



Somerset Armed Forces Covenant Partnership

Quarterly Update - August 2025

Welcome to the August Update

This Update aims to keep Partner organisations up to date with our work to deliver the Armed Forces Covenant in Somerset. We hope it will also help to better connect Partner organisations across the Partnership and improve our communication.

If you have a news item, information and events to be included, feedback, or wish to be added to the mailing list to receive this update please email: communities@somerset.gov.uk

You can sign up to receive the newsletter by visiting: <https://service.somerset.gov.uk/somerset-armed-forces-partnership-newsletter-sign-up>

You can also unsubscribe at any time by selecting the 'remove me' option from the above link.

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Armed Forces Duty to be extended

Under the new legislation all areas of government will for the first time have to have 'due regard' for the Armed Forces Covenant when policy and decision making; taking into account the unique circumstances and position of the Armed Forces community to prevent disadvantage.

Currently this is only legally required in the areas of housing, healthcare and education and only at local level, so, not applicable to central government. The Legal Duty Extension marks a huge step forward in increasing support for the Armed Forces community.

This extension follows consultation with over 150 organisations and builds on recommendations from the House of Commons Defence Select Committee.

The new legal duty announced today will extend this commitment across all government departments and devolved administrations. This transformative measure ensures that serving personnel, reservists, veterans, and their families are considered in every relevant policy decision - giving them a meaningful voice and delivering on the Government's pledge to strengthen support for our Armed Forces communities. The extension of the Legal Duty will encompass all UK Government Departments and Devolved Governments, and the following policy areas:

- Housing
- Education
- Healthcare
- Social care
- Childcare
- Employment and service in the armed forces
- Personal taxation
- Welfare benefits
- Criminal justice
- Immigration
- Citizenship
- Pensions
- Service-related compensation
- Transport

For more information about the Armed Forces Covenant and the legal duty extension, please visit <https://www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk/>

Defence Homes website launched

DIO has launched a new website called [Defence Homes](#) for Service personnel and their families, as part of its commitment to enhance the overall SFA experience.

The Defence Homes site hosts the latest SFA information and updates, and has now replaced the Service Family Accommodation pages on GOV.UK.

The Defence Homes site is an improved source of information and support for SFA queries.

VALOUR – New UK Wide Veteran Support Network announced

£50m of funding will establish a new network of VALOUR-recognised support centres across the UK to help veterans get easier access to care and support.

The new Regional Field Officers will bring together charities, service providers and local government to provide more evidence and feedback driven support for veterans, across housing, employment, health and welfare.

The first VALOUR support centres will be operational next year, tailored to the specific needs on the ground and focused on the demands for each location. This could include advice on how to book GP appointments, access welfare or support with housing issues. As the delivery arm, field officers will work with local services including local government bodies, to share best practice and guidance.

VALOUR will harness the power of data to shape better service provision and ensure the right type of support is available for veterans at a local level.

The VALOUR pilot was launched in June in partnership with local authorities across Greater Manchester, Liverpool City Region, West Yorkshire and South Yorkshire. The pilot will provide a tested and workable blueprint that can be scaled and rolled out across the UK. The blueprint will be adaptable in order to meet the specific needs of local communities.

To keep up to date with developments visit: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/valour-information-and-next-steps>

Veteran's healthcare investment announced

A new training programme will ensure NHS staff across the country are supported to meet the unique health needs of veterans, serving personnel and their families.

The new programme will see NHS staff across England receiving dedicated training to help them identify and support patients with military backgrounds. GPs, doctors and NHS nurses will work with regional trainers to make sure they embed this support into their services.

As of April 2025, every NHS trust in the country became officially 'Veteran Aware', a status which means they have been recognised for demonstrating their understanding of military healthcare needs. The 3-year training programme will build on this success and will be rolled out from October 2025 across England.

The programme, backed by £1.8 million, will support NHS bodies to demonstrate their commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant, which ensures those who serve or have served, and their families, are treated fairly and not disadvantaged because of their military service.

The training will support healthcare providers to improve identification of armed forces personnel, deliver more personalised care, and ultimately improve health outcomes for veterans and their families.

Key objectives of the programme include:

- driving down health inequalities and unwarranted variation in healthcare for the armed forces community
- increasing awareness of the unique characteristics of the armed forces community
- supporting NHS systems to deliver their statutory responsibilities under the Armed Forces Covenant

The training and education leads will:

- provide standardised national armed forces awareness training for NHS staff at all levels
- help inform NHS commissioning bodies in developing health needs assessments for the armed forces community
- assist integrated care boards to support armed forces families to better access health services

Armed Forces Domestic Abuse Helpline

Aurora have launched a helpline for Royal Navy, British Army, and Royal Air Force personnel and their family members who are victims and survivors of Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence or Stalking.

The specialist Armed Forces Team provides a variety of services, including:

- **One to one support** and advocacy, including support through the Service or Criminal Justice System
- **Group work recovery programmes** designed specifically for victims and survivors from the forces community
- **A helpline** offering initial advice, support and signposting

The service is independent, confidential, and free, for all UK forces personnel and their families including those deployed abroad. These services are available to women and men aged 16 and over

The services are client-centred and work with people based on what they want to do, and do not put pressure on them to take a particular course of action if they are not ready. They provide support regardless of whether the abuse has been reported to the police.

Helpline & WhatsApp: +44 (0)333 0912 527

Helpline hours (GMT): 0900-1500 Monday to Friday

WhatsApp chat (GMT): Tuesday 0900-1500 / Wednesday & Thursday 1700-2000 / Sunday 1000-1400

Email: armedforces@aurorand.org.uk

Find out more: <https://aurorand.org.uk/armed-forces/>

Service Children's Progression (SCiP) Alliance Conference

The SciP Alliance Conference is taking place on Wednesday 26th November.

To find out more and book tickets visit:

<https://www.scipalliance.org/events/scip-alliance-annual-conference-2025>

Service Children's Progression
ALLIANCE

Whole Person, Whole Journey

SCiP Alliance Conference 2025

Join us for our annual conference for the community supporting thriving lives for Service children.

 **26 November**
Wednesday

 **Glasgow**
Voco Grand Central
99 Gordon St, G1 3SF

 **Tickets**
[scipalliance.org](https://www.scipalliance.org)

Early Bird Rate

£110

Available until
31st August



National Suicide Bereavement Conference

Harmless is hosting its sixth annual online National Suicide Bereavement Conference. To mark World Suicide Prevention Day, they will be presenting a day packed with live webinars examining practical applications for working in suicide bereavement. The conference will be live streamed on Wednesday 3rd September from 10am – 3pm and will host a plethora of experts in the field. The theme for this year's event is Beyond Beginnings: Achieving Postvention Excellence.

This CPD-accredited event will take place across the day. If you are unable to attend the entire day, they will be recording the whole conference and making sessions available for viewing via their E-Learning portal.

This conference is designed to help those working with anyone impacted by suicide. Delegates can expect to take away a range of knowledge, inspiration and skills for practical implementation in real-life situations. Learning from some of the leaders in the field, delegates will experience interactive sessions that can help to drive change.

For further information and to book, please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/suicide-bereavement-conference-2025-tickets-1116362242519?aff=oddtcreator>



New Beginnings - peer support service for women

Betknowmore UK's **New Beginnings** is a digital **women-only peer support** service providing a safe space for women affected by gambling harms - whether you've been impacted by your own gambling behaviour or a loved one, they can support you. It is part of the National Gambling Support Network.

Gambling is considered by many to be a male dominated pursuit, however recent research shows that the gap in numbers between women and men who gamble is narrowing, if not closing altogether.

Figures from 2024 showed that 22% of women had taken part in some form of gambling in the 4 weeks prior to being surveyed.

The number of women seeking treatment for gambling addiction has doubled in the past 5 years, and Gamble Aware estimate that 39% of women experiencing gambling harms refrain from seeking support due to feelings of shame and stigma.

Find out more or complete a referral here: <https://www.betknowmoreuk.org/support-information/new-beginnings>

WARNING: THIS COURSE CHANGES LIVES!

**Are you a spouse/partner of someone
Serving in the UK Armed Forces?**

Are you wanting a bit more
out of life

Do you want to improve your
career or job prospects

Are you thinking of starting
your own business

Wondering what job or
business could move with you



Image by StockSnap from Pixabay

We offer both self-paced and small group versions of our online UK Armed Forces Spouse Personal Development Programme.

Ready to change your life for the better?

Join us and take advantage of our 30% Early Bird Discounts!

Want to find out more?



For details of who the course is for,
what the course covers and how to
apply, scan the QR code or visit:

<https://yournewwings.com>



Local Updates

Invite to Somerset Armed Forces Conference

Please join us at this year's Somerset Armed Forces Covenant Partnership Conference on Tuesday 4th November at The Canalside Centre, Marsh Lane, Bridgwater TA6 6LQ.

The event is jointly organised between Somerset Council and NHS Somerset, and is aimed at delegates and representatives from across the public, private and voluntary sectors.

Organisations and individuals with an interest and stake in the welfare and support of the Armed Forces community are invited to attend the day which will run from 10.00am (arrival from 9.15 for marketplace) until 4pm.

To book your place please complete the booking form by Tuesday 7th October:

<https://forms.office.com/e/e9Ha42X6vv>

Armed Forces Link Worker - Sedgemoor

Hello...My name is Lyndsay and I am the Armed Forces Link Worker for the Sedgemoor area working out of Ark at Egwood.

A little about me... I was born into the military in Germany, where my father was posted, and I have many fond memories from growing up in and around the Army barracks in South East England. I joined the Air Cadets and later the British Army (Royal Artillery) before working for the NHS, where I have gained a lot of experience in Trauma Risk and Incident Management (TRIM), Mental Health and general health care.

I spent time as a Senior Support Worker for many years and gained a Diploma in Health Emergency Planning as well as my Level 5 in Care Home Management. I went on to teach Chemical Warfare to the front-line A&E departments within NHS hospitals in East Kent as Emergency Planning Officer, CBRN (E) Lead. I have worked at Dunkirk Memorial House in Taunton as a Senior Healthcare Assistant, working with resident Veterans and their families to support activities of daily living.

The military has always been very close to my heart with my grandfather serving in the RAF and my father in the Army (also Royal Artillery).

As part of my new role, I hope to support as many Veterans and Serving personal as possible with any aspects of their daily life. "Where there is a will there is a way" and I am happy to be that voice/support/shoulder to lean on should you need it.

Lyndsay can be contacted on:

lyndsay@arkategwood.com



Outreach Service Update

Currently, the Armed Forces team are hosting eight monthly Armed Forces Outreach drop-ins. These sessions are two hours each month and are supported by various ex-forces organisations and charities who are also present to offer specialist advice and support if needed. Moreover, these continue to be an excellent opportunity for members of the Armed Forces community to connect with each other.

These are advertised regularly on our social media platforms and are currently run in the following areas:

- Bridgwater
- Chard
- Highbridge
- Minehead
- Taunton
- Wellington
- Wells
- Yeovil

You can find out dates of these sessions at:

<https://nhssomerset.nhs.uk/armed-forces/armed-forces-outreach/>

As our service continues to develop within Somerset, we are pleased to announce a further two Outreach sessions currently in the pipeline. These will be in Glastonbury and Frome.

If you would like to attend any of these, or you are an ex-forces charity and would like to come along in support of these sessions, please contact the following link workers for each area -

South Somerset - Jon Richards - jon@arkategwood.com

Sedgemoor - Lyndsay Swan - lyndsay@arkategwood.com

Mendip - Sam Sheppard - sam@arkategwood.com

Taunton and West Somerset - Samantha Jones - armedforces@arcinspire.co.uk

Somerset Community Employment Hubs

We have expanded our FREE service across the county and welcome anyone over the age of 16 to actively pop into one of our hubs for employment support, whether returning to work, looking for work, change of career or looking to increase their skills through training.

Please see this link for more information, for hub locations and times of operation, (our Facebook page has more details about, employer drop ins, local training and vacancy opportunities):

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/business-economy-and-licences/community-employment-hubs/>

Wessex RFCA Update

Since taking up his post, our Board Member for Somerset, Mark Shelford has focused on visibility, advocacy, and building strong local relationships, supported by the Engagement team. Mark has utilised his extensive network and that of Wessex RFCA, engaging with key stakeholders and attending events in Somerset and across the South West. This includes engagement with Somerset MPs, Cadets, Reserves and Employers as well as reaching out to some of our local authorities in the area. Mark has also been pivotal in press outreach utilising his connections aiding our communications team to gain maximum reach in the press.

Following our rejuvenated Engagement Strategy work in 2024 the team have been busy developing our communication channels which includes the redevelopment of our website and membership engagement. We are actively recruiting for volunteer association members and progressing with our stakeholder engagement.

Future Events

24th September – Wessex RFCA Annual General Meeting and Defence Insight Briefing - If you would like further information please contact Rachael Brannagan, Head of Engagement

Email: wx-headeng@rfca.mod.uk

25th September – HM Lord-Lieutenant's Awards for Somerset including Defence's Employer Recognition Scheme Silver Awards

27th November – Wessex RFCA in partnership with Somerset Chamber of Commerce 30th Anniversary Black Tie Dinner at RNAS Yeovilton Warrant Officers and Senior Rates Mess -To book your place please book direct with Somerset Chamber:

<https://www.somerset-chamber.co.uk/events/view/somerset-chamber-30th-anniversary-dinner/>

Heads Up

Heads Up have been enjoying having the Armed Forces meet up groups come to Heads Up for monthly Monday meetings.

Heads Up has some funding available for veterans that would like to create some further peer support activities together. Perhaps this might involve a shared venture or project. Heads Up have facilities at their centre including creative areas: an art room, pottery and wood workshop and also outdoor spaces with 2 gardens and a pond.

Please get in touch if you would like to be part of a peer support group with Heads Up.

Email: philippa@headsupsomerset.org.uk or phone 01749 670667

WATCH CIO Peer Support Groups

- Wednesday morning 10am-2pm and Thursday all day 10am - 4pm, both at Chard Rugby Club.
- Men's Group at Chard Rugby Club on a Wednesday between 3pm and 5pm.
- An online space called Pathways Forum, which is on a Tuesday between 10am and 12, noon which may interest the Armed Forces Community.

They also deliver a range of courses which are all free and support people to learn about themselves and others.

Visit to find out more: <https://watchproject.org.uk/>

Somerset Festival of Remembrance 2025

Saturday 1 November 2025, 7:00 - 9:30 PM, Wells Cathedral, Somerset

Wells Cathedral will host the Somerset Festival of Remembrance 2025, a powerful and moving one-off event marking the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. This is likely to be one of the very last occasions on which veterans who took part might be present. Organised by Somerset County Royal British Legion, this unique evening will honour the courage, resilience, and sacrifice of Somerset's people at home and abroad during World War II.

The programme will feature music, stories, and ceremony, including performances by the Central Band of the Royal British Legion and the Yeovilton Military Wives Choir, contributions from the County's cadet forces, and tributes from veterans and civic leaders. Highlights include the parading of the Somerset Book of Honour, an Act of Remembrance with poppy drop, and a multi-themed presentation tracing Somerset's wartime experience from mobilisation to liberation and legacy. The evening will be compered by former BBC broadcasters Clinton Rogers DL and Ali Vowles DL.

This is a community-centred and inclusive event, both solemn and uplifting, and open to all. Tickets will be on sale soon via Eventbrite, and early booking is strongly advised. All proceeds will support the Royal British Legion and Wells Cathedral.

Exciting News: Veterans' Foundation Grant Secured

SASP are thrilled to share that we've secured a two-year grant from the Veterans' Foundation to support our work with Armed Forces families. This funding will enable us to expand the vital work led by Aaron as part of our Jump Start programme, providing targeted support to armed forces children through mentoring, community connection, and tailored wellbeing activities.

Through this project, we will offer one-to-one mentoring and weekly group sessions that create safe, supportive spaces where armed forces children feel listened to, valued, and empowered. By building trusted relationships, we can help people overcome barriers to wellbeing, reduce isolation, and strengthen confidence.

A key part of our approach is using sport and physical activity as a positive tool to bring people together, improve mental health, and encourage connection within the community. Whether it's informal group sessions, walking and talking, or structured activities, we know these experiences can help build resilience and a sense of belonging.

If you'd like to find out more or have a conversation about how we can link this work with the projects you're delivering, please do get in touch. We'd love to explore opportunities to collaborate.

Email: ldyke@sasp.co.uk

Coffee morning for Serving Military Families

11 Aug 2025, 10:00 – 12:00

If you're part of a serving military family, The Balsam Centre and Aggies invite you to drop by and enjoy a cuppa, some nibbles and a chat. It's also a chance to get together with other serving families facing similar experiences to you.

Why not bring the kids too? There'll be games, toys and activities for them to enjoy while you're relaxing.

Find out more: <https://www.balsamcentre.org.uk/events-1/coffee-morning-for-military-families>

National Trust Armed Forces Project

Feedback from the eight Armed Forces Outreach Services NHS Somerset run across the county, has identified social isolation and loneliness as an area of concern within the Armed Forces community. The Armed Forces team at Somerset NHS has partnered with the National Trust to offer an opportunity for veterans, serving members and their families to work alongside the gardening team at Dunster Castle to develop a community orchard which will be free for all to enjoy.

Those participating will benefit by meeting and working with others who share a similar lived experience, spending time in nature, and learning horticultural skills from the expert tutelage of the Dunster team. This year long project aims to reduce social isolation and loneliness through the design and creation of an exciting new space, which will benefit not only the Armed Forces but also the wider community.

Three sessions have taken place to date and a strong start has been made on clearing the ground in preparation for the Orchard Project. If you would like more information about the project or know someone from the Armed Forces community who might be interested in becoming involved, please contact Rebecca at somicb.armedforces@nhs.net



Community Connections Balsam Centre Project Update

- We had a stand recently at the Unit Health Fair, on the 19th of June. A chance to meet other service providers supporting the health and well-being of serving personnel as well as raise awareness of how the Balsam Centre can support newly arrived serving families in the area.
- Had a stand at the Somerset Armed Forces Day in Taunton, to meet some serving families from the SE Somerset area and let them know what's available for them at the Balsam Centre and hopefully learn what activities would interest them.
- Attended RNAS Families Day on Thursday 24th July, for another opportunity to talk to serving families and continue the conversations.

VJ Events Taunton



Taunton Commemorates VJ Day 80 Friday, 15 August 2025

- **6.15pm** - Wreath Placing at the War Memorial, Vivary Park, Taunton, TA1 3QE
- **7.00pm** - Service to commemorate the end of World War II at Taunton Minster, Church Square, Taunton TA1 1SA



VJ Day event at Maidenbrook Country Park

Commemorate the 80th Anniversary of Victory over Japan, which in effect brought an end to WW2, with an evening filled with remembrance, entertainment and celebration.

Friday 15th August 2025 6pm—10pm

This is an outdoor event, please dress accordingly for the weather. There will be a bar running, plus Pizza and BBQ traders. Hay bale seating will be available, please also bring picnic blankets and folding chairs as you require.

The evening will include the unveiling of a brand new ATA information board, within the WW2 area, at 8.30pm, with the ATA Standard in attendance.

The new board will present an interesting visual history of the ATA, and features long-term local resident and pioneering pilot, Jackie Moggridge, who joined the ATA in 1940.

Find out more: <https://monktonmatters.co.uk/events/vj-day-80-event-at-maidenbrook-country-park-15th-august?occurrence=2025-08-15>

VJ Event - Wellington

VJ DAY

80th ANNIVERSARY.

1945 - 2025



Join us in Wellington Park for an evening of wartime music and light refreshments in commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of VJ Day.

Featuring...

- | | |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 7:15pm | Wellington Silver Band |
| 8:15pm | Ian Jones |
| 9:15pm | Beacon Lighting and Tribute by Mayor and Town Crier |



FRIDAY 15th of AUGUST
7pm-10pm



For more info visit
www.wellingtontowncouncil.co.uk/vjday80

Operation Tribute - Poppy of Honour

West Monkton Parish Council are seeking donations in order that a Pavilion can be erected to house the Poppy of Honour at Somerset Wood in the Maidenbrook Country Park in Taunton. When built it will become an official National and Commonwealth War Memorial. Visitors will be able to view Free of Charge.

The Poppy holds 1,117,635 individual remembrance poppies inside its encasement, representing the number of British and Commonwealth servicemen and servicewomen listed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as 'Killed In Action' or 'Missing In Action' together with those 'Shot at Dawn' then later pardoned and those who died from their wounds after the Armistice in WW1.

You will have the unique opportunity to have yours or a loved one's name on a plaque. Businesses can also contribute. These will be placed near to the Pavilion for all to view for perpetuity.

Find out more including how to donate: <https://westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk/operation-tribute-poppy-of-honour/>

Carer information roadshows

Anyone looking after a friend or family member in an unpaid capacity (even if you are receiving Carers Allowance) is welcome to come along to one of our Carers Information Sessions for information and advice.

As well as Somerset Carers Agents, Village Agents and Adult Social Care workers, other organisations will be on hand to talk about the services they offer and answer questions; organisations such as:

- Alzheimer's
- Healthwatch
- Medequip
- Somerset Foundation Trust Carers
- Somerset Independent Living Centres and more.

We will also be showing carer-specific webinars from Somerset Council on subjects such as Lasting Power of Attorney, Finances, Direct Payments and more.

Find your local information session and come along to have your queries answered and receive practical solutions.

Chard

Friday 22nd August, 10am to 1pm, Baptist Church, 9 Holyrood Street, Chard TA20 2AH

Glastonbury

Monday 15th September, 10am to 1pm, Tor Leisure Centre, Street Road, Glastonbury BA6 9EF

Taunton

Monday 20th October, 10am to 1pm, Wellsprings Community Church, Quantock Road, Taunton TA2 7NL

Frome

Tuesday 18th November, 10am to 1pm, Frome Town Hall, Christchurch West, BA11 1EB

You can also view the series of webinars: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLh0y9TznwF8PpVReTcJw4DHPR4C6p2XCA>

Employer Engagement Programme

The Wessex Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association (RFCA) engages with local employers on behalf of the MoD and alongside Defence Relationship Management, based in London.

Wessex RFCA raises the awareness of employers, businesses and business people of the Armed Forces, and builds relationships with them. The Employer Engagement programme is delivered by Regional Employer Engagement Directors (REED), based at Wessex RFCA in Taunton.

This programme builds on the successful SaBRE (Supporting Britain's Reservists and their Employers) campaign that assisted businesses with a range of employment matters for Reservists (part-time military personnel). This includes the benefits of having Reservists as employees and the financial assistance that is available during periods of mobilisation. Wessex RFCA is building on this campaign by promoting supportive behaviours towards the whole of the Armed Forces Community, including:

- reservists; service leavers and Veterans;
- cadets and Cadet Force adult volunteers;
- spouses of Service personnel;
- wounded, injured and sick Service personnel.

If you are an employer, one-to-one advice or more information on how supporting the Armed Forces Community can benefit your business is available from Jon Beake – wx-reed@rfca.mod.uk and Rachael Brannagan – wx-reed2@rfca.mod.uk

Many Somerset businesses have already signed up and received Bronze, Silver or Gold recognition.

Covenant Fund Update

Further information is available via: <https://covenantfund.org.uk/> and the [Covenant Fund Newsletter](#).

If you have specific queries about the Fund or are unsure whether your organisation or project is likely to be funded, please contact enquiries@covenantfund.org.uk

Other Funding Sources

Armed Forces Education Trust

The Armed Forces Education Trust is a charity working for children and young adults whose education has been compromised or put at risk because of parents' past or current service in our Armed Forces. It helps to fund the education of the Service children and ensures that children do not miss out because of their parents' service. It can also provide schools with funding for additional resources to support the education of Service children.

You can find out more about its work and about how to apply here: [Home - Armed Forces Education Trust](#).

Royal British Legion Grants

Royal British Legion Grants For further information regarding Royal British Legion Grants visit: <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-support/finance/grants/>

Grants for War Memorials – War Memorials Trust

Grants are currently available for 50% of eligible costs with a normal maximum grant of £20,000. The War Memorials Trust is looking to streamline the application process to make it easier for applicants and further information will be uploaded to: [War Memorials Trust](#)

Partner Newsletters

Wessex Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association Newsletter

<https://www.wessex-rfca.org.uk/news/newsletters/>

The Ripple Pond

The Ripple Pond is a self-help support network across the UK for the adult family members of physically or emotionally injured service personnel and Veterans. Their latest newsletter is available [here](#).

Families Federations

Families Federations are there for Serving families. Magazines are free to subscribe to:
Navy - [Naval Families Federation | Royal Navy & Royal Marine Charity \(nff.org.uk\)](#) and magazine [Homeport](#)

Army - [Army Families Federation - Supporting Army families worldwide \(aff.org.uk\)](#) with their magazine [Army&You](#)

RAF - [Support for RAF personnel and families < RAF Families Federation \(raf-ff.org.uk\)](#) with their magazine [Envoy](#)

Further Information about the Armed Forces Covenant

The Covenant is about more than grants. More importantly, it reaches out to those who serve, or have served, who need help. It also helps integrate our Armed Forces into our communities. We want to increase awareness throughout the wide range of services that may come into contact with Armed Forces personnel, young and old, serving and retired, and their families. These services range from education to housing, healthcare to employers, adult and children's social care to parishes and voluntary organisations.

To help this, please cascade this information across your own organisation.

Further information on the Somerset Armed Forces Partnership can be found via: [Somerset Armed Forces Covenant Partnership](#)

How you can help

- Review your existing policies to look for any disadvantage for Armed Forces families.
- Help raise awareness with your front-line staff of the Armed Forces Covenant and the issues affecting Armed Forces families.
- Promote the [Somerset Armed Forces Hubs](#) and [Somerset Armed Forces Outreach Services](#)
- Tell the SAFC Partnership of any concerns you have or ideas to help deliver the Covenant in Somerset.
- Nominate and support an Armed Forces Champion in your organisation.
- Raise awareness of the many support services that exist to help Armed Forces families and encourage organisations to register on Somerset Choices.
- Get your organisation to sign up to the Armed Forces Covenant Employer Recognition Scheme and promote it to like-minded organisations.
- Promote the Gov.uk [online support guides](#) that provide information for veterans based on life stages
- Promote the Gov.uk [searchable directory](#) that lists both government and charity support available to veterans and their families
- Further information is available via: www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk
- Further information regarding cadets, reservists and guides for employers employing reservists is available via: wessex-rfca.org.uk



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