

BLACKPOOL'S ARMED FORCES CHAMPION



Blackpool Council

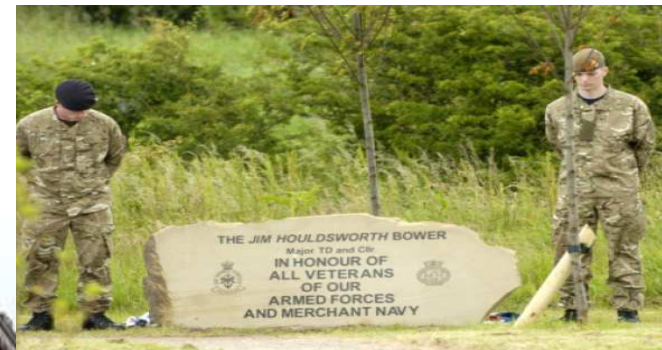
Councillor Christopher Ryan

Blackpool's strong links with the Armed Forces

Remembrance Day



Fylde Coast
Memorial Arboretum



Armed Forces Week



BLACKPOOL'S COMMUNITY 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.

The aim of the community covenant is to encourage local communities to support the service community in their area and promote understanding and awareness among the public of issues affecting the armed forces community.’

Ministry of Defence



BLACKPOOL'S COMMUNITY COVENANT

The Community Covenant gives an impetus to the next stage:

- Gathering views, evidence and opinions
- Working with a steering group of interested stakeholders
- Developing an action plan

with the aim of *improving access to services and support for serving and ex-service men and women.*



BLACKPOOL'S COMMUNITY COVENANT

What do we know already?

Military Veterans in the NW, NHS North West Strategic Health Authority (2013)

PCT ↓	Age →	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	All Ages	<65's
Ashton, Leigh & Wigan		556	1,151	2,476	2,317	2,758	6,246	7,221	22,725	9,258
Blackburn with Darwen		292	565	1,062	1,005	977	2,190	3,033	9,122	3,900
Blackpool		260	461	1,077	1,109	1,245	3,227	4,693	12,073	4,153
Bolton		491	995	2,027	1,957	2,180	4,863	6,751	19,264	7,650
Bury		340	690	1,455	1,405	1,534	3,457	4,657	13,538	5,424
Central & Eastern Cheshire		733	1,500	3,635	3,676	4,175	9,427	13,611	36,755	13,718
Central Lancashire		891	1,647	3,477	3,536	3,961	9,127	11,697	34,337	13,513
Cumbria		804	1,544	3,717	4,111	4,869	11,685	16,391	43,121	15,045
East Lancashire		727	1,324	2,921	3,043	3,308	7,283	10,325	28,931	11,323
Halton & St Helens		566	1,082	2,262	2,346	2,613	5,923	7,329	22,122	8,870
Heywood, Middleton & Rochdale		409	784	1,562	1,597	1,644	3,572	5,054	14,623	5,996
Knowsley		323	527	1,190	1,214	1,080	2,927	3,755	11,015	4,334
Liverpool		1,151	1,901	3,058	3,275	3,074	7,906	10,795	31,160	12,460
Manchester		1,399	2,846	3,145	2,671	2,448	5,993	9,242	27,744	12,509



BLACKPOOL'S COMMUNITY COVENANT

Already in place:

- North West Military Veterans mental health service (self-referral from veterans and their families in anyone of the 33 NW CCG areas);
- Veterans accessing NHS services are given priority treatment for service-related conditions;
- Local Authorities in England are required to give additional preference to members of the Armed Forces community who have urgent housing needs;



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Already in place:

- JobCentre Plus have 'Armed Forces Champions' in each area;
- Individual support provided on an as-needs basis by a range of charities and voluntary groups –

Royal British Legion;

SSAFA;

Help for Heroes;

Supporting our Brave;

Local regimental associations.



BLACKPOOL'S COMMUNITY COVENANT

Early anecdotal evidence suggests that these are some of the key issues and concerns for ex- and serving personnel:

- Maintaining or improving their health and well-being, especially their mental health;
- Accessing support to find work, become self-employed or undertake further training;
- For newly discharged personnel, finding (family) housing, navigating the school system and finding their place in the local community.



BLACKPOOL'S COMMUNITY COVENANT

Some of the challenges ahead:

- The age range of the community is from 16 years upwards, reflecting a range of different needs, expectations and experiences;
- The community can be dispersed and lacking in cohesion. Younger veterans don't for example have such strong ties with veterans associations in the early part of their post-service career, which can make communication and engagement challenging;
- Continuing need to collect data and information to inform plans;
- Funds may be available to support projects, but currently the work is driven from within the Council's existing resources.



Health and Wellbeing Board

What additional areas of support/services are offered for veterans, serving personnel and their families?
Please let us know!

How can this group contribute to the work of the Armed Forces Champion in Blackpool?

Are there any areas where the Armed Forces Champion can support the key priorities of the Board?



Any other questions?

cllr.christopher.ryan@blackpool.gov.uk

