



Melton Community Covenant – one year on.

Community Covenant

Introduction from Cllr Simon Lumley, Melton Armed Forces Champion

Armed Forces Community Covenant Review.

The Local Authorities (MBC and LCC), Voluntary and Community (Royal British Legion), Health (ELR CCG), and the Armed Forces (DAC) are committed to make a difference and support both the civilian and Armed Forces communities and following on from the task group set up to review some key actions in support of the Armed Forces Community Covenant the objectives over the next year will be to;

- Acknowledge the unique status of ex-service personnel for housing allocations.
- Encourage and promote the mental health and wellbeing services available.
- Create the conditions to support service personnel leaving the Force for a smoother transition into civilian life to increase the chances of employment.
- Encourage and promote incentives/discounts for current and ex servicing personnel.

Measures	Status	Lead
Nomination of a Councillor as the Council's Lead Member for the Armed Forces, ensuring that military involvement is embedded at the highest levels within the Council. The first incumbent for this position will be Councillor Simon Lumley.	Complete July 2013	MBC Cllr Simon Lumley
A Network Group will be established, made up on a number of partners to meet every 6 months and review progress of aims set out in 3.4.	Partners include: Armed Forces - Defence Animal Centre, Royal British Legion, Melton Carnegie Museum, Adult Social Care (LCC), Housing Officer (MBC), and Latham House. The Networking Group have met: · February 2014 · July 2014 Next meeting January 2015	MBC
The Council will ensure that military families who require access to support from Children's Services will be assisted, and action will be taken to mitigate the problems caused by postings in and out of	On-going	MBC

Melton area.		
The Council will create a webpage, promoting services, facilitates and groups supporting the Forces.	Complete July 2013 – updated in April 2014	MBC
The Council will seek to write annually to various employers in the Borough.	Various businesses and a college have been contacted. Job Centre Plus is promoting their Veterans Interview Programme to employers. Looking into other areas such as the support from the RBL; https://www.sorted.org.uk/Home.aspx	MBC/JCP
The Council will in the first 12 months seek opportunities to award a point system to service families and individuals to recognise the unique status in housing allocations.	This measure has not be achieve, instead with the Community Covenant partnership we can support services families and individuals through looking into private accommodation, the RBL providing initial financial support, the JCP supporting that individual to get a job and link into the veterans interview programme and the Armed Forces Champion making sure they are sign posted to the correct people/organisation.	All AFCC Partners
The Network Group will strive to develop links with the health services in order to address the needs of those injured military personnel recovering/resetting in Melton the Council will ensure carers and individuals in need receive up-to-date information of services available. This will include provision of information which can assist those veterans suffering from mental ill-health issues.	Adult Social Care, East Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Group, Mental Health Team and the Local GP surgery Latham House have all been invited to the AFCC meeting. ASC are engaged – RBL raised an issue on the length of time individuals have to wait when applied for the Disabled Facilities Grant, Cllr Posnett will look to find out more with County partners. More work to be done on this measure.	ASC/MBC
The Council seek to provide support for service families and personnel to access and engage with community, leisure services and facilities.	Promote the event through the Armed Forces webpage. RBL in Parkside and the Library can sign post families to various activities.	MBC
The Network Group will to review the aim/objectives within the year in order to reflect the needs and issues of the military families and personnel.	2014 - February and July	ALL

Additional activity:

The Royal British Legion have been stationed in Parkside 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month for a 6 months pilot 10am – 1pm offering support, advice, signing and information to current and ex-military personnel and their families. This has worked well and therefore they will be based in Parkside reception for another 6 months until January 2015.

Melton Borough Council is taking forward a Supporting Britain's Reservists and Employers policy to PFA Committee in September 2014

Melton Borough Council has been promoting the Extra Funding for State Schools, Free Schools and Academies Attended by Service Children in England to all primary schools in Melton.

Melton Borough Council has promoted the Community Covenant Grant available to support both the Forces and civilian communities.

The Networking Group

SL - Cllr Simon Lumley, Armed Forces Champion

PP – Cllr Pam Posnett, County Armed Forces representative

RP - Lt Col Richard Pope, Commanding Officer, Defence Animal Centre

RW - Robert Wilson, Chairman of the Melton Mowbray Royal British Legion

RB – Robert Burt, Secretary of the Melton Mowbray Royal British Legion

SG - Susan Grogan, Advice & Information Officer, Leicestershire Royal British Legion

SB – Sheila Bobe, Locality Manager, Adults & Communities

NP - Niru Patel, Locality Manager, Adults & Communities

JW – Janette White, Housing Manager, MBC

CG – Caroline Gibson, Jobcentre Deputy Manager, JCP

EG – Elga Zivtins, Practise Manager of Latham House

SA – Sue Alderman, Local Heritage Officer, Melton Carnegie Museum

ET – Emma Trahearn, Support Officer for AFCC, MBC