



Surrey Heartlands Clinical Commissioning Groups

We, the undersigned, commit to honour the Armed Forces Covenant and support the Armed Forces Community. We recognise the value Serving Personnel, both Regular and Reservists, Veterans and military families contribute to our business and our country.

Signed on behalf of:

Surrey Heartlands Clinical Commissioning Groups

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. J. ...'.

Signed:

Position: Joint Accountable Officer

Date: 30 November 2018



Working together as the Surrey Heartlands Clinical Commissioning Groups

Guildford and Waverley CCG | North West Surrey CCG | Surrey Downs CCG

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.

Section 1: Principles Of The Armed Forces Covenant

1.1 We Surrey Heartlands Clinical Commissioning Groups will endeavour in our business dealings to uphold the key principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, which are:

- *no member of the Armed Forces Community should face disadvantage in the provision of*
- *public and commercial services compared to any other citizen; and*
- *in some circumstances special treatment may be appropriate especially for the injured or bereaved.*

Section 2: Demonstrating our Commitment

2.1 Surrey Heartlands Clinical Commissioning Groups recognises the value serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families bring to our business. We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, by:

- *promoting the fact that we are an armed forces-friendly organisation; via social media, e-bulletins and NHS Jobs;*
- *seeking to support the employment of veterans young and old and working with the Career Transition Partnership (CTP), in order to establish a tailored employment pathway for Service Leavers;*
- *striving to support the employment of Service spouses and partners;*
- *understand military qualifications in recruitment/application processes;*
- *endeavouring to offer a degree of flexibility in granting leave for Service spouses and partners before, during and after a partner's deployment;*
- *to register for the 'Defence Employer Recognition Scheme';*
- *applying an enhanced collaborative reservist HR policy;*
- *seek to encourage the GP Practices in our localities to identify themselves as 'Veteran Friendly Accredited';*
- *ensuring that any service development includes a marker for veterans during the quality and equality impact assessment;*

- *monitoring and supporting Veterans entering healthcare services by establishing key performance indicators in our acute and community contracts;*
- *seeking to support our employees who choose to be members of the Reserve forces, including accommodating their training, application and deployment where possible;*
- *offering support to our local cadet units, either in our local community or in local schools, where possible;*
- *aiming to actively participate in Armed Forces Day through social media, encouraging uniform to work day and NHS Heartlands engagement events where possible;*
- *Publicising the Armed Forces Covenant on our website(s);*
- *holding regular Armed Forces presentations throughout the year where possible;*
- *seeking to support military charities during fundraising opportunities where possible;*
- *identifying, recognising and supporting Armed Forces Carers;*
- *any additional commitments Surrey Heartlands Clinical Commissioning Groups could make (based on local circumstances).*

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 Service community and our customers on how we are doing.