



Wirral Community Health & Care NHS Foundation Trust

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:

Wirral Community Health & Care NHS Foundation Trust

Signed:

Name: Karen Howell

Position: Chief Executive

Date:


**Wirral Community
Health and Care**
NHS Foundation Trust

The Armed Forces Covenant

An Enduring Covenant Between
The People of the United Kingdom
Her 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 **Wirral Community Health & Care NHS Foundation Trust** 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 We recognise the value 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:

Draft suggested pledges (mirroring WUTH)

- **Becoming a force friendly organisation** – pledging our support and commitment to the armed forces community and raising awareness of what this means for our workforce and community
- **Identifying organisational champions and visible leaders**
- **Striving to become an employer of choice for our armed forces community.** - considering widening participation opportunities and links with the Step into Health programme to recognise the transferable skills and cultural values that Armed Forces community have developed.
- **Establishing links with nearby armed forces community support organisations, working together for the benefit of staff and patients**
- **Engaging with staff and community members to understand and raise awareness of the experiences and needs of our armed forces community, offering additional support including signposting to external services as appropriate**
- **Linking with Trust communications to promote key messages and support available and ensuring support for key national awareness days and events**

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