



Dover District Civilian Military Partnership Board Annual Report 2020-2021



ARMED FORCES COVENANT



RECOGNISE, REMEMBER, INTEGRATE, SUPPORT



Maurice Churchwood 101st Birthday celebrations



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

GOLD AWARD

Proudly supporting those who serve.

FOREWORD



**Councillor Oliver Richardson
Armed Forces Champion,
Dover District Council**

As the Chair of Dover District Council's Civilian Military Partnership Board, I am delighted to present to you this wonderful annual report, showcasing our achievements within the Dover District this year as well as our input into Kent-wide Civilian Military Partnerships. Of course, there is always more for us to do, but we are really pleased with the progress that has been made despite the additional challenges we have faced with the current covid-19 pandemic. The Dover District Civilian Military Partnership Board is now well established and aims to champion the Community Covenant so that partners can work together on an action plan to help support our armed forces community. We are keen to honour the covenant's pledge that "together we can acknowledge and understand that those who serve or who have served in the Armed forces, and their families, should be treated with fairness and respect in the communities, economy and society they serve with their lives".

The Partnership recognises that forces families deserve support from the community with regards to practical help concerning housing, employment, education, health, and wellbeing. It enables forces families to feel a sense of belonging within their communities and shared pride when acknowledging and remembering the sacrifices that both our serving personnel and veterans have made for their country.

We have seen the usual projects having to be delivered in new ways of working due to social distancing measures, these include:

The VE 75 celebration on Friday 8th May 2020, which commemorated the 75th anniversary of VE Day when the guns fell silent at the end of the second world war in Europe offered an opportunity for people to still mark the occasion, share pride in the country and honour the men and women of WWII. Residents were able to send in photos of their own personal toast which was put into a legacy video - a montage video that was shared online as part of the Nation's thanks.

Armed Forces Mental Health training was delivered online by Armed Forces Network to give staff and partner agencies a better understanding of trauma and its effects and how to manage veterans who are displaying a mental health crisis and a path way through the community hub was created for veterans to ensure they got the help they needed at this unprecedented time.

Lastly, helping the Royal British Legion with their poppy appeal by supporting them with their social media campaign of putting a poppy in your window, and finding a safe space for Royal British Legion, White Cliffs Branch to sell poppies which adhered to social distancing guidelines so that they can raise the funds to support veterans and their families if and when it's needed.

I'm also proud that we were awarded gold award for the defence employer recognition scheme, which is testament to the partnership. We now however want to go even further to support our armed forces community and have some plans for the future.

We actively welcome new partners to support the covenant. Please do get in touch and become part of something truly special.

INTRODUCTION

This report showcases the achievements of the Dover District Civilian Military Partnership between April 2020-April 2021 working together in partnership to support our armed forces community.

The Armed Forces Covenant is a pledge that together we can acknowledge and understand that those who serve or who have served in the Armed forces, and their families, should be treated with fairness and respect in the communities, economy and society they serve with their lives.

The Dover District Civilian Military Board came together in January 2019 to create an action plan to address needs identified within the Dover district area. Representatives include:

- Dover District Council
- Ministry of Defence
- Royal British Legion
- Armed Forces Network
- Kent County Council
- Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen Families Association (SSAFA)
- Job Centre Plus
- Kent Police
- NHS
- Service Charities

The Dover District Civilian Military Partnership action plan is built around the key following themes:

- Employment, education, and skills
- Promotion and publicity
- Health and wellbeing including housing
- Recognise and remember
- Integration



OUR DOVER DISTRICT CIVILIAN MILITARY PARTNERSHIP BOARD

The Dover District Civilian Military Partnership Board has been set up to champion the community covenant and develop an action plan to address needs identified. Our board members include:

Cllr Oliver Richardson
(Chair of Civilian Military Partnership Board
Dover District Council)

Brin Hill
Head of Community and Digital Services,
Dover District Council

Shaun Taylor
Community Services Manager,
Dover District Council

Kayleigh Jones
Community Development Officer,
Dover District Council

Canon Peter Bruinvels
Kent County Council (KCC),
Civilian-Military Liaison Adviser and Military
Expert and 11th Infantry Brigade Armed
Forces Champion

Tracy Evans
Civil Engagement Officer,
11th Infantry Brigade South East Headquarters

Tanya Clark
Community Liaison Officer, Kent Police

Christine Walton
Dover White Cliffs, Royal British Legion

John Dickinson
Dover White Cliffs, Royal British Legion

Leigh Thomas
Regional Employer Engagement Director,
South East RFCA

Wayne Hopla
Community Engagement Officer,
3rd Battalion, The Princess of Wales Royal
Regiment

Cllr Geoff Lymer
Member for Dover West, Kent County Council

Deby Day
Headteacher, Guston Church of England
Primary School

Bridget King
Army Welfare Service Lead
2020-2021 Dover Civilian Military Partnership
Action Plan

We encourage everyone to sign up to our Dover District Civilian Military Partnership Board including:

- Local Authorities
- Public Service Providers
- Town and Parish Councils
- Local Businesses
- Charity or Community Groups
- Individual members of the public

We encourage others to sign up to show their support, please visit Dover District Council/Armed Forces Support on the DDC website to sign up alternatively contact communitycovenant@dover.gov.uk



Dover District Cadets

The Armed Forces Covenant

Working together in the Dover District to support the Armed Forces Community. Dover District Council have signed the Armed Forces Covenant, showing our commitment in providing easy access to the services and support to the Armed Forces community.

What is the Armed Forces Covenant?

The Armed Forces Covenant is a pledge that together we can acknowledge and understand that those who serve or who have served in the Armed forces, and their families, should be treated with fairness and respect in the communities, economy and society they serve with their lives.

What is the Armed Forces Community Covenant?

The Armed Forces Community Covenant is a voluntary pledge of mutual support between a civilian community and its local armed forces community. It is intended to complement, at a local level, the national Armed Forces Covenant, which outlines the mutual obligations between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces.

The Armed Forces Community involves many different client groups - regular and reservist serving personnel, veterans, service leavers, dependants and carers and its level of presence varies greatly across the country.

Here in the Dover District, although official figures are difficult to come by, given the significant size of the military footprint in the area over the years, it is believed that the Armed Forces Community is likely to be large, with many veterans living and working in the area.

THE AIMS OF THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

- Encourage local communities to support the Armed Forces Community in their areas, and to raise public understanding and awareness of issues affecting the Armed Forces Community.
- Recognise and remember the sacrifices faced by the Armed Forces Community.
- Encourage activities which help to integrate the Armed Forces Community into local life.
- Encourage the Armed Forces Community to help and support the wider community, whether through participation in events and joint projects, or other forms of engagement.

We encourage everyone to sign up including:

1. Public Service Providers
2. Town and Parish Councils
3. Local Businesses
4. Charity or Community Groups
5. Individual members of the public
6. Local Authorities

If you wish to sign up, please visit:

<https://www.dover.gov.uk/armedforces>

2020 - 2021 DOVER CIVILIAN MILITARY PARTNERSHIP ACTION PLAN

The Dover District Civilian Military Partnership Board action plan is built around the following **themes**, with reference to support and signposting:

- 1. Employment, education and skills**
- 2. Promotion and publicity**
- 3. Health and wellbeing including housing**
- 4. Recognise and remember**
- 5. Community integration**

The following pages highlight key actions within the themes.

THEME 1

EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND SKILLS



Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Kent Meritorious Service Awards

The Armed Forces Champion, Cllr Richardson, attended Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Kent Meritorious Service Awards where an Air Cadet from Dover was bestowed with the highest honour that a cadet can achieve in any of the Cadet Force disciplines for her outstanding service within the combined Cadet Force.

Lily-Mae Parkinson aged 16, from Astor College Combined Cadet Force (CCF) was appointed as a Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for Kent at the virtual celebration.

She said "I am incredibly honoured to be able to represent RAF (CCF) cadets in Kent and particularly Astor College. In spite of the current conditions I am looking forward to re-joining our cadet family and being able to pass on the knowledge and skills I have learnt. I am looking forward to being a part of the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet Team carrying out my duties as soon as circumstances will allow for it."

Well done Lily-Mae!

Captain Stuart Stokes from Sir Roger Manwood's School and civilian instructor, Robert Reynolds from 354 (Dover) Squadron, Air Training Corps were also presented with Meritorious service awards as well as Dylan Thorley from Dover and Deal Unit, Sea Cadets Corps who won the able cadets ward.

Dover District Council job application, have you served?

Dover District Council have added a box to their job application forms, they now ask applicants if they have served? This helps managers to recognise potential veterans who may have transferable skills but are unable to articulate these as well as the understanding of gaps in employment history.

Promoting the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme

DDC proudly received the Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award certificate from the Ministry of Defence on October 20th 2020. Armed Forces Champion, Cllr Richardson, is pictured with the certificate which will be hung in the council reception above the Silver Award that was received last year. DDC continues to actively support the Armed Forces Community within the workplace.

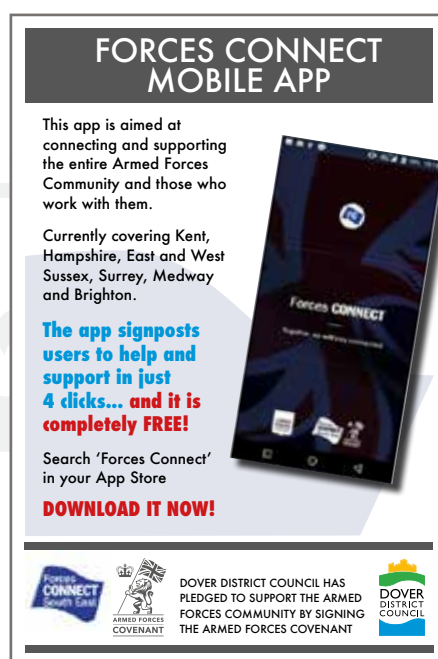
DDC are going to develop a gold award video to promote the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme once social distancing restrictions have eased.



THEME 2

PROMOTION AND PUBLICITY

Forces connect mobile app



Over 9000 people have downloaded the app!

The Dover District Civilian Military Partnership supported Forces Connect with the launch of their new app by promoting and advocating.

The app has been designed to signpost members of the armed forces community in the South East to support and advice in their area.

The "Forces Connect" app links users in four easy clicks to organisations offering help and support across a wide range of services.

The app is free and aimed at the entire armed forces community - serving personnel, reservists, veterans and their families - as well as frontline public services staff. To download the app, search "Forces Connect" in Apple's App Store or the Google Play Store. This is only available on IOS and Android devices.

So far over 9000 people have downloaded the app, meaning veterans are able to link with support available to them.

Armed forces covenant leaflet

The partnership worked together to promote Dover District Council's pledge to the Armed Forces Covenant.

Dover District Council pledged to demonstrate and advocate support to the defence and Armed Forces Community and encourage others to do the same.

Advocating service personal issues and helping to overcome some of the barriers faced by our Armed Forces Community.



Over 400 leaflets given out to promote the armed forces covenant at events across the district

'I knew about the armed forces covenant but didn't think it actually meant anything, its great to see it is being promoted like this'



Keep me posted Armed Forces

Information about Armed forces services are regularly posted through Keep Me Posted under Armed Forces.

This is one of the largest platforms of communications across the district, we have welcomed news from services and promoted #haveyouserved

If you would like to sign up to keep me posted to keep up to date with armed forces, please visit:
<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDOVER/subscriber/new>

In 2018 there were only 87 people signed up to the Armed Forces section in 2020 there were 645 as of April 2021 there are 867!

THEME 3

HEALTH AND WELLBEING INCLUDING HOUSING

REDUCING FEELINGS OF ISOLATION BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

New veteran's group in Dover to launch

After the successful launch of the veterans breakfast club at the Royal Marines Association, the Dover White Cliffs Royal British Legion Branch have been successful in securing funding to develop a new veterans breakfast club in Dover. There will be a range of information available to veterans as well as a chance to catch up with friends. The idea of the group is to reduce social isolation, while providing meaningful support in a way that suits veterans. This new group will start once social distancing guidelines have eased. Thank you to the funders Forces Connect South East.

Pathway for veterans through the Community Hub - response to COVID-19 pandemic

During the Covid-19 pandemic, first wave, a community hub was set up for the community to call. The community hub supported people who needed help with shopping, medicine or someone to talk to during government guidelines of 'stay at home'. A pathway through the community hub was set up for veterans, whereby the veteran would be passed on to the armed forces lead officer to gain access to support, advice and guidance. Over 10 veterans were able to access support through this pathway which resulted in receiving food parcels and well being support. Many elderly veterans also accessed the community hub during this time.

Veteran's 101st Birthday



When Maurice Churchward a veteran from Walmer turned 100 in March 2020 the country had just entered its first lockdown and plans to mark the former serviceman's centenary were hastily cancelled.

As the former Royal Marine turned 101 on the 25th March 2021 the community and the DCMPB pulled together so that Maurice could celebrate in style this year, albeit from a safe social distance in the garden!

Maurice served as a Royal Marine in WWII and also saw service in Korea. Following his military service he served as a Metropolitan Police officer until his retirement.

Celebrations to mark Maurice's 101st birthday began in the morning with a doorstep delivery of birthday cards and a rendition of Happy Birthday by a trumpeter from the local Royal Marines Association Deal Branch and Club.

At lunchtime a birthday cake organised by Dover District Council and made by The Baking Fairy from Deal, along with cards were delivered by DDC officers. A special video message was also delivered by the Royal Marines Band Service.

To round off the day, a former member of the Black Watch played the bagpipes on Maurice's doorstep.

THEME 4

RECOGNISE AND REMEMBER

VE 75

On Friday 8th May 2020 at 3pm, Britain commemorated the 75th anniversary of VE Day when the guns fell silent at the end of the second world war in Europe.

Due to the coronavirus restrictions, VE Day 75 events and street parties had to be cancelled or postponed, but we still marked the occasion, to share pride in our country and honour the men and women of WWII.

The Chairman of Dover District Council, Cllr Michael Conolly, led the Nation's Toast, joined (virtually) by the Leader of the Council, Cllr Trevor Bartlett and the council's Armed Forces representative, Cllr Oliver Richardson.

To help commemorate this occasion, the council invited residents to play a special part in the day by sending photos in of their own personal toast on the day. We created a montage video that can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZKB8rJ9plho>

The 8th May 1945 marked Victory in Europe (VE) day, a day of celebrating the formal acceptance by the Allies of WW2 of Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces. Upon the defeat of Germany, celebrations erupted through the western world.

The Dover District has a rich military heritage. As Britain's frontline town, the very fabric of this area has been shaped by the part it has played in the defence of the realm. There are signs of this everywhere, from our castles, coastal fortifications, and war memorials, to the strong traditions and cultural ties which have been born of our connections with the armed forces.

Acknowledging 75 years since VE Day with a commemorative bank holiday was absolutely fitting. It is our duty to keep the events of the past alive in collective memory, including future generations. This is how we ensure that such a conflict never happens again.



Armed Forces Day

Armed Forces Day is a chance for the nation to recognise and say thank you for the invaluable work of our armed forces.

2020 events for Armed Forces Day could not go ahead as planned, instead a socially distanced picture was taken with the Armed Forces Day flag, supported by those from our armed forces community.



#saluteourforces #armedforcesweek
#Doversaluteourforces

Freedom of the Borough, Royal Marine Heritage Trail 'Royal Marines Deal - A Pictorial History' book

On the 14 February 1945, the Corps of HM Royal Marines were granted the Freedom of the Borough of Deal. 2020 marked the 75th Anniversary of the awarding of this prestigious honour.

To mark the occasion, the Royal Marines Heritage Trails commissioned the re-publication of the Andrew Lane book "Royal Marines Deal - A Pictorial History".



The Leader of the Council met with Bill Butler, a representative at Goodwin Academy and two pupils from Deal Parochial school to receive copies of the book.

Copies are available to buy from www.royalmarinesheritagetrails.org

Poppy Appeal 2020

The DCMPB encouraged the community to put a poppy display in their window for Remembrance Day 2020 and to take part in a two minute silence at home at 11am.



Here's a delightful display of poppies by some pupils at Guston Primary School, proudly displayed in the school window. The school is part of the Dover Civilian Military Partnership Board.

Poppies could be seen in windows across the district!



We also supported the launch of the Royal British Legion, Poppy Appeal 2020, who were at a new retail development at St. James in Dover.

RAISING MONEY TO SUPPORT THOSE WHO SERVED

THEME 5

COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

Gurkha Transition

Kent County Council, 11X, 1RGR and Dover District Council are working together to support the, every three-year, transition of a new battalion from Brunei. The transition was due to take place early 2020 but has been postponed till 2022. The DCMPB will continue to insure the transition goes as well as possible for the new battalion.



ARMED FORCES COVENANT FUNDED PROJECTS IN DOVER DISTRICT



Guston Church of England Primary School – Identity project **Awarded £17, 206.00**

The project delivered sessions for children, military families and the local community to promote friendship and interaction between the military and civilian population.

St Richards Primary School – Collaboration, Act and Listen: Social Support project **Awarded £17,733.00**

The year-long programme of activities will enrich pupils' knowledge of the World Wars, by bringing young people and veterans together to increase understanding and create strong links between the generations as well as between military and civilian communities.

Skill Horizons Here and Now: Walk in Our Footsteps project **Awarded £18,200.00** **Here and Now: Heritage Trail.**

The project showcased places of interest along an extensive trail, taking in the Gateway to England and involving local schools. The trail cemented knowledge of the strong local links between the Armed Forces that once served and are still serving in and around the White Cliffs. Local military bases and veterans' groups are involved in the project.

Case study

Veterans Mess Tins and Banter (VMTB)

As requested by the CMPB, 11th Brigade and DDC worked hard to develop a survey to identify the Armed Forces community within the Dover District. From the survey we could see that there were several veterans around Walmer, Deal.

We applied for funding from Forces Connect South East Veterans hub project to develop a group named 'Veterans Mess Tins and Banter' a group that will offer support to our local armed forces community. Working together with the Royal Marines Association, Deal Branch, the group came to fruition for the benefit of our Armed Forces Community.

Veterans Mess Tins and Banter is an informal club where veterans can come and receive meaningful advice/support from service providers in a comfortable way. The three key themes the group supports are:

- Employment and Skills
- Wellbeing
- Housing

There have been over 40 attendees and we have seen some real achievements:

Mr P accessed 'Veterans Mess Tins and Banter' with his SSAFA case worker. Mr P has PTSD and is living in a home share where things have gone hostile between him and his landlord as well as other members of the household. We were able to support Mr P with a housing application.

Mr D was homeless and came to the group pointing out he lived in his van outside. SSAFA worked with Mr D and supported him with accommodation. Mr D now has somewhere to live.

Mr A was finding it difficult to get a job and explain his transferable skills. Royal British Legion Industries are working with Mr A.



PROUDLY SUPPORTING THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY ACROSS THE DOVER DISTRICT



Through the Armed Forces Covenant, we are committed to working with partners to help serving and retired personnel get access to the services and support they need.
For more information visit www.dover.gov.uk/armedforces



CONTACT US:

Email:
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