

**Kent and Medway Armed Forces Network**

The Kent and Medway Armed Forces Network (KMAFN) is a multi-organisational group which includes members from the NHS, MoD, Armed Forces Reservists, Mental and Physical Health Clinicians, the Royal British Legion, SSAFA and other interested charities and organisations from across Kent and Medway (i.e. police and local authorities).

The members work together to improve the lives of the armed forces community. The network will also include champions from a wide range of the organisations across Kent and Medway who are advocates for the armed forces community and have the skills and knowledge to support through direct service provision, linking with other organisations or signposting to where additional support could be received. It is managed by the Armed Forces Director on behalf of both Sussex and Kent and Medway CCGs. It has a GP from West Kent CCG as the Chair of the Network. Its aim is to facilitate the CCGs and community in the delivery of the Armed Forces Covenant Commitment.

**The Armed Forces Covenant**

The Covenant sets out the relationship between the nation, the government and the Armed Forces. It recognises that the whole nation has a moral obligation to members of the Armed Forces and their families, and it establishes how they should expect to be treated. It exists to redress the disadvantages that the Armed Forces community faces in comparison to other citizens, and to recognise sacrifices made. In some cases this will require special consideration, especially for those who have given the most such as those who are injured and bereaved.

Since the Armed Forces Covenant was published in May 2011, the government, partner charities and voluntary organisations have been very busy. We have delivered on a number of commitments, introduced the Community Covenant (with a £30m grant scheme to support it) and produced the first statutory annual report on our progress and on where disadvantages remain.

The principle behind the Covenant is that the Armed Forces Community should not face disadvantage because of its military experience. In some cases, such as the sick, injured or bereaved, this means giving special consideration to enable access to public or commercial services that civilians would not receive. The Covenant covers issues from housing and education to support after Service. It is crucial to the government that it, and the nation, recognises the unique and immense sacrifices the Armed Forces Community makes.

**Useful Contacts**

**Armed Forces Network:** Call 01273 403693 or website [www.sussexarmedforcesnetwork.nhs.uk](http://www.sussexarmedforcesnetwork.nhs.uk)

**Kate Parkin – Director’s Email:** [scdt.admin@nhs.net](mailto:scdt.admin@nhs.net)

**Essex County Council:** <http://www.essex,gov.uk/Essex-armed-forces-community-covenant>

**Living Well Essex:** <http://www.livingwellessex.org/health-and-well-being/armed-forces-and-veterans/>

**Veterans Mental Health Services – Transition Intervention & Liaison Service (TILS):**

**Tel:** 020 3317 6818

**Email:** [cim-tr.veteranstilservice-lse@nhs.net](mailto:cim-tr.veteranstilservice-lse@nhs.net)

**Veterans Gateway:** For 24 hour support call 0800 802 1212 or website [www.veteransgateway.org.uk](http://www.veteransgateway.org.uk)

**SSAFA:** Call 0800 731 4880 or website [www.ssafa.org.uk](http://www.ssafa.org.uk)

**Royal British Legion:** Call 0808 802 8080 or website [www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk)