



Dover District Civilian Military Partnership Board

Annual Report
2021-2022



ARMED FORCES
COVENANT

RECOGNISE, REMEMBER, INTEGRATE, SUPPORT

FOREWORD

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



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 Kentwide 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 all faced during the 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.

After being awarded a gold award for the defence employer recognition scheme last year, which was 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 2021- March 2022 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 May 2021 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 Armed Forces Lead, 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

Kate Parkin Director NHS Armed Forces Community

Lt Col (Rtd) RV Rodney Gray Schools' Cadet Expansion Officer – 11 Brigade CCF's

Nick Parry NHS High Intensity Service Veterans Lead for Kent

Henry Thomas (MBE) The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment – Area Secretary

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

Deby Day Headteacher, Guston Church of England Primary School

Bridget King Army Welfare Service Lead

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

- Local Authorities
- Town and Parish Councils
- Charity or Community Groups
- Public Service Providers
- Local Businesses
- 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**

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:

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

If you wish to sign up, please visit: www.dover.gov.uk/armedforces

2022-2024 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.



PROJECTS DELIVERED

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION SERVICE TO COMMEMORATE 100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR ARMED FORCES WITH THE UNVEILING OF POPPY MURALS

24th June, 2021- Battle of Britain Memorial Site - Capel le Ferne

Two seven-metre-high poppy murals were created at the home of the National to the Few at the Battle of Britain Memorial at Capel-le-Ferne, to mark this year's centenary of the Royal British Legion and the start of Armed Forces Week.

Organised by Dover District Council, the giant poppies have been painted onto two embankments flanking the iconic central statue of a lone Battle of Britain airman at the Battle of Britain Memorial. The mural has been drawn freehand by a team of landscapers from Agrovista Amenity.

The poppy murals were officially unveiled at a ceremony on

Thursday, 24 June to mark the centenary of the Royal British Legion and ahead of Armed Forces Day on Saturday, 26 June.



Officiated by the Rev John Lyons MBE, Padre of the Royal British Legion Downs Branch Deal, the event featured Legion standard bearers representing the county and five local branches, including Dover White Cliffs, Downs, Eastry, St Margaret's-at-Cliffe, and Staple.

“WHEN THE LIGHTS GO ON AGAIN” – REMEMBERING DAME VERA LYNN

**South Foreland lighthouse to light up in memory of ‘Forces Sweetheart’
Meadow and footpath on the White Cliffs of Dover named in honour of Dame Vera**

Echoing one of her famous wartime songs*, the lights went on again when the South Foreland lighthouse was lit up on the evening of the 17th June, 2021, shining a beam of light across the English Channel in honour of Dame Vera Lynn.

On the anniversary of her death on 18 June 2020, the National Trust and Dover District Council came together to remember Dame Vera Lynn and her association with the iconic White Cliffs of Dover.

The South Foreland lighthouse was decommissioned in 1988 and with special permission from the Lighthouse Board of Trinity House, and HM Coastguard was lit, by Dame Vera Lynn’s daughter, Virginia Lewis-Jones.

Earlier in the day, a meadow and footpath on the White Cliffs of Dover were named in honour of Dame Vera. It is this wildflower meadow on chalk downland that was named in her honour as ‘Dame Vera Lynn Down’ and marked with a National Trust omega sign.

Dover District Council also renamed the footpath leading from the seafront to the White Cliffs of Dover as ‘Dame Vera Lynn Way’ with a new sign featuring the opening line of her famous song “There’ll be bluebirds over, The White Cliffs of Dover, Tomorrow, Just you wait and see.”



BURGOYNE HEIGHTS PRE-SCHOOL GARDEN

Cllr Oliver Richardson – Local District ward councillor, County Member, Armed Forces Champion for Dover and Kent and Deputy Leader, Sue Chandler - Local District ward councillor and KCC Cabinet Member for Integrated Children’s Services and Kayleigh Jones Community Development Officer and Armed Forces Lead.

Alongside other Partner Agencies attended the Garden Opening at Burgoyne Heights Pre- School. £1240.00 was awarded towards the project through the Dover District Council Summer round of the Community Grants Scheme. Samantha Heath from Burgoyne Heights Pre-School organised the event to thank those who funded the project.



VJ DAY

SUNDAY 15TH AUGUST, 2021

The Chairman of Dover District Council joined representatives of the local branches of the Royal British Legion at a commemorative service at the Dover War Memorial to mark VJ Day and the end of hostilities.



HMS KENT VISITS DOVER

10TH FEBRUARY, 2022

HMS Kent arrived at the Port of Dover to enable the Ship to reaffirm its historic links to the town, its people and several affiliated organisations in addition to supporting the Channel Dash 80 Anniversary event. Tours for invited community groups were conducted on the vessel over the weekend.







**PROUDLY SUPPORTING THE ARMED
FORCES COMMUNITY ACROSS THE
DOVER DISTRICT**

CONTACT US:

Email: communitycovenant@dover.gov.uk

Call: 07815 429755

Web: www.dover.gov.uk/armedforcesupport