




St Helens Borough Council

**We commit to uphold the Armed Forces Covenant
and support the Armed Forces Community.**

**We recognise the contribution that Service personnel,
both regular and reservist, veterans, and military
families make to our organisation, our community and to the country.**

Signed on 30th October 2024 on behalf of:

St Helens Borough Council

Signed: 

Name: Councillor Lynn Clarke

Position: Armed Forces Champion
St Helens Borough Council

British Army

Signed: 

Name: Major Graham Dowling

Position: Regimental Administrative Officer
103 Regiment Royal Artillery (Reserve)

Royal Air Force

Signed: 

Name: Wing Commander Martin Morris

Position: AIR Regional Employer Engagement
Officer - North West

Sea Cadet Corps

Signed: 

Name: Sub Lieutenant James Dillon

Position: First Lieutenant, Training Ship Scimitar
St Helens Sea Cadets



The Armed Forces Covenant

An Enduring Covenant Between

The People of the United Kingdom
His 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.

Section 1: Principles of The Armed Forces Covenant

1.1 We, **St Helens Borough Council**, will endeavour to uphold the key principles of the Armed Forces Covenant:

- Members of the Armed Forces Community should not face disadvantages arising from their service in the provision of public and commercial services.
- In some circumstances special provision may be justified, especially for those who have given the most, such as the injured or bereaved.

Section 2: Demonstrating our Commitment.

2.1 We recognise the contribution that Service personnel, reservists, veterans, the cadet movement, and military families make to our organisation, our community and to the country. We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant by:

- **Acting as a lead organisation in our community through the designated Council Member role of St Helens Armed Forces Champion who will co-ordinate support for the Armed Forces Community within the borough.**
- **Ensuring members of the Armed Forces Community are not disadvantaged by their service experience when accessing Public Health, Housing, and Education Services and Support through the completion of Armed Forces Impact Assessments as required under the Armed Forces Act 2021.**
- **Signposting the Armed Forces Community to bespoke support available in the Borough.**
- **Honouring the Armed Forces and recognising the sacrifices made in support of our freedoms through such activities as Armed Forces Day, Freedom of the Borough, and Remembrance.**
- **Supporting employment of the Armed Forces Community through membership of the MOD's Defence Employer Recognition Scheme**
- **Promoting the merits of the Armed Forces Covenant and the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme to partner organisations.**

2.2 We will publicise these commitments through our website, setting out how we honour them and inviting feedback from the Armed Forces Community and people within the diverse community of St Helens Borough on how we are doing.