

**Manchester Health and Wellbeing Board
Report for Information**

Report to: Manchester Health and Wellbeing Board – 5 July 2017
Subject: Veterans and Armed Forces - developments in Manchester
Report of: Strategic Director of Adult Social Care

Summary

This report introduces a presentation by Dr Robin Jackson, NHS Armed Forces Network North West in respect of the Armed Forces Covenant and the health needs of Veterans across the Northwest which will be followed by a short presentation in respect of the development of the Covenant within Manchester which is attached (Appendix One).

Work around developments for Veterans and Armed Forces is a high priority and builds on recent success via the Canada Street Project via the BBC DIYSOS. A small officer group has formed to support the nominated SMT Champion. Following the presentation today by Dr Robin Jackson, NHS Armed Forces Network North West, a short presentation on Manchester's developments will be presented to the Board

Recommendations

The Board is asked to:

Note the recent developments and efforts to improve the support for Veterans and Armed Forces

Board Priority(s) Addressed:

Health and Wellbeing Strategy priority	Summary of contribution to the strategy
Getting the youngest people in our communities off to the best start	Veterans and former/current serving Armed Forces personnel are part of families. Support to the armed forces personnel extends to their wider family responsibilities, including responsibilities for children. This includes high housing priority being awarded to enable improved housing options and support to access appropriate education facilities for children and young people
Improving people's mental health and wellbeing	Veterans and AF personnel have recognised mental health needs, particularly Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder; by providing adequate access to appropriate

	and high quality mental health care
Bringing people into employment and ensuring good work for all	Veterans and Armed Forces personnel are being actively supported to find employment and skills opportunities; the Canada Street development highlighted not only the need for suitable housing but also for future employment, skills and training opportunities, which is now in place.
Enabling people to keep well and live independently as they grow older	Manchester already supports older Veterans and they receive a mainstream and universal health and care offer. Through the new Veterans and Armed Forces Toolkit, health and social care professionals can now access a wide range of Veterans and Armed Forces Charities to provide improved signposting for their patients and our citizens
Turning round the lives of troubled families as part of the Confident and Achieving Manchester programme	
One health and care system – right care, right place, right time	Future health and social developments, including the new Manchester Health and Care Commissioning (MHCC) and the future Local Care Organisation will
Self-care	Veterans and Armed Forces personnel are resilient and resourceful as part of their military training. Ensuring there is adequate self care options is a key feature of the pledges under the Community Covenant.

(Lead Member for Veterans and Armed Forces: Councillor Tommy Judge)

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Manchester City Council signed the Armed Services Community Covenant on the 27th June 2013 alongside representatives of the military and veterans charities.
The application of the pledges contained within the Covenant has subsequently been driven by an officer steering group under the direction of Hazel Summers in her capacity as SMT Armed Forces Champion.
- 1.2 An event took place on 19th June which brought together the Lead Member for Armed Forces, Councillor Tommy Judge with local military & veteran organisations and wider stakeholders to showcase achievements to date and to launch a wider Armed Services Covenant Forum which will drive forward development utilising an “Our Manchester” partnership approach
- 1.3 The Covenant is appended to this report for information and an accompanying presentation will outline progress to date.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Note the recent developments and efforts to improve the support for Veterans and Armed Forces



AN ARMED FORCES COVENANT

BETWEEN

MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL,

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, REPRESENTING
THE ARMED FORCES CHARITIES

AND

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN *MANCHESTER*

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

Signatories

Name: NAEEM UL HASSAN
MBE

Position Held: Lord Mayor of Manchester
Commander

On behalf of: Manchester City Council

Date: 27th June 2013

Name: RICHARD SOUTHEN

Position Held: County Vice Chair
Commander
Royal British Legion
Officer

On behalf of: Armed Forces

Name: N.O.FITZGERALD

Position Held: Brigadier,
(Northwest) Brigade

On behalf of: Ministry of Defence

Name: MARK HOLMWOOD

Position Held: Lieutenant
Regional Recruiting

On behalf of: Royal Navy Charities

Name: MARK UNDERHIL OBE

Position Held: Colonel, Chief Executive

On behalf of: North West Reserve
Forces and Cadets Association

Name: RICHARD JORDAN

Position Held: Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer

On behalf of: 103 Regiment Royal
Artillery

SECTION 1: PARTICIPANTS

1.1 This Armed Forces Covenant is made between:

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

And

Manchester City Council

And

The Royal British Legion representing the Armed Forces Charities

And

The Armed Forces Community in Manchester

SECTION 2: PRINCIPLES OF THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT

2.1 The Armed Forces Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. This Covenant encompasses the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces, at the local level.

2.2 The Armed Forces Covenant is based upon two key principles:

- The Armed Forces community should not face 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.

2.3 The purpose of this Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in Manchester 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 Manchester

2.4 For Manchester City 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 such as the Welfare Pathway.

- 2.5 For the Armed Forces community, the 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 Covenant

- 3.1 The Armed Forces Covenant 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 Manchester city Council will continue to recognise the role of the Armed Forces both within the city and nationally.
- 4.2 The City Council will work with the Armed Forces community, the charitable and voluntary sectors and private sector partners in the City with the objective of avoiding disadvantage to the Armed Forces community in service provision and to promote development of a reciprocal relationship between the local Armed Forces and civilian communities.
- 4.3 To take this forward, a Community Covenant Board has been established with key partners. The initial aims include:
 - To oversee the implementation of the Manchester Community Covenant, including the development of an action plan, with key outcomes and owners.
 - To work to assist transition of members of the Service community and their families, particularly in relation to the key areas of education, health, housing, welfare and employment.
 - To raise awareness of the armed services and the contribution that they make locally and nationally, including through events such as the Remembrance Sunday commemorations and Armed Forces Day Thank You event; and to also raise awareness of their needs.
 - To identify opportunities to integrate, wherever possible, military and civilian activities and events to the mutual benefit of both communities.

- To help create a culture where Armed Forces and Cadet Organisations in Manchester can offer support to their local civilian communities.
 - To publicise the services that the Council and its partners offer to serving and retired members of the Armed Forces and their families in Manchester and to ensure that effective signposting to services is in place.
- 4.4 We will encourage communities to bring forward appropriate projects in Manchester to bid from the National Community Covenant Grant Scheme and the Armed Forces Covenant Grant Scheme and the Armed Forces (LIBOR) Fund.
- 4.5 The Community Covenant Board will report annually on progress to the City Council and the partners of this agreement.

CURRENT CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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In-Service representative(s)

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Manchester City Council

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Veteran Charities

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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.