

Medway Armed Forces Partnership Board: Terms of Reference May 2025

Background

Medway Council have signed the Armed Forces Covenant, which is a promise from the nation that those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces, and their families, are treated fairly. The role of the Armed Forces Covenant Lead Member, Cllr Vince Maple, the Armed Forces Champion, Cllr Chrissy Stamp, and the Armed Forces Covenant Lead Officer, Daniel Ratcliff, is to ensure that the covenant is upheld within the Council.

This board is to support not only the delivery of the covenant, but also to more broadly support the Armed Forces community. The board will provide advocacy for Armed forces issues with stakeholders. The board will highlight the specific challenges and needs of Armed Forces personnel and dependents and explore potential solutions and ways to help. The board will also take note of and support local operational interventions such as the Medway Veterans Hub, Armed Forces Day, and the Chatham Station Health Fayres.

Purpose of Group

The Board has been established to coordinate and listen to key stakeholders within the Armed Forces Community.

The remit of this group is to:

- To widen understanding of the needs of the military and veterans
- To raise the profile of the Armed Forces Community and its presence in Medway
- To provide a forum for the exchange of information regarding armed forces community matters
- To work with service charities in support of the welfare needs of the Armed Forces and their families
- To acknowledge and promote the valued role that Reservists play and the skills they bring to the workplace by being military friendly employers of choice.

Decision-Making Processes

As a Board, the Armed Forces Partnership Board will not be a decision-making body.

It may make recommendations, which will either be implemented under existing Medway Council officer delegations or referred for decision by the Council, Leader and Cabinet or other Committees as appropriate, and in accordance with legal and constitutional provisions.

Membership

The Armed Forces Partnership Board will consist of representatives as follows:

Cllr Vince Maple
Cllr Chrissy Stamp

Leader, Medway Council
Armed Forces Champion, Medway Council

Daniel Ratcliff	Armed Forces Covenant Lead Officer, Medway Council
TBC	Brompton Barracks representation
TBC	Medway Armed Forces Hub representation
TBC	Royal Naval Association representation
TBC	3PWRR
TBC (SSAF, RBL)	Armed Forces Charity Representatives
TBC	Kent & Medway Civilian Military Partnership Board representation
TBC	Medway Council Officers – likely Adult Social Care, Public Health, Events & Housing
Other external bodies	Schools (2x interested head teachers), businesses, Employer defence recognition award holders.

Administration

Reflecting the strategic importance of the Board, it will be chaired by the Leader of Medway Council

The Armed Forces Partnership Board will meet twice a year.