1 This Armed Forces Community Covenant is made between:

The serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing in Wrexham

And

Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC)

And

Wrexham Local Service Board (LSB)

And

The Charitable and Voluntary Sector

And

Other members of the civilian community of Wrexham

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 National Government and the Armed Forces, at the local level.
- 2.2 The purpose of this Community Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in Wrexham 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 Wrexham.
- 2.3 For Wrexham County Borough 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 on 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 community to help their local community.

SECTION 3: OBJECTIVES AND GENERAL INTENTIONS

Aims of the Community Covenant

- 3.1 The Armed Forces Community Covenant complements the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant which defines the enduring, general principles that should govern the relationship between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces community
- 3.2 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 Ministry of Defence, from statutory providers and from the Charitable and Voluntary Sector. These organisations already work together in partnership at local level.
- 3.3 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: Measures

- 4.1 Working in partnership WCBC will lead on the work to co-ordinate mutual support between the Armed Forces and the community within Wrexham County Borough.
- 4.2 WCBC in partnership will develop an action plan to support the delivery of agreed priorities to “in service” and “ex-service” personnel and their families in four key areas:
 - Education
 - Skills and Employment
 - Housing
 - Health and Well being
- 4.3 Partners in conjunction with Welsh Government will work together to map where the veteran population of Wrexham is located, in order to better understand the specific needs of this population in Wrexham and will signpost what maybe available for their support.
- 4.4 WCBC in partnership will develop a communication strategy in order to ensure that key services are effectively signposted to members of the Armed Forces service community.
- 4.5 WCBC in partnership will encourage the recognition of Armed Forces through activities such as Freedom, Homecoming and Remembrance Parades and support Armed Forces Day.
- 4.6 WCBC in partnership will work with the Wrexham County Borough Community to access the Community Covenant Grant Fund, in order to deliver financial support to projects at a local level that will strengthen the ties or mutual understanding of the Armed Forces community and the wider community in which they live.

4.7 WCBC in partnership will report annually to WCBC Executive Board on the progress operation and progress of the Armed Forces community covenant in Wrexham.

CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

MOD DCDS (Pers&Trg) Covenant Team

Email address: covenant-mailbox@mod.uk
Address: DCDS (Pers) Covenant Team
Zone D, 6th Floor
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

In-Service representative(s)

Contact Name: TBC
Title:
Telephone:
Address:

Wrexham County Borough Council

Contact Name: Cllr David Griffiths
Title: Armed Forces Champion
Telephone: 01978 292273
Email: David.Griffiths@wrexham.gov.uk
Address: Guildhall, Wrexham. LL11 1AY

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.

Community Covenant

An Armed Forces Community Covenant

between

The Isle of Anglesey County Council

Representatives of Medrwn Môn

and

the Armed Forces in the Isle of Anglesey

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

Section 1: Participants

1.1 This Armed Forces Community Covenant is made between:

The serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing on

the Isle of Anglesey

and

Isle of Anglesey County Council

and

Medrwn Môn

and

Other members of the civilian community

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.
- 2.2 The purpose of this Community Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing on the Isle of Anglesey 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 on the Isle of Anglesey.
- 2.3 For the Ynys Môn County Council and partner organisation, 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 on other initiatives such as the Welfare Pathway.
- 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 community to help their local community.

Section 3: Objectives and General Intention

Aims of the Community Covenant

- 3.1 The Armed Forces Community Covenant complements the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant which defines the enduring, general principles that should govern the relationship between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces community.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 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: Measures

- 4.1 The Isle of Anglesey County Council and Medrwn Môn will establish an on-line service library of organisation with a remit to provide assistance and support to members of the armed forces community. The service library will be accessible for members of the armed forces community to find the assistance they need and will be used by council staff and the voluntary sector as a signposting resource.
- 4.2 The Isle of Anglesey County Council and Medrwn Môn will publicise an established single customer service telephone number to the armed forces community and encourage the community to make their status known so that all available advice from the council and other organisations can be provided. Both Isle of Anglesey County Council and Medrwn Môn will designate an Officer for Armed Forces liaison in meeting the aims of this Community Covenant.
- 4.3 The Isle of Anglesey County Council and Medrwn Môn will undertake a review of its services and implement any improvements that are identified for the benefit of the Armed Forces community within available resources.
- 4.4 The Isle of Anglesey County Council will engage with its partners in the private, public and voluntary sectors in addition to Reservists, TAs and Cadet Forces to identify opportunities to fulfil the objectives of the Community Covenant and aspire to develop community projects to improve support facilities and services for the Armed Forces community.
- 4.5 The signatories of this Community Covenant undertake to enter into a joint partnership board 'The Isle of Anglesey Armed Forces Community Covenant Partnership'. The Board will meet at least three times a year.

4.6 **Contact Personnel and Telephone Numbers**

MOD DCDS (Pers&Trg) Covenant Team

Contact Name:

Title:

Telephone:

Address:

In-Service Representative

Contact:

Telephone:

Address:

Isle of Anglesey County Council

Contact:

Telephone:

Fax:

Address: Isle of Anglesey County Council
Council Offices
Llangefni
Ynys Môn
LL77 7TW

Signatories

Signed:

Signed:

Name:

Name:

Position Held:

Position Held: *Leader of the Council*

**Signed on behalf of the Armed
Forces Community**

**Signed on behalf of the Isle of
Anglesey County Council**

Date:

Date:

Signed:

Signed:

Name:

Name:

Position Held:

Position Held:

Signed on behalf of Medrwn Môn

Signed as a partner organisation

Date:

Date:

