



# Somerset Armed Forces Covenant Partnership

## Quarterly Update - April 2026

### Welcome to the April Update

This Update aims to keep Partner organisations up to date with our work to deliver the Armed Forces Covenant in Somerset. We hope it will also help to better connect Partner organisations across the Partnership and improve our communication.

If you have a news item, information and events to be included, please email:

[communities@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:communities@somerset.gov.uk)

You can sign up to receive the newsletter by visiting: <https://service.somerset.gov.uk/somerset-armed-forces-partnership-newsletter-sign-up>

You can also unsubscribe at any time by clicking the above link and choosing the 'Remove from mailing list' option.

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### Independent champion for Armed Forces appointed

The UK's first ever Armed Forces Commissioner - Former Air Commodore Polly Miller-Perkins CBE – has been appointed by the Defence Secretary John Healey MP.

The appointment delivers on the government's key manifesto commitment to give serving personnel and their families an independent voice to improve service life.

The Armed Forces Commissioner is a new statutory office that is an independent champion and direct point of contact for personnel and their families.

Commissioner Miller-Perkins will be able to visit UK Defence sites unannounced, commission reports, and will report directly to Parliament to hold the Government to account. Personnel and their families will be able to contact the Commissioner about issues affecting them, with the Commissioner empowered to investigate these concerns, seek relevant information from the Ministry of Defence, and make recommendations for improvement.

She will be able to investigate individual welfare concerns, undertake thematic reviews into systemic issues affecting service life, and report findings directly to Parliament – strengthening transparency and public understanding of welfare matters across Defence.

Find out more: [Independent champion for Armed Forces appointed as new team stands up - GOV.UK](#)

### New resource for schools

Naval Families Federation have put together a new resource giving useful top tips and a wealth of further links for schools and professionals to support their service children in light of current events in the Middle East. Further guidance for schools will be available later this year.

View the guidance here: [Armed Forces Support and Guidance for Schools](#)

### HM Armed Forces Veteran Card

Owning an HM Armed Forces Veteran Card is the quickest and easiest way to prove your veteran status and maintain your service identity.

You can use the card to:

- vote in UK elections

## HM Armed Forces Veteran Card (cont.)

- access support services for veterans
- prove your identity on domestic flights with British Airways and easyJet
- access the many services, discounts and special offers that organisations make available to veterans

You can find out more including how to apply for a Veteran Card here: [Using your HM Armed Forces Veteran Card - GOV.UK](#)

## Local Updates

### SSAFA Somerset Update

SSAFA, The Armed Forces Charity, has been executing a change programme over the last few years - known as "Network Delivery Project (NDP)". The key aims of NDP are to improve the quality and consistency of casework, to ease the load on SSAFA volunteer caseworkers and to improve Branch community engagement. NDP was launched as 2 pilot projects in the North East and in South Wales; lessons from these pilots informing the overall project and allowing NDP to be instigated, by region, over the last 6 months or so.

SSAFA's SW region (Gloucestershire, Somerset, Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon, Cornwall and Bristol & Plymouth) transitioned into NDP in mid-Feb - and Plymouth has now become part of the Devon Branch. SSAFA Somerset has, for nearly 30 years, enjoyed the support of Friends of SSAFA Somerset (FOSS) a semi-autonomous 'arm' of SSAFA Somerset that has successfully been raising SSAFA's profile in Somerset while also raising considerable sums of money to the benefit of SSAFA's clients in Somerset. Unfortunately, FOSS does not fit into the new governance arrangements under NDP and will cease to exist as a separate entity, with fund raising and community engagement now being the responsibility of Somerset Branch Executives - ultimately the Chair of Somerset Branch.

Volunteer caseworkers in Somerset are managed by the Southwest Regional Office (SWRO: [southwest.region@ssafa.org.uk](mailto:southwest.region@ssafa.org.uk) 02045669131) and it is to SWRO that all client referrals and all queries regarding SSAFA in the SW should be made.

After SSAFA Somerset's AGM (28th April) some of our key Executive Officers will be retiring/standing down, including Chairman and Secretary. SSAFA has been advertising for candidates to take over these posts for some months now but with no success to date. To find out about the volunteer roles visit: [Somerset Branch Chair](#) and [Somerset Branch Secretary](#). While it is hoped any hiatus will be short lived, it may be the case that there is no SSAFA Somerset representative on either Somerset or North Somerset's AF Partnerships. In this case, any queries from any of the AF Partners will need to be directed to SWRO.

## Royal British Legion - Somerset County Update

The Royal British Legion (RBL) continues to provide vital support to serving personnel, veterans, and their families across Somerset. As the UK's leading Armed Forces charity, the RBL focuses on connecting the Armed Forces community, remembering their service, and supporting those in need.

RBL offers confidential welfare advice on issues including mental health, housing, financial assistance, and benefits. Full-time case workers and volunteers work together to ensure timely, coordinated help reaches those who need it most.

Remembrance and community engagement remain central to the RBL's work. Across Somerset, branches run educational outreach and acts of remembrance that honour the Armed Forces and strengthen connections with local communities.

Volunteers also support welfare visits, local events, and community initiatives, including Armed Forces Day, fundraisers, and outreach programmes, and branches welcome new members to get involved.

For membership enquiries, contact the Membership Helpline on 0800 3077 773 or email [membershipservices@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:membershipservices@britishlegion.org.uk)

For welfare support, the single point of contact is 0808 802 8080.

## Save the Date! Somerset Armed Forces Partnership Annual Conference

This year the Somerset Armed Forces Partnership Annual Conference will be taking place on **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September** at The Canalside, Bridgwater.

If your organisation would be interested in sponsoring the conference please email: [communities@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:communities@somerset.gov.uk) for a discussion.

If you have suggestions of themes to cover, speakers or your organisation would like a speaking slot please email [communities@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:communities@somerset.gov.uk)

## SEND Reform Plan – Children and young people survey launched

If you know a young person with SEND needs, please encourage them to share their thoughts and views in the SEND Reform Plan Survey, so the council can address any issues, make better decisions, and work on improvements. Link to survey: [SEND Reform Plan Survey: Children and Young People](#)

Survey deadline: Friday 15 May 2026

## LGBT+ History Month Event at RNAS Yeovilton

RNAS YEOVILTON marked the start of LGBT+ History Month 2026 by hosting a Talk by Ewan Cameron, a Royal Army Medical Corps Veteran and now Somerset Council Councillor, which was co-organised by Ellie Howell (Fighting with Pride South West Veterans Community Worker). Following the talk the Royal Navy LGBTQ+ Network Chaplain chaired a time of open questions and sharing experience amongst the attendees. This collaborative session reflected on LGBT+ History Months theme of Science and Innovation as a springboard to reflect on how far LGBT+ rights have come, what we can learn from the past and to consider how everyone can create spaces today where everyone is empowered to contribute, discover and innovate.

As part of the LGBT+ Veterans Independent Review (Lord Etherton Report) published in June 2022, Recommendation 21 stated that the Services take positive action to encourage LGBT+ veterans to attend service events. Fighting With Pride provided specialist oversight to support event ensuring it successfully delivered on that recommendation, specifically celebrating the vital role that LGBT+ people have played and continue to play.

Some of the post-Talk conversations covered the need to continue to promote public understanding and awareness of issues that affect the LGBT+ community, especially those in the Armed Forces.

It recognised the sacrifices made by the Armed Forces community under the ban. We ended with a call to integrate the Armed Forces community into local life. The event was attended by Serving members of all three branches of the Armed Forces Community, Veterans, local Defence Industry Partners, and Armed Forces Charities (including FWP and Ark at Egwood) from across the South West.

The Royal Navy LGBTQ+ Network and Fighting with Pride wish to build upon the success of this year's event by making it an annual Talk and look forward to hosting again next year if funding can be found.



Over the next few months, The Service Children's Progression Alliance Impact Centre are hosting over 30 events across the UK to conduct discussion groups on the topic of evidence mobilisation.

We are excited to launch the tour in the South West, with the first event at the Fleet Air Arm Museum on the 19<sup>th</sup> May.

These events will be an opportunity for **anyone working with Armed Forces families** in any professional roles (education, health, local authorities, activity centres, youth groups) to discuss what they think works for supporting Service children, how we know this, and how can evidence be mobilised better.

This is a broad and exciting activity, and we would welcome your support with sharing the poster and links to get as many people joining as possible.

Find out more about the Tour and express interest in joining in person or online, see here: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/1UqyhEfx72>

Written submissions are also available here: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/903HRrCff7>

Or hear a 45 second walk and talk here: <https://youtu.be/jpVOnBuU6l8>



**DO YOU WORK WITH CHILDREN FROM ARMED FORCES FAMILIES?**

YOUTH/SOCIAL/COMMUNITY WORK  
SCHOOLS • NHS • SPORTS CLUBS  
LOCAL AUTHORITIES  
ACTIVITY CENTRES

Tell us what works!

Service Children's Progression  
**ALLIANCE**  
IMPACT CENTRE

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**IMPACT CENTRE LISTENING TOUR**

<b>SOUTH WEST ENGLAND</b>	19/05/2026	YEOVIL
	20/05/2026	LYMPSTONE
	21/05/2026	PLYMOUTH
	22/05/2026	HELSTON

FIND OUT MORE & BOOK AT [scipalliance.org/events](https://scipalliance.org/events)



CAN'T MAKE IT?  
Other ways to tell us what you think here

University of Winchester ethics approved: HSE16208

## Monthly Big Breakfast Meet-Up at Heads Up Somerset

We run a **monthly Big Breakfast Meet-Up at Heads Up Somerset**, facilitated by the **brilliant NHS Armed Forces Support Team**. These relaxed, friendly sessions are a great opportunity to meet others, enjoy breakfast together, and find out more about local support available in the area.

**Upcoming dates (10am–12pm, Mondays):**

- **18th May 2026**
- **15th June 2026**

Everyone is welcome — just come along and join us.



## Focusing on MORE training

Focusing on MORE is a free evidence based nutrition training offer targeted at all Somerset health, social care, education and VCFSE workforce. The team are keen to offer an exclusive Armed Forces personnel/veterans/families event. If your organisation works with the Armed Forces community and would be interested in finding out more about tailoring a session please email Tamara Bennett:

[tamara.bennett@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:tamara.bennett@somerset.gov.uk)

If you would like to book onto an existing training session visit: [Focusing on MORE nutrition training\\_\]. Eventbrite](#)

## Armed Forces Team at ARK at Egwood

The Armed Forces team at ARK is pleased to announce we have a new team member. Can we introduce Dan, who retired from the Royal Navy in June 2025, after 32 years' service, and joined us in February as a successor for our previous colleague Samantha. This is a useful time to refresh your knowledge around the rest of the team, remind you of the areas covered and our email addresses if anyone wishes to get in touch.



(Left to right in the photograph)

- Sam Sheppard (Mendip locality) – [sam@arkategwood.com](mailto:sam@arkategwood.com)
- Lyndsay Swan (Sedgemoor locality) – [lyndsay@arkategwood.com](mailto:lyndsay@arkategwood.com)
- Dan Liptrott (Taunton and West locality) – [dan@arkategwood.com](mailto:dan@arkategwood.com)
- Jon Richards (South Somerset locality and Team Manager) – [jon@arkategwood.com](mailto:jon@arkategwood.com)

Our work continues to come in steadily. Between the team, we are currently working with 115 open referrals, which was the same as the last data review in September 2025; however, our referrals have risen from 157 to 213 over this period. The main themes of our referrals continue to be isolation, mental health, homelessness, enduring illness and medical concerns.

We are currently supporting: 22 Royal Navy Veterans, 8 Serving Royal Navy, 56 Army Veterans, 9 RAF Veterans, 9 Royal Marine Veterans, 1 Serving Royal Marine and 10 that include partners of Veterans or Serving persons

We have built a strong reciprocal working relationship with the Defence Medical Welfare Service (DMWS) over the last 12+ months. What this means is that we are able to directly notify the Welfare Officer of an admission of a member of the Armed Forces community, who will then make contact and support them during their admission. They are then referred back to us in the community upon discharge for ongoing support. The main challenge on the hospital side is the person being identified as a member of the Armed Forces Community, as they are either not being asked, or offering the information themselves. Without this, the DMWS are not informed and remain unaware of the admission.

## Armed Forces Team at ARK at Egwood (cont.)

Therefore, please continue to promote the importance of health professionals asking if someone is connected to the Armed Forces, and also for these individuals to offer this information when visiting their GP or hospital.

As a reminder, our Armed Forces Outreach Sessions are held in the following locations. Please check the ARK at Egwood or NHS Armed Forces Community Facebook pages or visit [Armed Forces Outreach Service - NHS Somerset ICB](#), or contact the relevant link worker for dates and times. We welcome any organisational representatives to attend.

- Chard (Church Rooms at the Church of St Mary the Virgin TA20 2DN)
- Yeovil (Morley House BA20 1XE)
- Bridgwater (Victoria Park Community Centre TA6 7AS)
- Highbridge (Morland Community Hub TA9 3FU)
- Wells (Heads Up BA5 3QG)
- Taunton (Riverside Church TA1 2EQ)
- Wellington (St John's Parish Church Rooms TA21 8QY)
- Watchet (The Phoenix Centre TA23 0AQ)
- Glastonbury (St Dunstan's House BA6 9EL)
- Frome (The Key Centre BA11 5AJ)
- Ilchester (Ilchester Community School – Infant site BA22 8JX)

Finally, in response to some feedback that individuals who work would like to attend our Outreach Sessions, we are trialling five evening sessions around Somerset. Dates and times are on the flyer on the following page.

## Military History Group - Quantock U3A

The Quantock U 3 A (University of the Third Age) have a *Military history group* which is centre on the Western end of the Quantocks but any one interested can join.

The group covers anything Military from Roman to Modern military but so far we have mainly meetings around WW2.

To contact this group initially please email me "[stuart.dowding@btopenworld.com](mailto:stuart.dowding@btopenworld.com)" and advise that you are a partnership subscriber.

[www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk) is main website.

Membership is £15 per Annum with a small contribution to meetings (Usually £2 / 3 pounds unless it is a visit to a venue which will be at a discounted rate.



# Are you part of the Armed Forces community?

Curious about how NHS Somerset supports the Armed Forces? Join us at a pop-up Outreach Session and meet the team

## Wincanton

22nd April 1900-2100  
The Dolphin Hotel

## Axbridge

17th June 1900-2100  
The Lamb Inn

## Porlock

12th August 1900-2100  
The Ship Inn

## Wiveliscombe

20th May 1900-2100  
The Bear Inn

## Langport

15th July 1900-2100  
The Langport Arms

We are  
here  
for  
you!



<https://nhssomerset.nhs.uk/armed-forces/>

[facebook.com/groups/nhssomersetarmedforcescommunity](https://www.facebook.com/groups/nhssomersetarmedforcescommunity)

If you live in Somerset and are currently serving, a reservist, a veteran or a family member and need support, we can help

# Mess & Mingle

THE ARMED FORCES  
COVENANT FUND TRUST  
Funded by HM Government

Starting 5<sup>th</sup> May  
7-9pm



*The first Tuesday of each month in the training kitchen.*

Eat and mingle with **other serving families** in your community.

The Balsam Centre  
Balsam Park  
Wincanton  
BA9 9HB



01963 31842

[info@balsamcentre.org.uk](mailto:info@balsamcentre.org.uk)

[www.balsamcentre.org.uk](http://www.balsamcentre.org.uk)

## Home Visiting - South Somerset

A home visitor for families, visiting for a few hours a week to work on tailored areas of family life to help support parents and children.

Eligibility for this is :

- At Least 1 Child Under 5
- Service Family (Tri-Service)
- Must Consent to our support



## Helping military families through every day challenges

Scan here for more information 

**We can help with the stress of family life**

Parenthood can be incredibly demanding, but for those in the armed forces community, the stresses of family life can be even more intense due to deployment, separation and isolation.

We are helping families by pairing them with trained volunteers who offer in-home support and guidance.

**For military families, especially those where one parent is deployed, this kind of support can be transformative.**

**If you feel that a home visiting volunteer could help support your family, please contact us.**

 [referrals@homestartblackmorevale.org.uk](mailto:referrals@homestartblackmorevale.org.uk)

 Or call Charley on 07842 415505.



## Mother's in Mind - F2F Perinatal Peer Support in Yeovil (Thursday Mornings)

A safe, open space for mums struggling with perinatal mental health to connect and engage in crafts.

Eligibility for this is:

- At Least 1 Child Under 2
- Service Family
- Must consent to our support

## Apart Not Alone - Online Educational Peer Support Group

An 6 week online course teaching and supporting service personnel, spouses and extended family members around the emotional deployment cycle.

Eligibility for this is:

- Connection to a service person (s)
- Must consent to our support

To register for Mother's in Mind or Apart not alone, families/individuals can use the following link and select the appropriate group: [Group Registration – Fill in form](#)



## Apart Not Alone

Feeling the ups and downs of deployment?  
You are not alone.

**Digital support for service families and extended family members**

A friendly online support group for service families and extended family members to share experiences, learn practical coping tools, and support each other through every stage of deployment and homecoming.

- 45 minutes, weekly, online group
- Open to serving personnel & spouses (with at least one child under 5)
- Available to extended family

For more information e-mail us:  
✉ [referrals@homestartblackmorevale.org.uk](mailto:referrals@homestartblackmorevale.org.uk)

Or complete the referral form by scanning here



## Connect to Work

Connect to Work is a Supported Employment programme, connecting work, health and skills support across England and Wales.

This is a work programme to help disabled people, those with health conditions and people with complex barriers to employment, to find sustainable work. Ex Armed Forces are one of the cohorts that can access this programme of support. To find out more about Connect to Work visit:

<https://www.stepupsomerset.org.uk/c2w/>

If you would like to register your interest in the programme please visit: [Login](#)

## How Skill Up Somerset can support you

Skill Up Somerset offers free, impartial advice and guidance on apprenticeships and skills training for individuals and businesses across the county.

Whether you're exploring new opportunities, looking to fill vacancies, or searching for the right training support, our team is here to help.

We also support employers with Apprenticeship Levy queries, from large organisations considering transferring Levy funds, to SMEs looking to access Levy transfer funding.

If you need clear, independent advice tailored to your needs, we'd love to hear from you.

*Get in touch with the team today*

Website: [Home - Skill Up Somerset](#)

Email: [hello@skillupsomerset.org.uk](mailto:hello@skillupsomerset.org.uk)

## Somerset Intergroup AA meetings

Are you are struggling with alcohol? You can call 0800 917 7650 or e-mail in strict confidence [help@aamail.org](mailto:help@aamail.org)

You can find a list of Somerset AA meetings at: [Where to Find Us](#) or download a printable meeting finder: [Somerset Intergroup AA Meeting Finder.pdf - Google Drive](#)

## Update from the Green Spirit Retreat

Greetings all, we are relative newcomers to the partnership and are grateful to have been received so well by all. We are a veteran owned and operated off-grid holistic wellbeing centre and campsite in the village of Moorlinch, set up to support uniformed services, veterans, and their families.

We are really pleased to have begun our 2026 season very positively with a formal endorsement from the Royal Navy, supporting groups of 8 Naval personnel at a time who are undergoing recovery from injury or illness for a monthly 3-day residential wellbeing retreat as part of their wider military recovery plans. This week we have completed our third residential retreat with that audience and are all set for our next group in May.

Also starting in May we look forward to hosting 100 personnel from 847 Naval Air Sqn for a series of one-day holistic wellbeing workshops held here at the Green Spirit Retreat.

In tandem with this we continue to support various veterans on an ad-hoc drop-in basis as an informal veteran's hub. We would like to explore making this offering more formal and would welcome advice and support from this community, along with wider connections to and opportunities for the blue light community.

The centre was built and is run by Paul Fleet, a former Royal Marine with a wealth of experience within the Defence Recovery community, as well as many years of engagement with various military charities. Our experienced team of practitioners deliver a wide range of holistic wellbeing tools designed to be used in everyday life – both on active duty and beyond – and we are passionate about supporting those from within our armed forces community who need it the most.

We look forward to connecting with you!

[www.greenspiritretreat.co.uk](http://www.greenspiritretreat.co.uk)

Facebook/Insta @greenspiritretreat



# EPICGigability

THE MILITARY VETERANS CORNISH PILOT GIG CLUB (CHARITY NO: 1192085)



## *Now making waves in Minehead*

EPICGigability is a Tri-Service club founded and run by military veterans' charity that welcomes serving members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their families.

We've been running for over three years with resounding success in Cornwall, and now we're looking to expand to Somerset starting in Minehead. With many veterans and serving personnel in the area, we believe our mix of camaraderie, teamwork, and resilience can bring huge benefits to the service community.

### Blue Water Therapy

Fresh air, exercise, and time on the water

Mental wellbeing through focus and rhythm

A sense of calm, balance, and connection

### Our Philosophy: Every Person Is Capable

- No matter your age, background, or ability, you are welcome.
- Whether you've rowed before or never picked up an oar, we believe in inclusion, encouragement, and opportunity for everyone be that rowing, maintaining, support functions, coaching, talking and socialising with likeminded people.

### Why Join?

- Built on teamwork and mutual support
- Open to serving members, veterans, and their families
- Boosts physical fitness and mental wellbeing
- A new community with the spirit of service

*Find out more!*

Follow us on Facebook: [EPICGigability](#) or call 07929 572742 or email [info@epicgigability.co.uk](mailto:info@epicgigability.co.uk)



## Employer Engagement Programme

Wessex RFCA raises the awareness of employers, businesses and business people of the Armed Forces, and builds relationships with them. The Employer Engagement programme is delivered by Regional Employer Engagement Directors (REED), based at Wessex RFCA in Taunton.

This programme builds on the successful SaBRE (Supporting Britain's Reservists and their Employers) campaign that assisted businesses with a range of employment matters for Reservists (part-time military personnel). This includes the benefits of having Reservists as employees and the financial assistance that is available during periods of mobilisation. Wessex RFCA is building on this campaign by promoting supportive behaviours towards the whole of the Armed Forces Community, including:

- reservists; service leavers and Veterans;
- cadets and Cadet Force adult volunteers;
- spouses of Service personnel;
- wounded, injured and sick Service personnel.

If you are an employer, one-to-one advice or more information on how supporting the Armed Forces Community can benefit your business is available from Jon Beake: [wx-reed@rfca.mod.uk](mailto:wx-reed@rfca.mod.uk) and Rachael Brannagan: [wx-reed2@rfca.mod.uk](mailto:wx-reed2@rfca.mod.uk)

## Covenant Fund Update

Further information is available via: <https://covenantfund.org.uk/> and the [Covenant Fund Newsletter](#).

If you have specific queries about the Fund or are unsure whether your organisation or project is likely to be funded, please contact [enquiries@covenantfund.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@covenantfund.org.uk)

## Other Funding Sources

### Royal British Legion Grants

Royal British Legion Grants For further information regarding Royal British Legion Grants visit: <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-support/finance/grants/>

## Armed Forces Education Trust

The Armed Forces Education Trust is a charity working for children and young adults whose education has been compromised or put at risk because of parents' past or current service in our Armed Forces. It helps to fund the education of the Service children and ensures that children do not miss out because of their parents' service. It can also provide schools with funding for additional resources to support the education of Service children. You can find out more about its work and about how to apply here: <https://armedforceseducation.org>.

## Grants for War Memorials - War Memorials Trust

Grants are currently available for 50% of eligible costs with a normal maximum grant of £20,000. The War Memorials Trust is looking to streamline the application process to make it easier for applicants and further information will be uploaded to: <https://www.warmemorials.org/grants/>

## Partner Newsletters

### Wessex Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association Newsletter

<https://www.wessex-rfca.org.uk/news/newsletters/>

## The Ripple Pond

The Ripple Pond is a self-help support network across the UK for the adult family members of physically or emotionally injured service personnel and Veterans. Their latest newsletter is available <https://www.theripplepond.org/news>.

## Families Federations

Families Federations are there for Serving families. Magazines are free to subscribe to:

- **Navy** - <https://nff.org.uk> and magazine Homeport <https://www.nff.org.uk/homeport-magazine/>
- **Army** - <https://aff.org.uk> with their magazine Army&You <https://armyandyou.co.uk>
- **RAF** - <https://www.raf-ff.org.uk> with their magazine Envoy <https://www.raf-ff.org.uk/publications/envoy-magazine/>

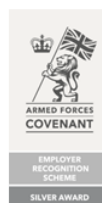
## Further Information about the Armed Forces Covenant

The Covenant is about more than grants. More importantly, it reaches out to those who serve, or have served, who need help. It also helps integrate our Armed Forces into our communities. We want to increase awareness throughout the wide range of services that may come into contact with Armed Forces personnel, young and old, serving and retired, and their families. These services range from education to housing, healthcare to employers, adult and children's social care to parishes and voluntary organisations. To help this, please cascade this information across your own organisation.

Further information on the Somerset Armed Forces Partnership can be found via: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/community-leisure-and-tourism/somerset-armed-forces-covenant-partnership/>

### How you can help

- Review your existing policies to look for any disadvantage for Armed Forces families.
- Help raise awareness with your front-line staff of the Armed Forces Covenant and the issues affecting Armed Forces families.
- Promote the **Somerset Armed Forces Hubs** <https://nhssomerset.nhs.uk/armed-forces/somerset-armed-forces-hubs/> and **Somerset Armed Forces Outreach Service** <https://nhssomerset.nhs.uk/armed-forces/armed-forces-outreach/>
- Tell the SAFC Partnership of any concerns you have or ideas to help deliver the Covenant in Somerset.
- Nominate and support an Armed Forces Champion in your organisation.
- Raise awareness of the many support services that exist to help Armed Forces families and encourage organisations to register on Somerset Choices.
- Get your organisation to sign up to the Armed Forces Covenant Employer Recognition Scheme and promote it to like-minded organisations.
- Promote the Gov.uk online support guides <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/find-support-for-veterans-and-their-families> that provide information for veterans based on life stages
- Promote the Gov.uk searchable directory <https://www.gov.uk/support-for-veterans> that lists both government and charity support available to veterans and their families
- Further information is available via: [www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk](http://www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk)
- Further information regarding cadets, reservists and guides for employers employing reservists is available via: [wessex-rfca.org.uk](http://wessex-rfca.org.uk)



Proudly  
supporting  
those  
who serve