



## Rutland County Council

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### **Report by Councillor P Ainsley to Council under Item 13 – Joint Arrangements and External Organisations**

#### **Issues to be highlighted to Council**

The Armed Forces Officer role supports both within the council and across partners to ensure a joint approach to our AF communities, develop strategy, and ensure that our AF community is not disadvantaged.

Over the past year there has been a lot of work across the council with colleagues including education, housing, Children's and Adults' services, and Communications; with military units based locally inc Reserves and cadets; and with veterans organisations.

Regular attendance at AF meetings locally, regionally and nationally to share best practice and raise Rutland's profile.

Specific work this year has included:

- Armed Forces Covenant legislation implementation – to ensure understanding and compliance with the new legislation (Legislation passed in Dec 21 and compliance required since Nov 22)
- Armed Forces Covenant Trust funded 'Sustaining the Covenant Project' (completed to MOD satisfaction)
- Military Unit engagements to support unit moves in and out of Rutland
- Support for the implementation and running of the Defence Medical Welfare Services funded Rutland Veterans Wellbeing Hub
- Living in their Shoes 2-day conference organised by Education team (externally funded)
- Planning and delivery Remembrance Services (Armistice Day ceremony, Sunday parade, Stocken Prison poppy display)
- Armed Forces Covenant Trust funded Intergenerational Friendship Club
- Forces Family Forum re-established bringing together support services for children and families of serving personnel to ensure a coordinated approach and access to community based services
- Secured funding from NHSE for the ICB to develop an LLR single point of point for access to health services
- Ofsted Briefing on support to Service Children with Education colleagues (Cambridge 17 March 23)
- Development of the Armed Forces Information Portal

Upcoming in the next month:

- Cyprus visit on 29-31 March 23 to brief soldiers/families prior to the 1st Battalion Royal Anglians move to Kendrew in July/August (externally funded)
- Planning for Armed Forces Week

