

City of York Armed Forces Covenant Implementation Local Authority & Partners Action Framework

This action plan, developed by City of York Council, is intended to assist local authorities and their partners with effective integration of the Armed Forces (AF) Covenant outcomes. This will include strategic and operational implementation aligned to the local authority service delivery and business imperatives.

Strategic

New strategies, relating to staff and the local wider armed forces community should consider and implement an impact assessment to identify potential positive and negative outcomes and be recorded. This will highlight asset characteristics and any gaps in equality of access to services and “looking after those that have given the most”.

Policies

It will be necessary to review/audit relevant policies relating to your armed forces community, including staff. It is important to ensure equality of access and delivery to local services within the context of the AF Covenant outcomes.

Service delivery

Policies should reflect delivery of actual services and that all staff and our partners are aware of the armed forces covenant requirement. What it is, who it relates to and how relevant staff can ensure equality of access to services. This can be supported with a range of information, training and awareness raising options.

Pathways (Directorate delivery)

The following service delivered pathways should be free from inequality (disadvantage) to our armed forces community: health, housing, education, employment, welfare and adult social care.

Size of the Armed Forces Community

The size and composition of the local AF Community (including staff) can be identified through several options. By asking and recording the AF question within your adult social care community, customer service and area team contact points. This can provide valuable live data, improving operational deliver and enable better strategic planning assumptions and decisions to be made.

AF Community information can be requested directly from local regular and reserve forces organisations. Local Reserve Forces & Cadet Association can help identify local authority reservists, and local reserve force and military cadet units. Local authority partners in education, Department of Works and Pensions and NHS organisations are required to ask the armed forces question, capture and use the associated data.

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Health Pathway Questionnaire:

Armed Forces Community Size & Composition

Q1) How does your public health team know the size and composition of its local armed forces community? How is Armed Forces (AF) data collected? What happens with this data?

Armed Forces Community Strategic Health Needs Assessment

Q2) Do you have an armed forces Strategic Health Needs Assessment? Is it fit for purpose?

Armed Forces Community – Local NHS Provision

Q3) How does your local CCG/s collect AF data from their local NHS GP/Mental Health/Dental service providers? What happens to this data?

Armed Forces Community – Registration & Data provision

Q4) Do the local NHS GP and dental practices ask the AF question on new patient registration? If not, how do they access the new patient's previous service medical history and notes for them and their family? Do they use appropriate Read Codes to reflect the current (reservist) or retired military service person?

Q5) Armed Forces Community – Improvements in NHS provision

How does the regional NHS body, local CCG/s, Public health and its partners share, use and improve service delivery for their local AF community and public in general?

Armed Forces Community – Health good practice

Q6) What examples of good practice do you have and how do you share these?

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Housing Pathway Questionnaire:

Armed Forces Community Size & Composition

Q1) How does your housing providers know the size and composition of its local armed forces community?

How is armed forces homeless and routine allocation of housing data collected?
What happens with this data?

How many homeless ex-forces and their families been supported in the last 12/24 months and their outcomes used to improve service delivery?

Armed Forces Community Homeless Strategy

Q2) What is the armed forces homeless strategy and policy? Is this fit for purpose and documented? What local homeless solutions are in place and how is this evaluated?

Armed Forces Community – Routine housing allocation

Q3) How is the armed forces community use of routine housing allocation recorded and the data shared?

Armed Forces Covenant

Q4) How are housing staff trained on or are aware of the armed forces covenant and its implications? What are you doing to address any shortfall?

Armed Forces Community – Housing good practice

Q5) What examples of good practice do you have and how do you share these?

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Education Pathway Questionnaire:

Armed Forces Covenant

Q1) How many education staff are aware of the armed forces covenant and its implications? What are you doing to address any shortfall?

Armed Forces Community Size & Composition

Q2) How many service children do you have and support within your local community?

Armed Forces Community Education Strategy

Q3) Does education strategy and policy include the local AF Community? Is this fit for purpose and documented? How is the support you provide to service children evaluated and improved?

Armed Forces Community – Education good practice

Q4) What examples of good practice do you have and how do you share these?

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Employment Pathway Questionnaire:

Armed Forces Community Size & Composition

Q1) How does your Department of Works & Pension (DWP) partner know the size and composition of its local unemployed ex-forces and spouses? How is this information and data used and shared?

Armed Forces Community employment support

Q2) How does the local DWP liaise with the MoD Career Transition Partnership (CTP) and ensure ex-forces and spouses inclusion to local DWP led employment events?

Armed Forces Community – Local employment provision

Q3) How does the DWP promote the ex-forces community skills and employers that are ex-forces friendly?

Armed Forces Community – Employment good practice

Q4) What examples of good practice do you have and how do you share these?

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Welfare Questionnaire:

Armed Forces Welfare Partnership

Q1) Which of the Confederation of Service Charities (COBSEO) do you work with, The Royal British Legion, SSAFA, Blind Veterans UK?

Welfare Provision

Q2) How do you integrate armed forces charities welfare provision into your front line services (area and customer service teams) and your adult social care community?

Good Practice

Q3) Do you have examples of service charity integration good practice and how do you share them?