

What is the Armed Forces Covenant?

The Covenant is a promise between the Government, the Nation and the Armed Forces. It's there to make sure that people in the Armed Forces Community aren't disadvantaged because of their Service, and that the people who have given the most like the wounded and the bereaved receive special consideration for the sacrifices they have made for the country. We use it to look out for any problems you might face because of your part in the Armed Forces Community, and then to find solutions to those problems.

What is the Annual Report?

The Secretary of State for Defence is legally required to report annually on the effects of service on armed forces personnel and their families, particularly where you are disadvantaged or where special treatment might be justified. It means the government is held to account every year on its duty to deliver the Covenant. This year's report has just been published. The report covers different groups within the Armed Forces Community, one of which is families.

To find out more about the Covenant, the report or where to go if you need help, please see www.mod.uk/covenant.



Covenant wins for Service Families

- Members of the Armed Forces Community in England and Wales who are patients on NHS waiting lists have the time already accrued taken into account when posted somewhere else
- We have delivered a scheme to provide scholarships to bereaved Service children
- We have introduced the Service Pupil Premium for the children of those currently serving (£300 per child)
- Schools can now exceed the 30-pupil limit for infant classes in order to accommodate Service children. This is part of the revised Schools Admissions Code
- In England, members of the Armed Forces are placed at the top of the list for the Government's £500m FirstBuy scheme
- In the March 2012 budget the Government announced £100M further investment in Service accommodation for the financial year 2013/14
- We've launched the Defence Discount Service
- We've doubled the Families Welfare Grant
- We have made it easier to carry CRB checks from job to job within the same employment sector to improve the employability of Armed Forces family members. It will be done through an online portal starting in March 2013

Covenant Mythbuster

It's NOT just a piece of paper

The Armed Forces Covenant was published in May last year along with a document called 'Today and Tomorrow' which lists the nearly 100 real, tangible commitments the Government has made to the Armed Forces Community.

It IS a Government priority

A Cabinet committee has had four meetings to check Ministers are delivering what they said they would, and the Prime Minister has been to two of these meetings.

It IS having an impact on the lives of the Armed Forces Community

A huge number of positive changes have been made since May 2011, but sometimes you might not recognise them as Covenant commitments. We've twice doubled council tax relief to nearly £600 for a six-month deployment, we've introduced BFPO postcodes to make it easier to access commercial products and we've given priority access to social housing for veterans, bereaved families and Service people who need adapted homes.

It IS about local communities too

The Covenant is not just about the Government delivering commitments on a national level. More than 200 local communities have signed a Community Covenant - a voluntary statement of mutual support between civilians and the Armed Forces in their area.

It IS an obligation on the whole of society

The Covenant is an obligation on the whole of society. It includes voluntary and charitable bodies, private organisations and individuals, all of whom are asked to recognise our Armed Forces and offer respect, support and fair treatment.

Covenant in Action

Last year Mrs Cording, Head Teacher at Eggbuckland Vale Primary, won funding from the MOD's State School Support Fund to help the Service children in her school through a community project. The work has grown and grown and the school has just received its second round of funding to develop it.

"Service children make up around 25% of our school and we wanted to think of a way that gave them the pastoral care they need along with helping with their attainment."

"So we asked a group of Service children in Year 6 to be in charge of organising a community event. They decided on staging an art gallery and (with some professional help!) got to grips with event planning, taking part in artist workshops, printing postcards to sell and sorting out the tea and coffee stands. All 95 Service children in the school took part on the day, and we got young people in from the secondary school who acted as peer mentors to the younger ones."

"The event has given them organisational skills and boosted their writing and their creativity. But it's also given them an identity within the school community, and raised their profile with the other students."



Useful Contacts

- This leaflet is aimed at Armed Forces families, but there are two others aimed at Veterans and Serving personnel you may wish to read
- To read the full report on the Armed Forces Covenant and see details of what the government has committed to, go to www.mod.uk/covenant
- You can seek further advice from the Chain of Command or your nearest HIVE www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/DefenceFor/ServiceCommunity/Hive/HiveSupportDuringDeployments.htm
- Further advice is available from the Family Federations (Navy: www.nff.org.uk. Army: www.aff.org.uk, RAF: www.raf-ff.org.uk.)
- MOD Education Service Children's Education Advisory Service 01980 618244
- MOD Accommodation Defence Estates Head Office 0121 311 2140
- MOD Accommodation Modern Housing Solutions 0800 707 600 Freephone Open 24 hrs
- MOD Accommodation Defence Estates Housing Information Centre 0800 169 6322 or Mil: 94 510 8000



Ministry
of Defence

The Armed Forces Covenant: Families

