



The South Yorkshire Armed Forces Covenant Project Model Executive Summary



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In 2017 a regional partnership, consisting of Sheffield City Council, Rotherham, Doncaster and Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Councils, Sheffield Hallam University and York St John University, successfully bid for an Armed Forces Covenant Fund grant designed to strengthen the local government delivery of the Covenant. The two yearlong South Yorkshire Armed Forces Covenant project activities were designed to:

Raise the awareness of Covenant initiatives and dedicated services availability;

Produce local authority Covenant Action Plans and a regional Action Plan;

Enhance ownership of the process and improve connections across the region;

Commission military awareness training for front-line staff in South Yorkshire;

Produce the South Yorkshire model for strengthening the regional delivery of Covenant pledges, ensuring a lasting and replicable project legacy.

The project began in consultation with the Armed Forces community across the region, which informed the development of a community-specific regional survey tool. The regional community survey results informed the local authority and regional Covenant Action planning events.

Key project outputs

The following key project outputs were delivered between June 2017 and June 2019:

Publication of South Yorkshire Armed Forces community-specific survey data findings¹

Four local authority Covenant Action Plan development events

A regional Covenant Action planning consistency event

Four local authority Covenant Action plans produced

A regional South Yorkshire Armed Forces Covenant Action plan produced

Military awareness training delivered to 1000+ front line service staff

Publication of the South Yorkshire Armed Forces Covenant Model

Presentation of the South Yorkshire Covenant model to 160 delegates at a 'Bringing the Armed Forces Covenant to Life' conference



¹ Albertson, K., Albertson, K., Stevenson, J., and Murray, E. (2018) The South Yorkshire Armed Forces Covenant Project: Mapping of the Armed Forces Community across the region, Data report (July 2018), Helena Kennedy Centre for International Justice: Sheffield Hallam University, ISBN: 978-1-84387-423-2, available on-line at: <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/9597/the-south-yorkshire-covenant-project-mapping-report-albertson-et-al-july-2018.pdf>

Key project impact

The South Yorkshire Armed Forces Covenant project activities generated the following key impacts:

01

Raising the regional awareness of Covenant initiatives

The Armed Forces Community Survey provided details of the UK's national Covenant to the 30% of Armed Forces community respondents who did not know about it;

30%



The 48% of staff attending the training having never heard of the Covenant dropped to 3% post training attendance;

53%

The Armed Forces Community Survey provided details of local Covenant initiatives to the 53% of Armed Forces community respondents who did not even know their Council had signed the Covenant;

The 34% of staff reporting being aware their Council had signed the Covenant was more than doubled to 70% after attending the front-line training.

34%

70%

02

Raising the regional awareness of dedicated services available

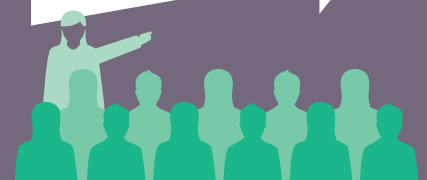
The community survey provided details of dedicated services available to the Armed forces community respondents, of whom 53% had reported poor to little awareness;



96% of Covenant Action planning event attendees reflected the event had operated well in terms of raising awareness of dedicated services availability;

Training attendance resulted in a significant increase in the awareness of dedicated support services, rising from

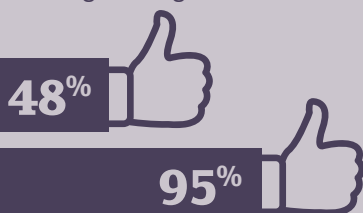
43% to 89%



03

Informing the work of regional front-line staff through military awareness training

Staff reporting feeling extremely to relatively well equipped to work with this community nearly doubled from **48%** to **95%** after attending training;



The 56% of staff feeling confident about working with members of the Armed Forces community increased to 96% on attending the training;

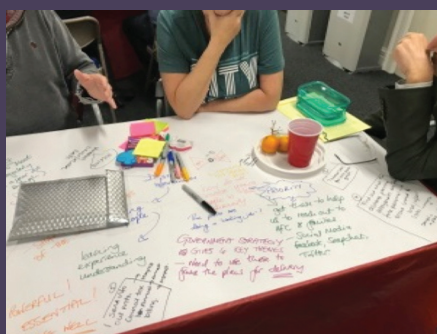
72% of staff reported having cascaded their learning from the training via a full staff briefing, meeting, training day or memo - thereby increasing the numbers of front line agency staff with an awareness of Armed Forces community related issues.



04

The delivery of realistic and consistent Covenant Action Plans

As a direct result of the project activities delivered, realistic, locally appropriate and consistent local authority Covenant Action plans have been developed across the region and a regional South Yorkshire Armed Forces Covenant Action Plan has been agreed



05

Enhancing regional ownership and connections between agencies

70% of Covenant Action planning event attendees reported a sense of collective ownership of the Action planning process as a direct result of project participation;

88% of Covenant Action planning event attendees reported meeting at least one new contact or learning about a service, agency or resource;

More than half (55%) of staff reported having met representatives from other relevant agencies as a result of attending the training;

The Action planning events and Covenant conference have resulted in a more joined up and regionally strategic approach to addressing the needs of the Armed Forces community across South Yorkshire.



Legacy of the South Yorkshire Armed Forces Covenant project

The South Yorkshire Covenant project was designed to have a lasting impact and replicable legacy beyond the project funding timescale. These project legacy aims have been achieved through:

01

The South Yorkshire Armed Forces Covenant model is a regional community capacity building approach to strengthening the delivery of Covenant pledges. This seven step model is a legacy to be shared across the UK. Please contact k.albertson@shu.ac.uk for more details of the model below:

The South Yorkshire Armed Forces Covenant model

Consultation with Armed Forces Community across the region

Armed Forces Community mapping survey research

Raising awareness of the Covenant and dedicated services

Delivering training to front line service staff across the region

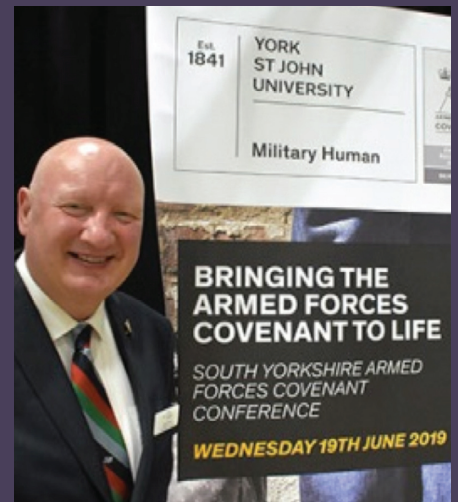
Facilitating area Action Plan development within Covenant groups

Regional Action planning consistency building event

Evaluation of project activities

02

The South Yorkshire Covenant model was launched at the 'Bringing the Armed Forces Covenant to life' conference held at York St John's University in June 2019;



03

The South Yorkshire Covenant project has attracted national interest from other local authorities in the UK regarding the potential for replication and the project impacts have received civil endorsement from Dan Jarvis MP;



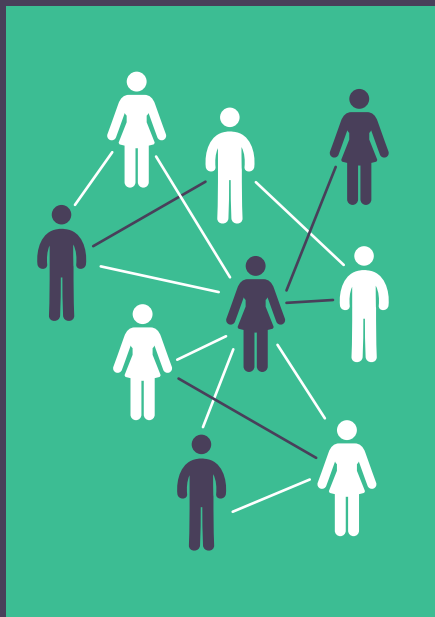
“Sheffield Hallam is not just an ivory tower think-tank, it’s an organisation that makes really important, transformational change happen and I think this is a really good opportunity to bring people together to help tackle the issues armed forces veterans are facing today.”

Dan Jarvis

Mayor of Sheffield City Region

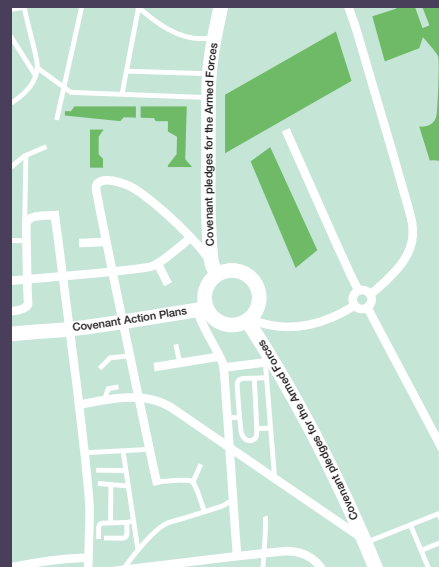
04

The project has ensured that when members of the Armed Forces Community engage with community services across the region, front-line staff not only have an understanding of the military journey and transition experience for service personnel and their families, they also have access to the wide range of support available.



05

As a direct result of South Yorkshire Armed Forces Covenant project activities the region now has consistent local authority and regional Covenant Action Plans that can be used as a road map to strengthen the delivery of Covenant pledges for the Armed Forces community that live here.





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The South Yorkshire Armed Forces Covenant model

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