



Norfolk's Armed Forces Covenant

David Ashworth, Chief Fire Officer

Our vision for Norfolk 2018-2021

We care about Norfolk and its people and are ambitious for them. We want to help make Norfolk to be the best it can, where people can live productive, independent lives, safely and in good health, for as long as they can.

We will play a leading role in:

- Building **communities** we can be proud of
- Installing infrastructure first
- Building new homes to help young people get on the housing ladder
- Developing the skills of our people through training and apprenticeships
- Nurturing our growing digital economy
- Making the most of our heritage, culture and environment.

Our vision is underpinned by Norfolk Futures: our service transformation strategy for 2018-2021.

Our aims in supporting Norfolk's Armed Forces Covenant

We want to ensure that ..

- Norfolk's armed forces community receives the support it deserves in recognition of its dedication and sacrifice.
- Members of Norfolk's armed forces community are treated fairly and all reasonable actions are taken to ensure that they are not disadvantaged as a result of their service.
- Where appropriate, special consideration is given to specific cases to ensure fair access to services, for example to people who are injured or bereaved as a result of their service.

How does Norfolk County Council support the Covenant?



As lead partner for Norfolk's AF Covenant, the Council:

- Allocates an annual budget to the Covenant of £20k
- Provides dedicated officer resource to support the Board
- Works with the Commissioner to ensure the Board's Action Plan is prioritised and implemented
- Supports organisations and charities to bid for funding from the national MOD Covenant Fund and other charity funding pots – Norfolk's Covenant has drawn £450K+ funding into Norfolk.

Children's Services



- Provides school places for serving family children who frequently arrive mid-term at short notice
- Monitors educational attainment among serving family children
- Maintains close contact with schools with a large cohort of serving family children
- Works with partners to answer challenging questions such as
 - How do International Baccalaureate qualifications obtained in the United States transfer into GSCEs for entry to sixth form schools in Norfolk?

Community and Environmental Services



- School Transport Service provides transport for serving family children
- Libraries and Information Services run mobile libraries for military bases for the Summer Reading Challenge period, as well as providing broad ranging information for all service users
- Norfolk Community Learning Services supported the wives of the Queen's Dragoon Guards to review their qualifications and consider options enabling them to return to work after career breaks.



Adult Services

- Provides information to enable people to stay independent longer, through:
 - “Living Well through Conversations”
 - Signposting to the Veterans’ Gateway
 - Maintaining the Norfolk Community Directory
 - Running the Swift Response Team and the Assistive Technology Team
 - Working with both military and civilian charities to ensure veterans and their families are supported



The future

- Norfolk's Covenant is delivering better access to local services through the leadership of the Commissioner and the commitment of the Covenant Board.
- To maintain momentum, the County Council will be:
 - Implementing our new Veterans' interview scheme
 - Applying for Silver Award under the MOD's Defence Recognition Scheme.
 - Developing an information pack about Norfolk's Covenant for other councils including a short training package for elected members and new members of staff.

Questions & contact

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