



**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
business and our country.**

Signed on behalf of:
Kent Community Health
NHS Foundation Trust

Witnessed on behalf of:
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Signed:
M. A Mc Cornick

Name:
Mairiend Mc Cornick

Position:
Chief executive

Date: Tuesday, 6 December 2022

Signed:
B. N. Seath

Name:
BRETT N. SEATH

Position:
Head of Welfare

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 Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust will 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 We recognise the value that serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families bring to our business and to our country. We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, by:
- **achieving veteran accreditation** through the Veterans' Covenant Healthcare Alliance
 - **becoming an armed forces-friendly organisation** working with Step into Health to provide a dedicated pathway into a career with us
 - **looking after our workforce** with support tools, packages and mentoring to help our armed forces colleagues develop and help our armed forces community apply for vacancies with us
 - **working with other NHS organisations** to share best practice and make efficient use of resources
 - **providing access to information and support** for colleagues and patients in our armed forces community, including **supporting** to dedicated support available in Kent and Medway
 - **supporting our armed forces community** by promoting and attending national and regional events
 - **developing relationships** with our local armed forces organisations and charities
 - **improving the patient experience** by working together with patients from our armed forces community to listen, learn and act.
- 2.2 We will publicise these commitments through our communications channels, 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.