

# Dover District Civilian Military Partnership Board

ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

"Recognise, Remember, Integrate and Support"

### A. Introduction

The <u>Community Covenant</u><sup>1</sup> 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 <u>Armed Forces Covenant</u><sup>2</sup>, 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, we believe that the Armed Forces Community is likely to be large, with many veterans living and working in the area.

The government has encouraged local authorities and the armed forces community to work together to establish a community covenant in their area to:

- o Encourage local communities to support the Armed Forces Community in their area;
- Nurture understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces Community;
- o Recognise the contribution made by the Armed Forces Community;
- 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.

The Armed Forces Covenant exists to make sure service people, veterans and their families are on an equal footing with ordinary citizens when it comes to accessing public and commercial services. It is not about extra-special treatment for all the Forces, although it is about special consideration in some cases (for example, for those injured and the bereaved).

For the Armed Forces Community, the Community Covenant encourages the integration of Service life into civilian life and encourages members of the Armed Forces Community to help their local community.

# B. The Annual Report

This annual report looks back at the progress made since the signing of the Dover District Community Covenant and highlights the successful bids that have been made to the MOD's Community Covenant Grant Scheme, with a total of just under £410,000 secured for projects working with local communities. Finally, it considers any gaps that have been identified and looks at the next steps for the Civilian Military Partnership Board.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/fulfilling-the-commitments-of-the-armed-forces-covenant/supporting-pages/armed-forces-community-covenant

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/fulfilling-the-commitments-of-the-armed-forces-covenant/supporting-pages/armed-forces-covenant

# C. Background

The Dover District signed its Community Covenant in June 2013. The covenant has provided the opportunity to bring together different stakeholders and better understand the particular issues that armed forces communities face. It is a living document and will be regularly reviewed and updated.

A Dover District Civilian Military Partnership Board (the Board) has been set up to champion the Community Covenant and develop an action plan to address particular needs identified.

Board Representatives include:

- Ministry of Defence
- o Royal British Legion
- o Soldiers, Sailors & Airmen Families Association (SSAFA)
- South Kent Coast Clinical Commissioning Group
- o Job Centre Plus
- Kent County Council Public Health
- A range of services across Dover District Council

The Board meets three times a year and has agreed a Terms of Reference and Action Plan to take forward the Community Covenant and address any needs identified.

#### **EXTENT OF THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN THE DOVER DISTRICT**

Further work is needed to identify the scale of the Armed Forces Community in the district and level of need.

Given the significant size of the military footprint in the Dover area over the years, the Armed Forces Community is likely to be large. In recent history, the district has been home to regiments in both Deal and Dover (with the Royal Marines Barracks in Deal closing in 1996 and Connaught Barracks in Dover closing in 2007).

#### 1. Serving Personnel

The ONS 2011 Census includes information on the numbers of armed forces personnel living and working in an area and shows that, at the time the Census was conducted, there are 343 residents employed in the Armed Forces (135 living in a household and 214 living in a communal establishment). This is a reduction from the 2001 Census, when Armed Forces in the Dover district totalled 674 on a resident basis and 634 as a workplace address.

#### 2. Veterans

Unlike serving personnel, veterans can be a largely hidden population. A significant number of those who have served in the UK armed forces would not even identify themselves as veterans, particularly the younger veteran (ex-military) population involved in the conflicts occurring post 1990, principally the Gulf Wars, Iraq Conflict and Afghanistan.

There are significant problems with estimating the size of the veteran population as a single reliable data source does not currently exist. The MOD holds data on recruitment locations, but does not hold information on where personnel go on leaving service, or

where they subsequently move to. This means that attempts to 'count' veterans can only be a best estimate, based on surveys and modelling of the past, current and future military population. National surveys suggest that in the region of 9-10% of the 16 and over UK population are veterans.

It is believed that there are many veterans living and working in the Dover district. The <u>Defence Analytical Services Agency</u> (DASA)<sup>3</sup> does not hold information on the number of veterans living in an area but are able to provide the following details:

Armed Forces Pension Scheme	Recipien	ts of on-going W (WPS)	Armed Forces Compensation Scheme	
AFPS total (as at 31 March 2012)	All WPS (as at 31 March 2012)	Disablement Pension	War Widow(er)s	(as at 30 Sept. 2012)
1,400	555	465	90	10 (Post-Service)

Please note that individuals can be in receipt of payments under more than one of these schemes simultaneously. Therefore the numbers should not be added together in attempt to provide a 'total'.

Comparing these figures across Kent and Medway shows that:

- Dover has the second highest number of War Pension Scheme recipients (behind Medway with 615).
- The district also has the second highest number of Armed Forces Pension Scheme recipients (behind Medway with 1,985).
- Six other areas have residents in receipt of Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (Shepway 110; Canterbury 65; Medway 40; Maidstone 35; Ashford and Thanet (both 5). The number of claimants in the Shepway area has increased from 15 last year.

The Kent Joint Strategic Needs Assessment shows that the Dover district has a large proportion of veterans in Kent, with an estimated 11,064 veterans in  $2010^4$ , which equates to 12.5% of the population aged 16 and over. This is the second highest density in Kent and above the county average of 9.5%. The areas with the highest density, other than Dover, are Thanet (13.7%); Shepway (12.0%) and Swale (11.6%).

In the Dover district, although the army presence now dominates amongst the three Armed Forces services, they will be veterans from all three services living in the area. There are numerous veterans' organisations in the Dover district including various branches / clubs of the Royal British Legion and regimental associations.

#### 3. Families and Children

The Royal Gurkha Rifles regiment is based at the Shorncliffe Barracks in Folkestone. Families can join serving Gurkhas and there are established Gurkha communities living around the Shorncliffe area and also in the Dover district at Burgoyne Heights. These communities are also likely to make the area more attractive to Gurkha veterans choosing to make the UK their home following discharge.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-defence/about/statistics

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> RBL/Combat Stress/Experian Mapping 2010

The Duke of York's Royal Military School, which is now a military academy, is also located in Dover, next to the former military base. This state boarding school admits children of service personnel from all three services.

In addition to the Military School, we know that there are other schools in the district with children of service personnel on their school roll (for example Guston Primary School). However, it is not possible to update the information on the number of children, and which schools they attend, because the Department for Education will no longer allow Kent County Council to have this data for academies in the census download it provides. The 2014 census analysis by Kent County Council (KCC) is therefore incomplete and, as a result, KCC will be removing the service children information from its January 2015 census analysis.

There are also several Cadet Forces in the Dover district:

- Combined Cadet Forces (CCF) exist in schools across the UK and offers young people aged 13 to 18 years a broad range of challenging and educational activities. Each unit or contingent is an education partnership between the school and the Ministry of Defence. Four schools in the district have a parading CCF contingent: The Duke of Yorks Military School, Dover; Astor College, Dover; Dover Boys Grammar School and Sir Roger Manwood's School, Sandwich.
- There are also four Army Cadet Force detachments (in Dover, Deal, Aylesham and Sandwich); one Sea Cadets unit (Dover & Deal) and two Air Cadet squadrons (in Dover and Deal) in the district. These Community Cadet Forces are national youth organisations sponsored by the Ministry of Defence and the relevant armed force. They offer training and experience based around a military theme including sports, promoting achievement, discipline and good citizenship.

# D. Key Achievements

The Community Covenant reflects the many ways in which the council, the armed forces community and other partners work together to improve awareness, integration, understanding and engagement. Some of the most significant achievements in this regard since the Dover District signed its Covenant are set out below:

#### 1. ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT GRANT SCHEME

#### a) Successful Bids

The total funding awarded to projects in the district is £409,605.58

Supporting applications to the Ministry of Defence's Community Covenant Grant Scheme has been the main area of focus for Dover District Council. An effective local process for managing applications to grant scheme has been set up, overseen by the Communication and Engagement Team. The team has actively promoted the scheme in the community and a dedicated member of staff has given support and guidance to local groups to help ensure successful bids are developed.

The total funding awarded to projects in the district since it the scheme was set up is £409,605.58. This funding will help support projects that strengthen the ties or understanding between members of the armed forces and the wider community in which they live.

Details of the successful local bids are set out in Appendix 1 at the end of this report.

#### 2. SUPPORT AND SIGNPOSTING

#### a) Website

A dedicated '<u>Armed Forces Community Covenant</u>'<sup>5</sup> webpage has been set up on the Dover District Council website, which is updated regularly.

#### b) Sign Posting

There are a wide range of services specifically designed for the Armed Forces Community available from the Ministry of Defence, public sector and voluntary and community sector organisations. It can often be confusing when trying to find the best organisations to help. To make this easier, we have developed several Sign Post pages on the council website.

Links to various aspects of support provided have been broken down into the following areas:

- o Ministry of Defence
- Financial
- Health and Wellbeing

- Armed Forces Charities
- Housing Support
- Children and Families

Skills and Employment

We recognise that this information is not exhaustive and ask people to let us know if anything else should be included in these pages.

#### c) Sign up to show your support

As at March 2015, 43 organisations and 06 individuals have signed up to show their support for the Community Covenant and its aims. We would like to encourage more people to do this and have a 'Sign Up' link on our <u>Armed Forces Community Covenant'</u> webpage.

#### 3. HOUSING

In 2013, the council adopted a new social housing allocation policy that includes a number of measures designed to assist service personnel. These include:

- Prioritising applications based on their total, cumulative period of service rather than the date of their housing application thereby enabling them to acquire additional priority under the choice based letting scheme for their period of service.
- o Implementing the regulations in respect of local connection assessment
- o Ensuring the service personnel can be awarded 'additional preference'

The Department for Communities and Local Government Council has recently singled the Council out for good practice regarding the granting of additional preference to service personnel.

The councils Tenancy Strategy and Tenancy Policy also recognises that service personnel have often experienced less settled accommodation than the civilian

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> www.dover.gov.uk/communitycovenant

 $<sup>^{6}</sup>$  www.dover.gov.uk/communitycovenant/signpost

www.dover.gov.uk/communitycovenant

population, and we will continue to offer veterans and their families lifetime tenancies of Council homes.

The council has worked with other Kent housing authorities on developing and sharing good practice and this has resulted in a number of housing related initiatives including:

- Dedicated information pages for service personnel being set up on Kent Homechoice<sup>8</sup>, the choice based lettings system used by local authorities and housing associations across Kent.
- Kent Homechoice leaflet 'Helping the Armed Forces' with details of the alternative housing options that are available and useful contacts.
- Kent Homechoice now collecting statistics on ex-service personnel housing applications
- Kent Joint Policy and Planning Board, of which the council is a member, being a subgroup of the Kent Civilian Military Partnership Board.

The Council hosts a quarterly Homelessness Forum, whose membership includes the homeless charity Porchlight<sup>9</sup> and the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA), where issues relating to ex-service personnel can be discussed.

#### 4. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

NHS England (NHSE) currently commission <u>Armed Forces Network Kent and Medway</u>, in response to the need for mental health services to be responsive to ex-military personnel in Kent and Medway. It has been suggested that NHSE will transfer this arrangement to Kent and Medway CCGs in the future, to date there are no final agreements to report on. All CCGs in East Kent now have an identified Armed Forces Network (AFN) Clinical Lead(s), in South Kent Coast (covering Dover, Deal and Shepway) this is the Mental Health Clinical Leads Dr Tara Hoshyar and Dr Joe Chaudhuri.

The Armed Forces Network (AFN) is led by Counselling Team Ltd, working with Rethink and is based in Folkestone. It is there to support those experiencing stress, anxiety, depression or issues surrounding trauma including post-traumatic stress. The AFN can also provide signposting and assistance to agencies working with ex-military personnel. A dedicated Kent and Medway Veteran's helpline (01303 856499) is now in operation and a website is in place: <a href="https://www.armedforecesnetwork.org">www.armedforecesnetwork.org</a>

The AFN has delivered several Military Mindset Training courses across the county, including Dover in October 2013 (hosted by Dover District Council). The training module provides insight into how military personnel are trained, how military training changes the individual's belief system and thinking, changes the stress response that occurs in armed forces personnel, and how the transition to civilian life can be difficult for some veterans. An additional training session is due to be held in Dover in July 2015 (details TBC).

The South Kent Coast CCG has run a half-day Mental Health Education Training specifically for GPs and practice nurses. The AFN participated in a Market Place and a Pop-up session to raise the awareness of recent developments around increasing mental health services and support for veterans. Approximately 75 GPs attended and 30

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> www.kenthomechoice.org.uk/choice/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Porchlight is a Kent-based homeless charity that provides practical help to ex-service rough sleepers. It has supported accommodation services across the county, including Dover, a homelessness prevention service and a dedicated rough sleeper team.

Practice nurses. Following the training, practices were provided with updated referral information on Mental Health support across SKC, including Veterans Mental Health.

In recognition of the needs of the Armed Forces Community, the Kent Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) 2013-14 (which helps shape the key priorities and recommendations for the Kent Health and Wellbeing Strategy) includes a new Veterans Chapter.

The South Kent Coast CCG, and the other three East Kent CCGs (Thanet, Ashford and Canterbury), are in the process of re-procuring Mental Health Psychological Services (Talking Therapies) and in engagement discussions with GPs, the CCG Patient Health Reference Group and the local Mental Health Action group to inform what needs to be improved upon in the services going forward. It has been identified that there needs to be a greater emphasis on increasing their provision of Mental Health support to veterans by increasing the numbers of clinicians who can provide Post Traumatic Stress Therapies and Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing (EMDR), a recommended first line treatment for trauma victims to be included in the recommissioned service.

Kent Sheds<sup>10</sup> is a new initiative, part-funded from the Libor Fund, that provides an opportunity for men (and women if they wish) and ex-services personnel to participate in practical group activities such as engineering projects, woodworking or gardening. The idea is that they can share and learn new skills and support each other by working together 'shoulder to shoulder', thus improving their wellbeing. There has been good progress in establishing a Kent Shed in Folkestone and nearby, with significant membership from the retired Ghurkha community. In addition Dover Yacht Club has been successful in bidding to develop a shed based on a boat as the sustaining theme. The venture has just started so will take a little time to be up and running and is seeking further funding from local partners.

#### 5. EDUCATION, SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT

The Jobcentre nationally is committed to identifying & offering all available & tailored support to ex-Armed Forces personnel. The identification of relevant JobCentre Plus (JCP) customers who may be eligible to receive additional help & support has been facilitated by the additional marker on the JCP Labour Market System (used to administer all attendance & contact with JCP customers) to quickly & easily identify & ex-members of the Armed Forces or their partners. At the new claims stage customers are asked if they have previous service or links to the Armed Forces & a marker placed on the LMS system so Work Coaches can refer or inform relevant people of any new assistance or support as it is offered.

An Armed Forces Community Factsheet has been produced to share the support on offer and is made available to relevant customers. This factsheet holds useful information on a variety of support (including things like specific debt advice for exforces personnel) in one place for ease of reference.

The Jobcentre is also actively promoting current employment vacancies in the Armed Forces and has a presence from the Armed Forces Recruitment Team several times each year to promote careers in the military.

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<sup>10</sup> http://www.kentsheds.co.uk/

Locally, work coaches & managers have attended a presentation from the Kent & Medway Armed Forces Network giving an insight to the military mind-set and issues facing ex-forces personnel making the transition from military to civilian life.

Dover & Folkestone Jobcentre are also manning a stand at the Gurkha Employment Fair (April 2015) along with a number of employers to provide information for any Gurkha Service Leavers likely to be effected by the next round of compulsory redundancies.

## E. Partner Updates

Additional information received for inclusion in the Annual Report:

#### 1. MINISTRY OF DEFENCE: ARMY

Considerable progress has been made nationally in implementing the Government's Strategic Defence and Security Review.

In Kent, 2 (SE) Brigade, which was based at Shorncliffe Barracks in Folkestone, has now been stood down, and the new 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade established from the merger of 2(SE) and 145(S) Brigades. The HQ for 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade and HQ South East is in Aldershot and some staff previously based locally have relocated.

The final tranche of redundancies impacting on Kent takes effect in June 2015.

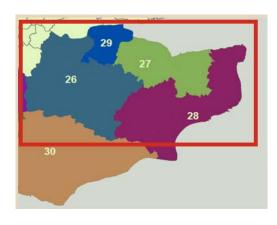
There is expected to be an on-going churn of several hundred soldiers a year in Kent leaving the army and wanting to move into other employment. Kent remains a popular destination for service leavers.

The following map shows the wide geographical area covered by 11 Brigade:

#### Geographical Area Covered by 11 Brigade

The Army is committed to continuing its community engagement responsibilities, and its Civil Engagement Strategy identifies Civil Engagement Task Force Commanders to cover the South East. The areas of Ashford, Lydd, Dover and Margate in Kent and Medway come under CO 2 RGR.

#### 11 Brigade Civil Engagement Task Force Commanders in Kent and Medway



- 26. Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Gravesham, Dartford: CO 36 Engr Regt
- 27. Canterbury, Swale: CO 3 PWRR
- 28. Ashford, Lydd, Dover, Margate: CO 2 RGR
- 29. Medway Towns: Comdt 1 RSME

Another key element of the army transformation is the expansion of the Reservists.

Op FORTIFY is an army-wide operation to recruit reservists, who will no longer to be used sporadically for national emergencies, but more frequently and predictably as part of a seamless army. This could potentially place greater stress on individuals, families and employers.

Changes are also being made over time to expand the army cadets, and encourage a broader range of young people to become involved.

#### 1. DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Dover District Council is committed to working with partners to make sure that no serving or retired armed forces service man or woman is disadvantaged as a result of serving their country.

We have appointed two Armed Forces Community Covenant champions to take the lead for this work within the Council. These are Cllr Paul Watkins, Leader of Dover District Council and Brin Hill, Head of Communication and Engagement.

In addition to our Housing responsibilities previously mentioned, the Council's package of support includes:

- o Administering the Dover District Civilian Military Partnership Board;
- Assisting groups to complete applications to the Community Covenant Grant Scheme;
- Hosting training events;
- Maintaining a dedicated webpage and signposting information.
- The Chairman of the Council<sup>11</sup> is also committed to representing the council at armed services and cadet events.

#### 2. ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

At a national level, over the last year, the Legion has been involved in a campaign called 'Insult to Injury', which highlights the issue that Service personnel who have been

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> The Chairman of Dover District Council is the First Citizen in the District of Dover, Deal and Sandwich and takes precedence over all others including the Town Mayors, but excluding royalty and Her Majesty's deputy, the Lord Lieutenant of Kent (www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Councillors,-Decisions--Meetings/Chairman/Chairman.aspx)

disabled in the service of our country have been made to use their Service Disability Pension when being assessed for services such as living accommodation and Care Homes. Many people have joined this campaign by writing to their MP's.

In addition, although non-party political, the Legion has produced a Manifesto Document<sup>12</sup> showing the five top policy recommendations for national government:

- Offer veterans evidence-based treatment for mental health problems within a
  maximum of 18 weeks from referral, provided by practitioners with an understanding
  of veterans' needs, in line with the Government's commitment to parity of esteem
  between physical and mental health.
- 2. Enable all Armed Forces widows to retain their pension should they decide to later cohabit or remarry.
- 3. Ensure that all veterans with Service-induced hearing problems can have their MOD-issued hearing aids serviced and replaced at no cost, and that working-age veterans can access higher grade hearing aids, including 'in-the-ear' aids.
- 4. Protect the lifetime income of injured veterans by uprating their military compensation by the higher of earnings, inflation or 2.5% (the 'triple lock').
- 5. Include spouses and Early Service Leavers in the resettlement support provided by the Careers Transition Partnership

Locally, in its fundraising work the Poppy Appeal within Kent has, in the first six months of this year (October 2014 to September 2015), raised a record £1,435,000. This period includes the main Poppy and Remembrance Period and the RBL will continue raising funds in the remaining six months from summer events.

Branches in Kent will be taking part in the Events of this summer VE and VJ Day, Dunkirk 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as well as many local small village and town events. Each year Kent County Royal British Legion holds its own Parade and Service, taking it around the county to local branches who request to hold it in their location. In 2014, the event was held at Deal. This year, on the 5 July 2015, it will be held in what is considered the Home of the Legion in Kent: The Royal British Legion Village at Aylesford in the newly renovated Garden of Honour.

Other events taking place locally include a Festival of Remembrance at the Winter Gardens at Margate.

# F. Other Organisations

We know that there are many organisations offering advice and support to the Armed Forces Community in the Dover District. For example, 'Challenger Troop' and 'Futures for Heroes', have both given presentations to the Civilian Military Partnership Board in 2014 to highlight the work that they are doing:

#### 1. Challenger Troop

Challenger Troop CIC is a Community Interest Company (CIC) delivering uniformed youth leadership and engagement courses for vulnerable and disengaged young people from the ages of 7 to 18 in the South East, London and North West of England.

Challenger Troop has engaged over 9,000 young people since it was founded in 2007, many of whom are not otherwise involved in activities such as Scouts, or Cadets.

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<sup>12</sup> www.britishlegion.org.uk/media/4044615/Top-5-manifesto.pdf

Challenger Troop positively reaches out to the most disadvantaged and disengaged youngsters, engaging them in challenging team activities to develop their personal skills and leadership and raise their aspirations. It has also been involved in supporting the Troubled Families programme.

#### 2. Future for Heroes

Futures for Heroes UK is a not-for-profit organisation established in 2013 in response to the growing issue of homeless and long-term unemployment experienced by ex-service personnel. Working closely with SSAFA, it offers a wraparound service to local veterans in crisis, providing them with housing, advice and support on health and financial issues, friendship, camaraderie, training and helping them back into employment, as well as offering volunteering opportunities that deliver benefits to the local community.

The Board is aware there are many other groups working in the district – please contact us to showcase the work that you are doing in the district.

# G. Priority Areas and Next Steps

The Board has identified a number of priority areas to look at:

#### 1. Profiling:

We still need to develop a better understanding of the needs and opportunities in relation to local armed forces communities, in particular veterans, as we lack quantitative data. This is an issue highlighted at a regional and national level.

The Royal British Legion carried out a <u>UK household survey of the ex-service</u> community in 2014 that provides useful information on the size and needs of this group, highlighting the key differences between the ex-service community and the UK population as a whole. It also dispels some common myths on a range of topics, from homelessness to mental health. The needs of the older households are not, generally, very different from those of civilian older households. However, the research does throw up some interesting differences between the working age ex-Service community and the general population: they are more likely to:

- Be out of work
- · Have unpaid caring responsibilities
- Report having health conditions that limit their daily activity (particularly hearing and musculoskeletal problems)
- · Report being depressed.

Families and children of service personnel also have particular support needs, which can impact on their education and general health and wellbeing.

The Kent and Medway Civilian Military Partnership Board is to shorty undertake a survey to try to understand the strengths and needs of the serving and ex-service armed forces personnel and their families. The data from this survey will be available at district level.

#### 2. Grant Funding:

Continue to support groups apply for funding for projects that meet the aims of the Community Covenant. At the time of drafting this report, it is still not clear how the grant

fund scheme will be administered or how much will be available to local groups. This work needs to link with Parish Councils and other funding opportunities, such as Heritage Lottery Funding.

#### 3. Covenant Supporters:

Work to increase the number of organisations that have signed up to support the principles of the Community Covenant. This should tie in with Community Events such as the annual Armed Forces Weekend event in Pencester Park, Dover.

#### 4. Let us know:

Consider implementing a system asking residents to let us know if they are a member of the armed forces community when requesting a service. This will enable staff to signpost members of the Armed Forces Community to a variety of advice and support available.

#### 5. Heroes Welcome Scheme:

Investigate the introduction of a 'Heroes Welcome Scheme' in the Dover district. This could be linked to Corporate Covenants and inspiring local businesses to put their names to a range of commitments (e.g. discount schemes) to support the Armed Forces Community.

#### 6. Kent Civilian Military Partnership Board:

Working with the county-level Board to address / highlight issues of local, regional and national importance.

The Dover District Civilian Military Partnership Board will continue to meet and coordinate the district's response to our priority areas of work. We look forward to working with many other local groups and organisations as we do so.

APPENDIX 1
Successful Armed Forces Community Covenant Grant Scheme Applications 2014-15

Name of Project	Applicant	Funding Allocated	Description
Honouring the lost sons of Staple	The Royal British Legion – Staple Branch	£5,000.00	The commemoration of the names of the fallen from the First and Second World Wars that are on the village War Memorial by a static display at the Village Fayre, a presentation in the village hall, the production of memory sticks containing all the information to give to children in the village aged eight to eighteen and the creation of a small arboretum as a living tribute.
Play and Storage equipment.	Burgoyne Heights Pre- School	£7,274.90	The provision of safe low level storage facilities and the replacement of old and broken resources.
Joined Forces Dover	Dover Smart Project	£8,071.50	To actively engage with the military and civilian community by running art workshops in various venues and outside spaces.
Deal events	Veterans Association of Deal	£600.00	For costs associated with the Dover Patrol Memorial Service and Parade, the Remembrance Sunday Service and Parade and Armistice Day.
A Night to Remember	Hellfire Corner Association	£3,070.00	For costs associated with an annual Remembrance Concert and Service in Dover Town Hall to remember and honour the sacrifice of those who have lost their lives and suffered in wars and conflicts.
Stay and Play	Langdon Playing Field Association	£69,950.00	The development of the East Langdon Playing Field to provide a recreational area for the whole family which will add significant value of such provision in the area for the Armed Forces communities at Burgoyne Heights and surrounding

			villages.
Tiny Toes	Tiny Toes Toddler Group	£6,700.00	The provision of more play opportunities by purchasing sensory play equipment for small children and children with special needs, to run two community open days, to purchase equipment that will enhance the facilities for the parents and to promote the toddler group throughout the local community by a leaflet drop and through social media.
Commemoration of the Fallen	Wingham Scout Group	£1,000.00	To take members of the Scout Group and their families to Belgium to visit Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries and to attend the Menin Gate ceremony in Ypres. The group will take photographs and make notes that will be used to create an exhibition.
WW2 Trench Restoration	East Kent Railway Trust	£8,554.18	The restoration of a Second World War trench that was originally dug to form part of the defences against 'Operation Sea Lion', which is located in the woodland area on the East Kent Railway site.
Manage of Book 1			
Name of Project	Applicant	Funding Allocated	Description
Pathway to Employment	Applicant Skill Horizons	•	The provision of an inclusive service to help prepare veterans, dependents, service leavers and civilian counterparts looking for employment. Open days and workshops would be held to gauge the requirements for each area. Each person enrolled onto the programme will be given an individual learning plan. The services provided to each individual will be tailored to their needs.
_		Allocated	The provision of an inclusive service to help prepare veterans, dependents, service leavers and civilian counterparts looking for employment. Open days and workshops would be held to gauge the requirements for each area. Each person enrolled onto the programme will be given an individual learning plan. The

Day			commissioned Oratorio, "Dancing on Armistice Day"; with performances in Dover, Ashford, Dunkerque and Ypres.
Tots to Teens	Army Welfare Service	£8,742.92	Purchase new play/ educational equipment for tots to teens using Burgoyne Heights Community Centre.
Furniture for the Future	Army Welfare Service	£6,195.92	Purchase of new furniture for Burgoyne Heights Community Centre. The resources currently being used are heavy and cumbersome. They do not meet with current health and safety and manual handling policies, procedures and guidelines.
VE Day Remembered	Swingtime Sweethearts	£6,000.00	Funding to share their music and perform their act to residents and their families in Care Homes within the South East that look after veterans, during May and June 2015.
The Royal Marines Band Memorial Concert	The Royal Marines Bandstand Trust	£10,000.00	Funding for the costs associated with The Royal Marines Band Memorial Concert that includes a Re-dedication Service.
Parade in the Park	Dover District Council	£9,850.00	Funding for the costs associated with a Cultural Celebration of the Military History of Dover's Heritage Parks.
Forces Focus with the Community	Skills Horizons	£37,307.00	The delivery of Motivational Outreach to the service and veterans communities to reduce the feeling of isolation and build on team work, for service, civilian, veterans – children, youths and adults.
Making Fun Possible	Living Well	£4,251.56	Purchase of a portable sensory room.
Creative Veterans	Futures for Heroes	£9,750.00	Funding to create a 'creative hub' within their Centre – incorporating a conventional [canvas] art studio, a metal sculpture design and manufacturing facility and music room for use by veterans and the civilian community.

Name of Project	Applicant	Funding Allocated	Description
Recognition and Respect	Dover Smart project	£17,692.00	Funding to build relationships and record veterans stories and the creation of an Armed Forces community group. The veteran's stories will be shared with the community via a static display and a touring display to schools.
All Year Round	St Margaret's Primary School Parent Teacher Association	£8,594.00	The purchase of 'no mow' plastic grass for the buddy area at St Margaret's Primary School.
War Then and Now	St Margaret's Primary School	£1,861.60	A school trip to visit the Imperial War Museum and HMS Belfast. They will be inviting members from the local serving and ex-forces community to accompany the children on the day to share their own experiences with the children.
Connecting People	Futures for Heroes	£8,650.00	The creation of an Information Technology Suite for use by ex-servicemen and women as well as other groups and individuals within the local community.
Guston Community Project	Guston Parish Council	£69,000.00	The renovation of Guston Village Hall with the addition of play facilities.

TOTAL ALLOCATED	£409,605.58