



# **Midlothian Armed Forces Covenant Plan 2018 - 2020**

## **Vision Statement**

**To improve outcomes for serving personnel, veterans,  
reservists and their families within our community**

**Midlothian *Moving Forward***

**Community Planning for Midlothian**

## **Introduction to the Armed Forces Covenant**

Community covenants complement, at a local level, the Armed Forces Covenant, which outlines the moral obligation between the nation, the government and the armed forces. It encourages local communities to support the armed forces community in their area and promote understanding and awareness among the public of issues affecting the armed forces community.

### **Aims of the Covenant for Communities**

- Encourage local communities to support the Armed Forces Community in their areas
- Nurture public understanding and awareness amongst the public 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

The Armed Forces Community involve many different client groups, requiring varied levels of need: regular and reservist serving personnel; veterans; service leavers; families and dependents (including carers).

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

### **The Midlothian Armed Forces Covenant Plan**

The Midlothian Armed Forces Covenant was first established in January 2012. This Armed Forces Covenant Plan builds on existing relationships and supports both the Armed Forces Covenant and the Scottish Government's Armed Forces Commitments Paper. The plan details actions and policy positions to be developed over the period 2018 - 2020.

### **Armed Forces (HQ Edinburgh Garrison)**



The Garrison Commander leads on Armed Forces Covenant engagement with Midlothian Council and Covenant Partners on behalf of the Armed Forces community within the Garrison area, working in partnership towards successful outcomes for both communities. The Garrison HQ is based in Edinburgh Castle and the Garrison Commander reports to Commander 51st Infantry Brigade, to whom he is responsible for the delivery of the Firm Base to the Armed Forces community in both Midlothian and City of Edinburgh Local Authority areas. Representatives from 2 SCOTS based at Glencorse Barracks are engaged at a local level with both Midlothian Council and the Community Council.

## Midlothian Council



Midlothian  
they might need.

The Local Authority promotes the Armed Forces Covenant within Midlothian. They work closely with partners to make it easier for serving personnel, reservists, veterans and their families to integrate seamlessly into their local communities, and to help them access any help or support they might need.

## Armed Forces Charities Sector



Veterans  
Scotland

Armed Forces Charities are well represented across Midlothian and there is a lot of support available to members of the Armed Forces Community. Information, advice and guidance are all available, whether for young Service leavers with a family looking for a job and a house, or older veterans, who might need help, support or friendship. Veterans Scotland provides a strategic overview in addressing veterans concerns and Lothians Veterans Centre provide a local input to address matters particular to Midlothian. The Scottish Veterans Fund provides single and multi-year funding grants to assist groups and organisations that provide support to Scotland's ex-Service personnel and their families. As the SVF has a finite level of resources available for distribution, the maximum level of funding available for individual projects will not exceed £15,000 per annum, unless exceptional cases are made. It is likely the SVF will provide individual payments of much less than £10,000 in order to support as many projects as possible. Where the cost of a project is expected to be in excess of £15,000 per annum, applicants are advised to explore alternative avenues of funding, such as the Armed Forces Covenant Fund, the Big Lottery Fund or other charitable organisations and foundations.

## Lothians Veterans Centre (LVC)



LVC is a Dalkeith drop-in Centre which provides a wide range of support services to Veterans and their families. Support includes social inclusion, employability, housing and benefits and health and wellbeing. LVC enjoys strong links with Midlothian Council, the local serving community and many other support agencies.

## Business and Commercial Sector



The Business Partnership Ltd

The Business Partnership is committed to helping businesses achieve sustainable development and growth. We are a business support organisation, providing a range of services to Scottish businesses, to support them with skilled students and graduates, to help implement improved environmental practices, and extend their business networks.

## Department of Work and Pensions (DWP)



Department for  
Work and Pensions

Jobcentre Plus works with Partners and Employers in Midlothian to maximise training and employment opportunities for reservists, veterans and their families. Veterans are signposted to organisations that offer specialised employability support.

## Midlothian Federation of Community Councils



MIDLOTHIAN FEDERATION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS

The objective of the Federation is to further the aims and interests of the Midlothian Community by discussion and debate between

representatives of member Community Councils. Community Councils are the most local tier of statutory representation in Scotland. They bridge the gap between local authorities and communities, and help to make public bodies aware of the opinions and needs of the communities they represent.

### Midlothian Voluntary Action (MVA)



MVA has been a partner in Midlothian's Armed Forces Covenant from its inception and has participated in highlighting grant opportunities. MVA has very strong productive links with the Lothian's Veterans' Centre and is aware of very rich and effective contributions from many Midlothian voluntary and community groups regarding the Midlothian Armed Forces Covenant outcomes.

### NHS Lothian

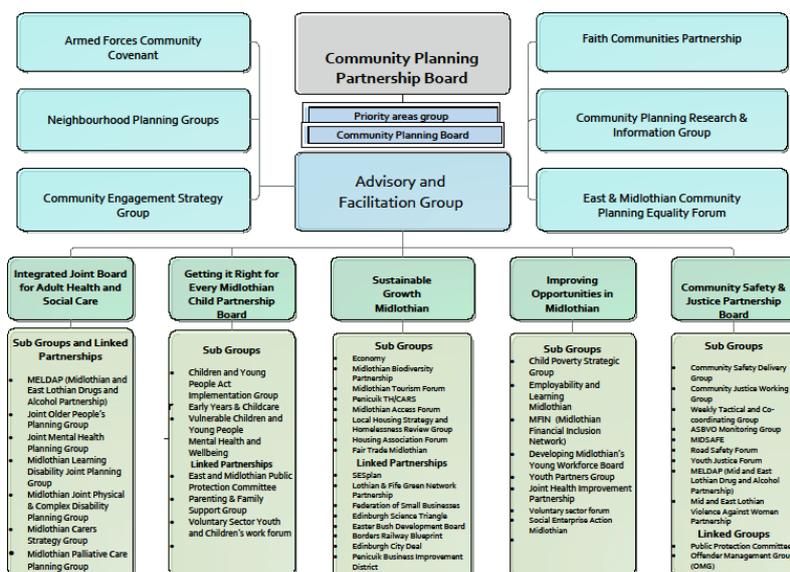


One of NHS Lothian's objectives is to improve the health of the population it serves. The NHS is continuing to explore with partnership organisations how best to serve veterans, and their specific needs, and also to support families while regulars, and reservists are away on operations

### Single Midlothian Plan – Community Planning Partnership

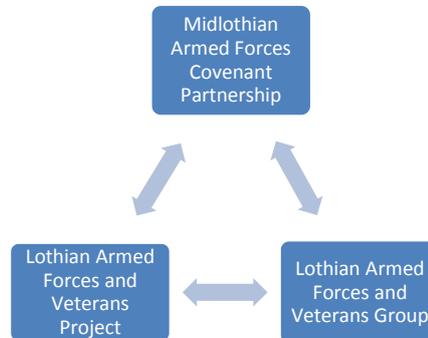
There is representation of the Armed Forces Covenant at the Community Planning Advisory and Facilitation Group (CPAFG). It was agreed that the CPAFG was the most appropriate level of Community Planning to discuss Covenant business as it cuts across all five of the thematic sub groups: Integrated Joint Board for Adult Health and Social Care, Getting it Right for Every Midlothian Child Partnership Board, Sustainable Growth Midlothian, Improving Opportunities in Midlothian and Community Safety and Justice Partnership Board. An annual report is also presented to the Community Planning Partnership Board.

### Community Planning Partnership Governance



## Partnership Working

The Midlothian AFC Partnership meets to discuss the operational delivery of actions within the action plan. The entire Covenant structure continues to be underpinned further by strong working relationships between Council Officers, the Garrison Staff and the wider stakeholder community.



## Lothian Armed Forces and Veterans Group

The Lothian Armed Forces and Veterans Group is the joint planning and strategic overview group established to ensure that partnership areas, NHS Lothian, Veterans agencies and the Armed Services can improve health and wellbeing outcomes for serving personnel and veterans across the Lothian areas.

The LAFVG will:

- Provide strategic direction for partnership endeavours including V1P Lothian and the Lothian Armed Forces and Veterans project.
- Support the delivery of the four Community Covenants from each of the partnership areas.
- Ensure that changes to the Armed Services configuration and deployment are communicated to all key partners to ensure their needs are factored into planning for future health and social care provision, housing, employment and education.

## Lothian Armed Forces and Veterans Project

The four Lothian Councils, NHS Lothian, Veterans Scotland and the local Armed Forces are working in partnership to strengthen delivery of the Armed Forces Covenant. The Lothian Armed Forces and Veterans Project aims to raise awareness of the Covenant, and improve support to the Armed Forces Community, as well as promoting a stronger public profile for the Armed Forces Community and Veterans by highlighting the positive contribution they make to society.

The main aims of the project are:

- To raise awareness of the Armed Forces Covenant and improve support to the Armed Forces Community.

- To improve support to the Armed Forces Community by developing a range of resources to train Local Authority and NHS Lothian frontline staff specifically in the themes of housing, employment, education, health.
- Improve the coordination of health and wellbeing support given by NHS Lothian to the Armed Forces Community.
- Help improve socio-economic chances for the Armed Forces Community via employment opportunities and further education.
- Promote a stronger public profile for the Armed Forces Community by highlighting the positive contribution they bring to our wider society.

### **Midlothian Armed Forces Covenant Action Plan**

The action plan is a working document and updated on a regular basis in agreement with the Midlothian AFC Partnership. The action plan will focus on the priority areas of Health, Housing, Education and Employment. It will be reviewed annually and reported on to the Midlothian Community Planning Board.

### **Armed Forces Covenant Trust Fund**

The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust makes grants to support members of the Armed Forces community.

The Armed Forces Covenant Fund has 4 broad funding themes now and in future years.

- removing barriers to family life;
- extra support after service for those that need help;
- measures to integrate military and civilian communities and allow the armed forces community to participate as citizens;
- non-core healthcare services for veterans

Full details at: <http://www.covenantfund.org.uk/>

If you would like further information or examples of successful funding applications,

**Contact us at:**

[AFCC@midlothian.co.uk](mailto:AFCC@midlothian.co.uk)