




## East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service

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**We commit to uphold the Armed Forces Covenant and support the Armed Forces Community. We recognise the contribution that Service personnel, both regular and reservist, veterans and military families make to our organisation, our community and to the country.**

Signed on behalf of:

**East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service**

Signed: 

Name: **Dawn Whittaker**

Position: **Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive**

Date: **3 January 2024**



**East Sussex**  
Fire & Rescue Service

# The Armed Forces Covenant

An Enduring Covenant Between

The People of the United Kingdom  
His 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.

## Section 1: Principles of The Armed Forces Covenant

1.1 We, **East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service**, will endeavour to uphold the key principles of the Armed Forces Covenant:

- *Members of the Armed Forces Community should not face disadvantages arising from their service in the provision of public and commercial services.*
- *In some circumstances special provision may be justified, especially for those who have given the most, such as the injured or bereaved.*

## Section 2: Demonstrating our Commitment

2.1 We recognise the contribution that Service personnel, reservists, veterans, the cadet movement and military families make to our organisation, our community and to the country. We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant by:

- **Promoting the Armed Forces: We will signpost the Armed Services through our website**
- **Employment support to members of the Armed Forces Community: Our recruitment process is open to all. We welcome applications from People with an Armed Forces background or who are Reservists. Many skills learnt in Service to the Country are transferrable to the Fire & Rescue Service.**
- **Health: We support staff and volunteers through our Occupational Health partners and offer subsidised membership of Benenden Health.**
- **Housing: We offer free Home Safety Visits to everybody and prioritise people who are vulnerable.**
- **Education: ESFRS offers a wide range of training programmes to support staff and volunteers**
- **Civic responsibilities: We demonstrate our support for the Armed Services through our attendance at events and awards presentations as well as supporting out local Armed Forces network.**
- **We welcome applications from young people from Armed Forces families to join Fire Cadets**

2.2 We will publicise these commitments through our literature and/or on our website, setting out how we will seek to honour them and inviting feedback from the Armed Forces Community and our customers on how we are doing.