

Calderdale Armed Forces Community Covenant

What have we done so far?

- Established a monthly Veterans' Breakfast Club in Halifax.
- Updated the Council Web Site to include an Armed Forces page with all appropriate information in one single place.
- Updated the Council Contact Centre Knowledge Base to include Armed Forces/Covenant information.
- Designed a pull up banner for display in Council / Central Library & North Bridge Leisure Centre & Customer First / community premises.
- Publicised pupil premium available for Forces children in Calderdale schools. In e-bulletin & intranet
- Housing Allocation Policy recognises military service.
- Disregarding some military-related income for purposes of certain means-tested benefits.
- Job CentrePlus have themed Armed Forces month to raise staff and client awareness, and an ex-Forces marker is used on databases to ensure relevant support can be offered. Armed Forces Champion to provide more focussed support
- Defence Discount Scheme available in Sports facilities (free for serving personnel)
- Discounted Health & Safety training for ex forces personnel.
- Promotion of Covenant Grant Funding through Voluntary Sector channels, including annual Funding Fair.
- Broaden membership of AFCC Steering Group to include private sector and public health.
- Clinical Commissioning Group designated GP Veterans' Champion.
- Made the adapted holiday cottage at Jerusalem Farm available at a discount.
- Raised awareness in Primary Care settings.
- Calderdale Council has agreed to participate in the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme and to introduce guaranteed interviews for recent service leavers who can meet the essential criteria for posts.
- Make schools aware that class sizes can be increased above the statutory limit to accommodate children of members of the Armed Forces and Veterans. MH publicise in bulletin. And additional funding
- Adult learning discount scheme

And what are we hoping to do in the future?

- Deliver an awareness-raising seminar/session for the Calderdale Health and Well Being Board.
- Ensure the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment includes information/needs of Armed Forces community. AP/NC - ongoing
- Raise awareness in Primary Care settings. – MH service/GPs etc
- Investigate waiving of Blue Badge fee for Armed Forces personnel – nationally set, if on benefits can waive
- Deliver an annual Armed Forces Event, the first one on 17 June 2017.
- Extend participations in the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme to other public and private sector employers. CCG Silver level recognition – boost to morale only CCG in North – Marie Conway, PH – links with companies (GB)