

Armed Forces Covenant



The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise from the nation to those who serve. It says we will do all we can to ensure they are treated fairly and not disadvantaged in their day-to-day lives. This includes offering injured servicemen and women and bereaved families extra support where appropriate.

Somerset Armed Forces Covenant Partnership

The Somerset Armed Forces Covenant Partnership brings together the armed forces with all local government, NHS, businesses, education, the voluntary sector and other groups representing serving and former members of the armed forces in Somerset, such as the military charities.



Who is part of the armed forces community?

You are part of the armed forces community if you are serving, or have served, in the Regular or Reserve armed forces. This includes families, dependants and veterans. A veteran is anyone who has served in the armed forces.

How local people can help?

Local people can support the armed services community in a number of ways, for example fundraising, taking part in military events and celebrations, visiting local tourist attractions, such as the RNAS Yeovilton International Air Day and the Fleet Air Arm Museum at Yeovilton. Or attending homecoming and repatriation ceremonies, including annual Armed Forces Day events.

Some groups in the area provide practical support to the armed forces community, particularly individuals and their families. They run youth groups or sports clubs for the children of serving members of the armed forces, offer support networks for families of serving members of the armed forces, help ex-servicemen or women to take part in local activities and provide training and employment opportunities for people about to leave the armed forces.



For further information on the Somerset Armed Forces Covenant visit: www.somerset.gov.uk/forcescovenant Or email: communities@somerset.gov.uk

Armed Forces Covenant Fund



A new, annual £10 million, Covenant Fund was launched in August 2015, replacing the previous Community Covenant Grant Scheme. The Fund was set up to fund local projects which strengthen the ties or the mutual understanding between members of the Armed Forces Community and the wider community in which they live.



What type of project is eligible?

Projects should offer support for serving armed forces personnel, veterans, and their families across a number of areas: financial, housing, mental and physical health, employability and social support. The new Fund has four broad funding themes:

- Removing barriers to family life.
- Extra support after service for those that need help.
- Measures to integrate military and civilian communities and allow the armed forces community to participate as citizens.
- Non-core healthcare services for veterans.

The fund is managed by a central MoD grants team and queries can be emailed to:

COVENANT-GrantTeamMailbox@mod.uk

Further information including funding priorities and funding windows can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/covenant-fund>

The main criteria includes:

- How well the project addresses one of the three priorities and how it will meet the specific requirements of that priority.
- Evidence of the need for the project.
- Engagement, partnership working and collaboration.
- How well the project is likely to be delivered
- To what extent the project represents value for money.
- To what extent we can have confidence that the project will have lasting impact, delivering changes that last beyond the funding period.

The MoD will only provide one-off funding, so where there is an on-going cost, such as maintenance or staff costs, your bid should show how you will meet this once the MoD funding has been spent. Funding may not be used to fill gaps in a service that is, or should be, provided by others (another government department, local authority, or existing MoD provision).

How do I submit a bid?

All new bids to be submitted directly to the MOD, but you are required to engage with the Somerset Armed Forces Covenant before submitting. Please send any outline proposals to communities@somerset.gov.uk