

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Monmouthshire Armed Forces Forum

PURPOSE

The Monmouthshire Armed Forces Forum (MAFF) recognises the value of the dedication and commitment of members of the Armed Forces Community (AFC) who protect our realm and liberty. Serving members of the Forces sacrifice some civilian freedoms and may face serious injury or death as a result of their duty. The focus of the forum will be to ensure that current or former forces personnel and their families are not unfairly disadvantaged simply because of their current or previous association with the Armed Forces.

The MAFF will look to:

- Identify and regularly review the needs of the AFC (which will include serving and ex-service personnel, families and Service Children)
- Develop and maintain a local and regional directory of services which will assist members of the AFC
- Share information about services and issues which may impact the AFC within the local area and regionally
- Develop strong relationships and multi-agency joined up approaches to delivering services to meet the needs of the AFC
- Build greater respect for an understanding of the military within own organisations and the general community more widely

What do we do as a Local Authority?

As a Local Authority (LA) provisions will be put in place to ensure that members of the AFC are not at a disadvantage due to their service (or the service of their immediate family members).

MCC are committed to achieving the highest level of the [Defence Employer Recognition Scheme \(ERS\)](#) (external link) which encourages employers to demonstrate their pledge or advocate support to defence and the AFC, aligned to their values with the [Armed Forces Covenant](#) (external link).

BACKGROUND

An Armed Forces Community Covenant (AFCC) is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. It is intended to complement the Armed Forces Covenant, which outlines the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces, at the local level.

The Armed Forces Covenant's twin underlying principles are that members of the Armed Forces Community should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services; and that special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given the most, such as the injured or the bereaved. The aim of the Community Covenant is to encourage local communities to support the Service community in their area and

nurture understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces community.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall comprise of public, third-sector and voluntary organisations who engage with, support, or otherwise will come in contact with the Armed Forces Community.

CHAIR: The Elected Member Championing Armed Forces for Monmouthshire County Council, shall chair the meetings.

MEETING FREQUENCY

The MAFF will meet twice a year and on an exception basis. Task & Finish groups will be established to meet an identified piece of work to be undertaken on behalf of the group, if necessary.

REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

The group reports to the ABUHB Armed Forces Regional Board and elements of work will be reported within the relevant Public Services Board (PSB) structures for action or information, where necessary.

STRATEGIC LINKS

Monmouthshire Public Services Board (PSB) Well-being Plan:

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/our-monmouthshire>

Armed Forces Covenant for communities:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/armed-forces-community-covenant/armed-forces-community-covenant>

The Armed Forces Act 2011: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/18/contents>

Defence Employer Recognition Scheme:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-employer-recognition-scheme/defence-employer-recognition-scheme>

DOCUMENT CONTROL

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