

Armed Forces Community Covenant

Author: Ian Crowe, Non-Executive Director Sponsor: Stephen Ward, Director of Corporate and Legal Affairs Date: 6 August 2015

Trust Board paper O

Executive Summary

Context

Armed Forces Community Covenants are voluntary statements of mutual support between civilian and Armed Forces communities. They are intended to complement, at a local level, the Armed Forces Covenant, which outlines the moral obligations between the Nation, the Government and its Armed Forces.

Questions

Why should UHL NHS Trust strengthen its ties with local Armed Forces and sign a Community Covenant?

Conclusion

UHL NHS Trust has a responsibility to:

- Ensure that the local Armed Forces Community is not disadvantaged in accessing health services provided by the Trust.
- Take account of the significant increase in the Armed Forces Community in our area over the next few years.
- Encourage activities which help integrate the Armed Forces Community into local life.
- Encourage the Armed Forces community to help and support the wider community, through participation in events, joint projects and fund raising.
- Recognise and remember the sacrifices faced by the Armed Forces.

Input Sought

It is recommended that the Trust Board approve the following:

- The signing of a Community Covenant between UHL NHS Trust and the local Armed Forces Community, at a date, time and location to be agreed.
- The appointment of Col (Retd) Ian Crowe as the first Armed Forces Champion for the Trust.
- The signing of an honorary contract between UHL NHS Trust and 2 Medical Regiment for the placement of clinical personnel within the Trust.

For Reference

1. The following objectives were considered when preparing this report:

Safe, high quality, patient centred healthcare	Yes
Effective, integrated emergency care	Not applicable
Consistently meeting national access standards	Not applicable
Integrated care in partnership with others	Not applicable
Enhanced delivery in research, innovation & education	Yes
A caring, professional, engaged workforce	Yes
Clinically sustainable services with excellent facilities	Not applicable
Financially sustainable NHS organisation	Yes
Enabled by excellent IM&T	Not applicable

2. This matter relates to the following governance initiatives:

Organisational Risk Register	Not applicable
Board Assurance Framework	Not applicable

3. Related Patient and Public Involvement actions taken, or to be taken: Local Armed Forces Commanders have been contacted and are grateful for our support.

4. Results of any Equality Impact Assessment, relating to this matter: The signing of an Armed Forces Community Covenant underlines the Trust's commitment to ensuring that serving personnel and veterans are able to secure priority access to NHS secondary care for any conditions which are likely to be related to their service, subject to the clinical needs of all patients. It also helps to ensure the Armed Forces Community is not discriminated against owing to the nature of Service life.

5. Scheduled date for the next paper on this topic: [TBC]

6. Executive Summaries should not exceed 1 page. [My paper does comply]

7. Papers should not exceed 7 pages. [My paper does comply]

UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS OF LEICESTER NHS TRUST

REPORT TO: Trust Board

REPORT FROM: Stephen Ward, Director of Corporate and Legal Affairs

REPORT BY: Ian Crowe, Non-Executive Director

DATE: 6 August 2015

SUBJECT: Armed Forces Community Covenant

Aim

The aim of this paper is to introduce to the Trust Board the local Armed Forces Community, with a view to UHL NHS Trust strengthening ties with this important local community. This would include the signing of an Armed Forces Community Covenant between UHL NHS Trust and the local Armed Forces Community.

Background

Armed Forces Community Covenants are voluntary statements of mutual support between civilian and Armed Forces communities. They are intended to complement, at a local level, the Armed Forces Covenant, which outlines the moral obligations between the Nation, the Government and its Armed Forces. The aims of the Community Covenant are to:

- Encourage local communities to support the Armed Forces Community in their areas.
- Nurture public understanding and awareness among the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces Community.
- Recognise and remember the sacrifices faced by the Armed Forces.
- Encourage activities which help to integrate the Armed Forces Community into local life; for example the provision for clinical placements from the Armed Forces within the Trust.
- Encourage the Armed Forces community to help and support the wider community, through participation in events, joint projects and fund raising.

The signing of a covenant also presents an opportunity to access funds in the form of grants from a £30m scheme, funding from LIBOR fines.¹

¹[Armed Forces Community Covenant Grant Scheme](#)

A draft Armed Forces Community Covenant is attached at Appendix 1 and related Guidance Notes are at Appendix 2.

Existing Local Engagement

Armed Forces Community Covenants have been signed by other NHS Trusts, including Birmingham, Stoke and Worcester, and locally by the following:

- Rutland County Council in January 2012.
- Leicestershire County Council in March 2012.
- Leicester City Council in November 2013.

The Local Armed Forces Community

In previous years there has been a decline in the Regular Armed Forces population across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR), owing to the drawdown of the RAF; leaving the Defence Animal Centre in Melton Mowbray. This will change with the withdrawal of British Forces from overseas,² as nearly 6,000 Army personnel, together with families, are moving or have moved into Rutland. The units involved are:

- 2nd Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment, which moved from Cyprus to Kendrew Barracks, Cottesmore in 2012.
- 7 Regiment Royal Logistic Corps, which moved from Germany to Kendrew Barracks, Cottesmore in 2013.
- 5 Force Support Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, who are moving from Devizes to Kendrew Barracks, Cottesmore after 2015.
- 2 Medical Regiment, who are moving from Germany to St George's Barracks, North Luffenham in 2015.
- 1 Military Working Dogs Regiment, who are moving from Germany to St George's Barracks, North Luffenham in 2015.

The Reserves and Cadets are well represented across LLR. The Reserves, including the Leicestershire and Derbyshire Yeomanry and the Royal Anglian Regiment, are well supported and the Cadet Forces are well recruited.

In addition, the Welbeck Defence Sixth Form College relocated to Woodhouse, Loughborough in 2005 and the Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre is expected to open at Stanford Hall, Loughborough by the end of 2017.

NHS Responsibilities

The fourth principle of the NHS Constitution explains how: 'The NHS aspires to put patients at the heart of everything it does. It should support individuals to promote

²[Army Basing Programme for Army 2020](#)

and manage their own health. NHS services must reflect, and should be coordinated around and tailored to, the needs and preferences of patients, their families and their carers. Patients, with their families and carers, where appropriate, will be involved in and consulted on all decisions about their care and treatment. The NHS will actively encourage feedback from the public, patients and staff, welcome it and use it to improve its services'.³In line with this, UHL NHS Trust should ensure that the local Armed Forces Community is not disadvantaged in accessing health services provided by the Trust.

The NHS is responsible for providing secondary healthcare for serving personnel and for providing primary and secondary healthcare for all Veterans, non-mobilised reservists and families. The Armed Forces Covenant sets the following goals with respect to healthcare.⁴

- Members of the Armed Forces Community should enjoy the same standard of, and access to, healthcare as received by any other UK citizen in the area where they live.
- Personnel injured on operations should be treated in conditions which recognise the specific needs of Service personnel.
- Family Members should retain their relative position on any NHS waiting list, if moved around the UK owing to the Service Person being posted.
- Veterans should receive priority treatment (subject to the clinical needs of others) in respect of treatment relating to a condition resulting from their service in the Armed Forces.
- Veterans should be able to access mental health professionals who have an understanding of Armed Forces culture.

Veterans Health

From 1 January 2008, all veterans should receive priority access to NHS secondary care for any conditions which are likely to be related to their service, subject to the clinical needs of all patients.⁵

Armed Forces Champions

To support the covenant, the Trust should designate a member of the Trust Board as an Armed Forces Champion. This will ensure engagement is embedded at the highest level of the Trust. The role of the Champion is to ensure that the Trust delivers on its commitments to the Armed Forces Community and fosters good relations. It is proposed that Col (Retd) Ian Crowe, Non-Executive Director, be the first Armed Forces Champion within the Trust.

Army Clinical Placements

As a mark of our support for local Armed Forces and in line with this proposal, agreement has been reached for UHL to host clinical placements from the Army. The

³[The NHS Constitution dated 26 March 2013](#)

⁴[Armed Forces Covenant Annual Report 2014 dated 29 January 2015](#)

⁵[DoH Guidance: Access to Health Services for Military Veterans dated 12 December 2007](#)

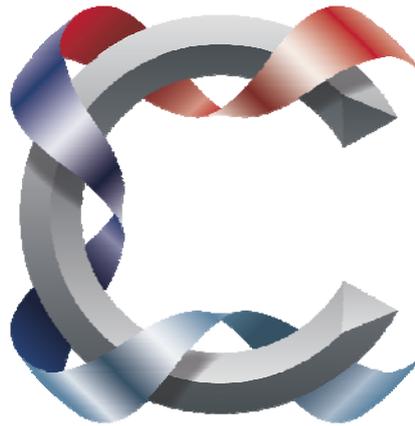
agreement will be confirmed by the signing of an honorary contract; with placements coming from 2 Medical Regiment. The Regiment is in the process of moving from Germany to their new home in North Luffenham, Rutland and placements from the Regiment will enable medical and nursing staff to maintain their clinical skills.

The Regiment are expected to complete their move to St George's Barracks, North Luffenham in September 2015 and the first placements will start in October. In the first instance, the Regiment will routinely place small numbers of Combat Medical Technicians within the Trust; with doctors and nurses to follow on an ad hoc basis. The Regiment has a liability for 396 personnel, 213 based in St George's Barracks and 183 split between two Reserve Squadrons, which recruit across the Midlands, including Leicester.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Trust Board approve the following:

- The signing of a covenant between UHL NHS Trust and the local Armed Forces Community, at a date, time and location to be agreed.
- The appointment of Col (Retd) Ian Crowe as the first Armed Forces Champion for the Trust.
- The signing of an honorary contract between UHL NHS Trust and 2 Medical Regiment for the placement of clinical personnel within the Trust.



Community Covenant

AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

BETWEEN

**UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS OF LEICESTER
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE TRUST**

AND

**THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN LEICESTER,
LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND**

**We, the undersigned, agree to work and act together to
honour the Armed Forces Community Covenant.**

Signatories

Signed:

Name: Karamjit Singh

Position Held: Chairman

Signed on behalf of UHL NHS Trust

Date:

Signed: Detail to Follow

Name:

Position Held:

Signed on behalf of Armed Forces Community

Date:

SECTION 1: PARTICIPANTS

1.1 This Armed Forces Community Covenant is made between:

The serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

and

University Hospitals of Leicester National Health Service Trust.

SECTION 2: PRINCIPLES OF THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

2.1 The Armed Forces Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. It is intended to complement the Armed Forces Covenant, which outlines the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces, at the local level.

2.2 The purpose of this Community Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by members of this Armed Forces Community, particularly those who have given the most. This includes in-Service and ex-Service personnel their families and widow(er)s in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

2.3 For University Hospitals of Leicester National Health Service Trust, the Community Covenant presents an opportunity to bring their knowledge, experience and expertise to bear on the provision of help and advice to members of the Armed Forces Community. It also presents an opportunity to build upon existing good work on other initiatives such as the Welfare Pathway.

2.4 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.

SECTION 3: OBJECTIVES AND GENERAL INTENTIONS

Aims of the Community Covenant

3.1 The Armed Forces Community Covenant complements the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant which defines the enduring, general principles that should govern the relationship between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces community.

3.2 It aims to encourage all parties within a community to offer support to the local Armed Forces community and make it easier for Service personnel, families and veterans to access the help and support available from the MOD, from statutory providers and from the Charitable and Voluntary Sector. These organisations already work together in partnership at local level.

3.3 The scheme is intended to be a two-way arrangement and the Armed Forces community are encouraged to do as much as they can to support their community and promote activity which integrates the Service community into civilian life.

SECTION 4: ARMED FORCES CHAMPION

4.1 UHL NHS Trust shall nominate a member of the Trust Board as an Armed Forces Champion, to ensure that engagement is embedded at the highest level of the Trust. The role of the Champion is to ensure that the Trust delivers on its commitments to the Armed Forces Community and fosters good relations.

CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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University Hospitals of Leicester National Health Service Trust:

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THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT

An Enduring Covenant Between

The People of the United Kingdom
Her Majesty's Government

– and –

All those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces
of the Crown

and their Families

The first duty of Government is the defence of the realm. Our Armed Forces fulfil that responsibility on behalf of the Government, sacrificing some civilian freedoms, facing danger and, sometimes, suffering serious injury or death as a result of their duty. Families also play a vital role in supporting the operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces. In return, the whole nation has a moral obligation to the members of the Naval Service, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families. They deserve our respect and support, and fair treatment.

Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.

This obligation involves the whole of society: it includes voluntary and charitable bodies, private organisations, and the actions of individuals in supporting the Armed Forces. Recognising those who have performed military duty unites the country and demonstrates the value of their contribution. This has no greater expression than in upholding this Covenant.

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