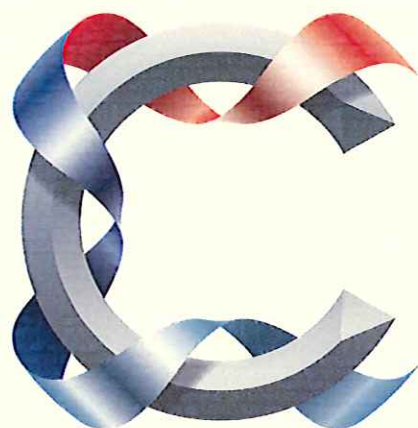




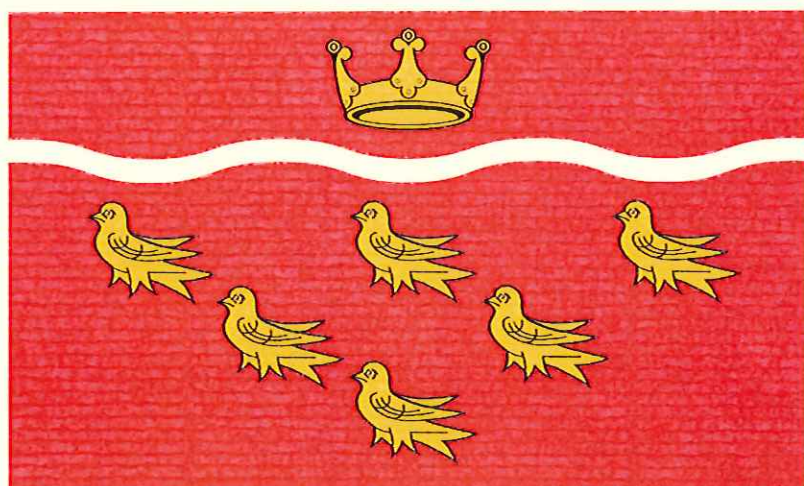
Community Covenant

BETWEEN

The East Sussex Strategic Partnership

AND

The Armed Forces Community in East Sussex

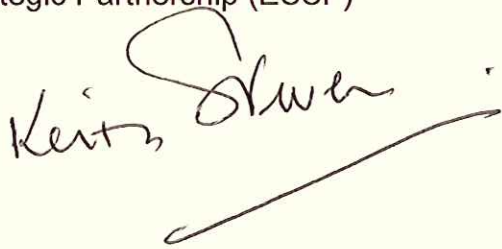
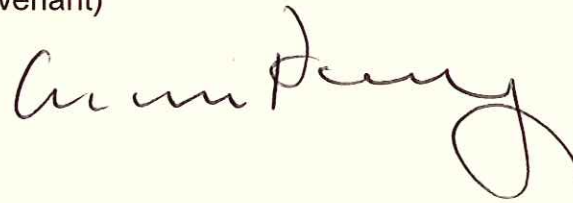
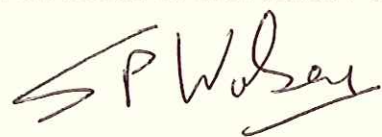


MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT FOR EAST SUSSEX

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

14th May 2013

Signed on behalf of the East Sussex Strategic Partnership (ESSP)  Keith Stevens Chair of the ESSP	Signed on behalf of East Sussex County Council (Administering Organisation for the East Sussex Armed Forces Community Covenant)  Cllr Chris Dowling Chairman, East Sussex County Council
Signed on behalf of the Armed Forces  Brigadier Simon P Wolsey OBE Regional Brigade Commander 2 (South East) Brigade	Signed on behalf of The Royal British Legion (RBL)  Mr Les Coppard County Chairman, RBL
Signed on behalf of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association (SSAFA)  Bernard Stonestreet Hastings & Rother Division SSAFA	

SECTION 1: PARTICIPANTS

This Armed Forces Community Covenant is made between:

- The serving, reservist and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing in East Sussex;
- The member organisations of the East Sussex Strategic Partnership:
 - Action in Rural Sussex
 - Churches Together in Sussex
 - East Sussex County Council
 - East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service
 - Eastbourne Borough Council
 - Environment Agency
 - Federation of Small Businesses
 - Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce
 - Hastings Borough Council
 - Highways Agency
 - JobCentre Plus
 - Lewes District Council
 - NHS East Sussex Downs and Weald
 - NHS Hastings and Rother
 - Police and Crime Commissioner
 - Rother District Council
 - SpeakUp Forum
 - Surrey and Sussex Probation Trust
 - Sussex Associations of Local Councils
 - Sussex Police
 - Wealden District Council

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 East Sussex 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 East Sussex.

2.3 For the East Sussex councils 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.

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: Measures

4.1 Support the work of the Sussex Armed Forces Health Network in relation to the provision of housing and health services to the Armed Forces.

4.2 Continue to use a person-centred approach to service provision that ensures veterans' issues are recognised and picked up as part of assessment processes.

4.3 Ensure that information on the Community Covenant Grant and how to bid is easily available to charities, community and voluntary organisations.

4.4 East Sussex Strategic Partnership (ESSP) will provide overall direction and oversight of the work under the Covenant. A virtual Civilian-Military Partnership Board will be established, comprising members of the ESSP and military personnel. If business arises that is not easily or best conducted electronically then a meeting of the Board will be arranged.

CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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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.