

Appendix C Armed Forces Act 2021 Duties and Compliance April 2024

Whilst there are requirements for the Council to comply with in relation to the above functions it is also set out what the Covenant is not about which includes:

- Not being prescriptive to the approaches used
- Does not abolish existing Covenant pledges.
- Covering all issues affecting the Armed Forces Community outside the scope of the Covenant.
- It does not supersede or replace other statutory requirements.
- Does not permit advantageous treatment as a matter of course is not within the scope of the Duty such as offering discount to all through the Defence Discount Service, although provision can sometimes be justified.

The full status of compliance has not been assessed in detail at this stage however initial findings are set out below covering the 3 main functions.

Function	Duties	Current Council Status								
Healthcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of services • Planning and funding • Co-operation between bodies and professionals <p>These healthcare functions are within scope of the Duty in the following settings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS Primary Care services, including general practice, community pharmacies, NHS dental, NHS optometry services and public health screening services. • NHS Secondary Care services, including urgent and emergency care, hospital and 	<p>Health: In addition to the duties as set out in 5.16 above GP surgeries should aim to be Veteran Friendly GP practices with a toolkit supporting this work: Veterans' healthcare toolkit: Veteran friendly GP practice accreditation (rcgp.org.uk). There is a list of veteran friendly GPs shown by County and Surgery: veteran-friendly-report-310523.xlsx (live.com). Within this list are 8 of the 11 GP surgeries in West Berkshire as shown below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="999 995 1619 1334"> <tr><td>Thatcham Medical Practice</td></tr> <tr><td>Burdwood Surgery, Thatcham</td></tr> <tr><td>Hungerford Surgery</td></tr> <tr><td>Kintbury & Woolton Hill Surgeries</td></tr> <tr><td>Lambourn Surgery</td></tr> <tr><td>Downland Practice, Compton</td></tr> <tr><td>Falkland Surgery, Newbury</td></tr> <tr><td>Strawberry Hill Medical Centre, Newbury</td></tr> </table>	Thatcham Medical Practice	Burdwood Surgery, Thatcham	Hungerford Surgery	Kintbury & Woolton Hill Surgeries	Lambourn Surgery	Downland Practice, Compton	Falkland Surgery, Newbury	Strawberry Hill Medical Centre, Newbury
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	<p>community services, specialist care, mental health services, and additional needs services (as applicable).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local authority-delivered healthcare services, including sexual health services and drug and alcohol misuse services. 													
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admissions Educational attainment and curriculum Child wellbeing Transport Attendance Additional needs support Use of Service Pupil Premium funding (England only) <p>These education functions are within scope of the Duty in compulsory education settings, that is, primary, secondary, and, for England only, compulsory further education. The Duty does not cover nursery (early years education), higher education, or other voluntary adult education settings.</p>	<p>Education. Our schools work intensively with military families with some of our primary schools having 30% mobility due to postings of service men and women. The schools provide an outstanding level of pastoral care for the children and families and run family counselling in addition to the education. Two schools that have the highest number of military families have had Ofsted's recently and both have achieved good with recognition of their care and achievements for military children and families. The Council and schools make full use of service pupil premium which is used in order to achieve good outcomes for the children.</p> <p>As of January 2023 (the last data collection period) the number of children from military families in local state schools were:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="943 991 2029 1329"> <thead> <tr> <th>Type of Unit</th> <th>No of Children</th> <th>No of Units</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Nurseries</td> <td>2</td> <td>1 nursery</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Primary Schools</td> <td>158 (3 schools with highest have 52, 33 and 10 children)</td> <td>60 Primary Schools</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secondary Schools (WBDC run)</td> <td>92 (2 schools have 58 and 33 children)</td> <td>3 Secondary Schools</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Type of Unit	No of Children	No of Units	Nurseries	2	1 nursery	Primary Schools	158 (3 schools with highest have 52, 33 and 10 children)	60 Primary Schools	Secondary Schools (WBDC run)	92 (2 schools have 58 and 33 children)	3 Secondary Schools
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Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocations policy for social housing • Tenancy strategies (England only) • Homelessness • Disabled Facilities Grants 	<p><i>Housing Services</i> have several policies relating to military including:</p> <p>Housing Allocations and Lettings Policy. Within this policy the Service have introduced an updated qualification criteria for armed forces personnel who are now exempt from local connection qualifying criteria and will be deemed to qualifying for the Housing Register. The Policy also supports government regulations to provide additional preference to members of the armed forces who have an urgent need to assist this group into suitable settled accommodation (Section 12.8 of the Policy). The Policy also sets out that additional priority (Band C) will be awarded to divorced or separated spouse of civil partner of service personnel who need to move out of MoD provided accommodation.</p> <p>In the rough sleeping community, there are no known ex service personnel. There was one ex service personnel who was supported by the Housing Service.</p> <p>The Service is also actively working with the Home Office to rehouse ARAP & ARCS Afghan families accommodated within the bridging hotel, the rehousing plans include acquiring homes for families to settle and working with the Home Office around potential MoD accommodation through the Settled Family Accommodation programme.</p>

Equalities: Equalities in relation to this community already exists in a number of policies. However, with the emerging Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Framework the Armed Forces Act 2021 will also be considered as part of that document.