**Gedling Armed Forces Covenant Action Plan 2022 – 2023**

**Appendix 1**

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| **Aim** | **Action** | **Lead** | **Timeframe** |
| **Provide and promote a vibrant central information point for access to Forces support**  | Refresh the Covenant webpageAdd the NCC URL to the new NCC Armed Forces Covenant WebpagePopulate the County Covenant Webpage with Gedling AFC Action Plan and local Breakfast Clubs Promote the webpage, GBC and wider Veteran’s offers via the ‘COMMUNITY’ VCS and Health and Wellbeing E-Newsletters Target those 250 individuals now registered for the GBC Leisure Forces offer via the Leisure E-NewsletterPlace an article in our Summer Contacts Magazine detailing our Covenant Pledge, Silver Award/Going for Gold status, offers and services, engagement opportunities  | Health and Wellbeing CoordinatorCommunicationsCommunity Relations Project OfficerHealth Development OfficerLeisure Business ManagerCommunity Relations Project OfficerCommunicationsCommunity Partnerships Manager | March – April 2021/22  |
| **Identify the military and ex - military community in Gedling in order to signpost to information and support**  | Report to SLT – Armed Forces Covenant Bill new responsibilities for LAsLiaise with Service managers and departments to identify opportunities to ask the military/ex - military question as part of customer services, leisure, benefits and other registration processes.Capture postcode information from GBC Forces Customer contacts and undertake ‘heat mapping’ to identify clusters, hubs and locations for future Forces support provision and targeted communications. Collate national and local data and statistics / review forthcoming Census Data to inform our AMC projects and plans. | Community Investment ManagerHealth and Wellbeing CoordinatorCustomer Insight Officer | Revised report March/April 2022April – Sept 2022July 2022 – March 2023 |
| **Promote Signup to Armed Forces Covenant pledge to organisations across the Borough**  | Identify organisations in the Borough already signed up to the AMCTargeted engagement with local businesses, schools, academies, Parish Councils, charities and community organisationsFacilitate introductions to and liaison with Bruce Spencer Regional Employer Engagement Director, East Midlands. | Community Partnerships Manager Economic Development  | June 2022 – March 2023 and ongoing  |
| **Maximise the Covenant Grant Fund**  | Promote the fund to VCS Organisations via the Community and Health and Wellbeing E- Newsletters – these have a joint reach of over 10k community contactsExplore current priorities around Civil and Military Partnership support working together with local forces organisationsShare funding opportunity with Service Managers, key development officers and local community and forces organisationsIdentify opportunities to apply for the fund | Community Relations Project OfficerNeil Bettison NCC VCS Team to act as a critical friend on applications | Ongoing |
| **Scope and implement a military/ex-military social engagement hub**  | Initiate a Naffi Breaks model informal support group and/or Breakfast Club, using our successful NCC Food Fund award of £25k 2022Location: Richard Herod LC: based on postcode mapping of target audience: 250 Forces Clients registered for the new Leisure Concession, local RBL Divisions, Cadet Corps, wider community Liaise with Neil Bettison on making an application to the Covenant Fund for sustainability  | Community Partnerships ManagerHealth Development Officer | March – June 2022 |
| **Assess the impact of GBC services upon the Military/ex-military community in Gedling** | Engage in cross departmental impact assessment via the Service Planning process Request follow up/outcomes information from managers /service managers on key cases Identify and progress concessionary initiatives and targeted promotions, promote via the Covenant Webpage | Community Partnerships Manager | Report to SLT March/April 2022 Ongoing monitoringOngoing |
| **Establish a strong coproduction partnership with local and Countywide Military organisations, services and social hubs**  | Create a database of local Forces organisations and services.Include and share those services via our ‘Ward By Ward’ community services databaseEngage military support services i.e. Age UK Men in Sheds in our Gedling Community Hubs and Partners Group and quarterly meetingsWork with those organisations to identify and progress new projects and services for Forces/Ex forces residents Use data and publications to inform the development of services to Forces residents, i.e: RBL Report on Loneliness and IsolationArmed Forces Veterans in the Gedling Borough District Statistics: Research funded by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust within the Map of Need Project 2019 (Source 2011 Census) | Health and Wellbeing CoordinatorCommunity Partnerships Manager | March 2022 - ongoing |
| **Maximise externally funded programmes to ensure support programmes are accessible for vulnerable and otherwise disadvantaged Forces/Ex Forces Citizens and their families** | Forces citizens support to be actively targeted in our externally funded health and welfare projects and plans, including:* Green Social Prescribing bid
* ‘Strength in Community’ NCC Social Recovery Fund bid
* NCC Food Fund successful Award
* ICP/Place Based Partnership funded Social Prescribing Link Worker and Community Development service
* Holiday Activities and Food and Household Recovery Fund schemes
* Citizens Advice service in GP Surgeries
* Falls Prevention Classes
* Dementia / Memory Cafes
 | Community Partnerships ManagerHealth and Wellbeing CoordinatorHealth Development Officer | March 2022 – April 2023 |
| **Support military memorials, Commemorative events and celebrations within Gedling Borough**  | Support the annual programme of RBL parades and wreath laying in the Borough:GBC to act as Lead organiser for the Arnold Remembrance ServiceGBC to fund and coordinate road closures for Arnold, Mapperley and Gedling Remembrance ParadesGBC to support pre event remedial actions, Civic attendance and event promotion for all three events. Actively engage Military, Veterans, Cadet Corps and Uniformed Youth Groups in GBC and Community Partners programme of **Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Events** **Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June** | Community Partnerships ManagerArts and Culture Development Officer Parks TeamCommunications TeamCivic officeArts and Culture Development Officer Community Partnerships Manager | March – August 2022 |
| **Identify Armed Covenant Champions to advise and raise awareness of support available to Forces/Ex Forces personnel** | **Armed Forces Resident Champions** to be recruited to our Gedling Youth Council, Seniors Council and Interfaith/Inclusion contact group and annual symposium events **Armed Forces Officer Champions** to be identified and trained across key service departments i.e. Parks, Public Protection, Housing, Benefits and Customer Services Teams. Scripts provided and dedicated communications contact E - leaflet to be explored | Community Partnerships ManagerHealth and Wellbeing Coordinator | March – September 2022 |
| **Work towards GBC** **Achievement of Armed Forces Covenant Gold Employer Recognition Award**  | Scope and assess GBC Armed Forces Covenant activity against the Gold Award Criteria and requirementsReview the Council’s Employment Policies and support currently offered to Ex Forces / Reservists by GBC as an Employer against the Gold Employer Award criteria Liaise with NCC, Ashfield and other Districts that have achieved Gold to date, identify and emulate best practice where appropriate and sustainable.Engage with Bruce Spencer, Regional Employer Engagement Director | East Midlands and produce 500 word summary of progress towards Gold for consideration prior to submission.Register intent to go for Gold on the National Covenant Portal  | Community Partnerships ManagerHead of HR, Performance and Service PlanningHealth and Wellbeing Coordinator | Feb/March 2022 |
| **Maintain visibility and progress of GBC Armed Forces Covenant Action Plan** | Quarterly progress reports and outcomes updates provided to Cllr Collis, AFC Champion to support his role on the Countywide Champions GroupUpdates shared regularly to NCC Countywide Lead Neil Bettison and added to County and GBC AMC webpages | Community Partnerships Manager | Quarterly: June, September, December 2022 and March 2023 |