

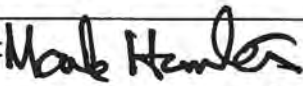



Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council

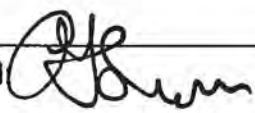
We, the undersigned, commit to honour the Armed Forces Covenant and support the Armed Forces Community. We recognise the value Serving Personnel, both Regular and Reservists, Veterans and military families contribute to our organisation, borough, and country.

Signed on behalf of:

Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council

Signed: 
Name: MARK HUNTER
Position: LEADER,
STOCKPORT NEC
Date: 02/11/23

Signed: 
Name: COL LINDSEY
FORMS
Position: DCOMD HQ NW
Date: 7/11/23

Signed: 
Name: CSIMPSON
Position: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Date: 7/11/23



STOCKPORT
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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, **Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council** will endeavour in our business dealings to uphold the key principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, which are:
- *no member of the Armed Forces Community should face disadvantage in the provision of public and commercial services compared to any other citizen*
 - *in some circumstances special treatment may be appropriate, especially for the injured or bereaved.*

Section 2: Demonstrating our Commitment

- 2.1 In Stockport, we originally produced our local Stockport Armed Forces Covenant in 2012 and have committed to refreshing our priorities every three years. During the summer of 2021, the Stockport Armed Forces Partnership Group carried out extensive engagement with the local armed forces community, their families and the local organisations / services working with the armed forces community. The Stockport Armed Forces Covenant priorities for 2021-2024 are underpinned by the following vision: -

'Members of the Stockport armed forces community and their families receive the support they need to thrive, whilst also celebrating their unique skills and diverse experiences, and maximising the opportunities for veterans and serving personnel to bring their invaluable contribution to the civilian community.'

- 2.2 The following four priorities were developed to respond to the issues and opportunities raised:

- Priority 1: Supporting transitions - we will work to assist the transition of members of the armed forces community and their families, particularly in relation to the key areas of housing, education, employment, welfare, and mental health.
- Priority 2: Connecting the armed forces community to available support - we will ensure that the support and good work taking place locally is effectively communicated to serving personnel, veterans and their families.
- Priority 3: Promoting and celebrating our armed forces community - we will raise awareness of the armed forces and the contribution they make locally and nationally; help to identify and promote further opportunities for the armed forces community to contribute to civilian society; and further develop opportunities for youth engagement with the armed forces.
- Priority 4: Leadership and advocacy - we will further develop the role of the Armed Forces Covenant Steering Group to provide proactive leadership in the delivery of the Stockport Armed Forces Covenant priorities and to ensure emerging issues (at a Greater Manchester and national level, including the implications of the Armed Forces Act, 2021) are identified and addressed.

- 2.3 We will publicise these commitments, setting out how we will seek to honour them and inviting feedback from the Service community, our staff and our customers on how we are doing.