



Borough of Tamworth

Marmion House,
Lichfield Street, Tamworth,
Staffordshire B79 7BZ.

Enquiries: 01827 709 709
Facsimile: 01827 709 271

HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

8 July 2024

Dear Councillor

A Meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee will be held in **Town Hall, Market Street, Tamworth on Tuesday, 16th July, 2024 at 6.00 pm**. Members of the Committee are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. C. V.'.

Chief Executive

A G E N D A

NON CONFIDENTIAL

- 1 Apologies for Absence
- 2 Appointment of the Vice-chair
- 3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 5 - 10)
- 4 Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of Members' interests (personal and/or personal and prejudicial) in any matters which are to be considered at this meeting.

When Members are declaring a personal interest or personal and prejudicial interest in respect of which they have dispensation, they should specify the nature of such interest. Members should leave the room if they have a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of which they do not have a dispensation.

5 Update from the Chair

6 Responses to Reports of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

(Update on responses to the Reports of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee)

7 Consideration of matters referred to the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee from Cabinet or Council

(Discussion item)

8 Update on health related matters considered by Staffordshire County Council

(To receive the Digest from Staffordshire County Council's Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee and an update from County Councillor J Jones)

9 Armed Forces Covenant Update 2024 (Pages 11 - 20)

(Report of the Portfolio Holder for People Services, Engagement and Leisure)

10 Disabled Adaptations Policy (To Follow)

(Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Homelessness and Planning)

11 Forward Plan

Please see the link to the Forward Plan:

[Browse plans - Cabinet, 2024 :: Tamworth Borough Council](#)

12 Working Group Updates

(To receive an update from any Working Groups)

13 Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Work Plan (Pages 21 - 24)

14 Exclusion of the Press and Public

To consider excluding the Press and Public from the meeting by passing the following resolution:-

“That in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meeting and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, and Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public”

15 Disabled Adaptations Service Development Plan (To Follow)

(Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Homelessness and Planning)

Access arrangements

If you have any particular access requirements when attending the meeting, please contact Democratic Services on 01827 709267 or e-mail democratic-services@tamworth.gov.uk. We can then endeavour to ensure that any particular requirements you may have are catered for.

Filming of Meetings

The public part of this meeting may be filmed and broadcast. Please refer to the Council's Protocol on Filming, Videoing, Photography and Audio Recording at Council meetings which can be found [here](#) for further information.

If a member of the public is particularly concerned about being filmed, please contact a member of Democratic Services before selecting a seat.

FAQs

For further information about the Council's Committee arrangements please see the FAQ page [here](#)

To Councillors: C Bain, M Bailey, R Claymore, S Doyle, H Hadley, P Pallett, N Statham, P Turner and A Wells

This page is intentionally left blank



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE
HELD ON 26th MARCH 2024**

PRESENT: Councillor C Bain (Chair), Councillors S Daniels, C Dean and D Maycock

County Councillor

CABINET Councillor Martin Summers

The following officers were present: Jackie Hodgkinson (Partnerships and Vulnerability Officer), Leanne Costello (Senior Scrutiny and Democratic Services Officer) and Tracey Smith (Democratic Services Assistant)

90 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Claymore, M Bailey and S Doyle.

Apologies were also received from Councillor D Cook who would be late to the meeting and arrived at 18:13.

91 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th March 2024 were approved and signed as a correct record.

(Moved by Councillor D Maycock and seconded by Councillor C Dean)

92 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

93 UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair thank the Members and Officers who had supported the Committee throughout the year.

94 RESPONSES TO REPORTS OF THE HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Chair updated the Committee that following on from the meeting on the 4th March 2024 they attended Cabinet on the 14th March 2024 to present the Committees recommendations around the Housing Assistance Policy where Cabinet approved the Committees recommendation, to look at a proposal for providing extra resource to assist the Assistant Director with the backlog and a review of the process. They moved an amendment to the second recommendation: to look to revise the Housing Assistance Policy to include a provision to provide medically discharged armed forces personnel a priority.

CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS REFERRED TO THE HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FROM CABINET OR COUNCIL

The Committee considered the following item:

96 MATTERS REFERRED TO SCRUTINY FROM CABINET OR COUNCIL (LONELINESS AND ISOLATION)

At Full Council on 28th February 2023 an item was considered by Full Council and referred to Scrutiny for consideration.

The Vice-Chair highlighted to the Committee that prior to the item being considered at Full Council, the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny received a presentation on Loneliness and Addiction Support Organisation and was also receiving updates for the Wellbeing Strategy. The Committee agreed that through the work identified in the report and the Wellbeing Strategy that the Council were already addressing this matter and that a separate item was not required on the work plan.

97 UPDATE ON HEALTH RELATED MATTERS CONSIDERED BY STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Chair confirmed that the most recent digest had been shared with the Committee and that there was no County Rep present to provide an update.

98 SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND ADULTS AT RISK OF ABUSE REPORT HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 26.03.24

The Chair welcome the Portfolio holder for Environmental Health and Community Partnerships who introduced the report to provide a biannual safeguarding update to the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee before handing over to the Partnerships Vulnerability Officer, Jackie Hodgkinson who provided a summary of the report to the Committee highlighting the following:

- There have been no referrals to safeguarding for children, however this did not mean there were no concerns but just that they did not meet the threshold for a safeguarding referral.
- Miscellaneous referrals are when someone reports a concern/worry mainly through the Councils enquiries.
- Where a referral does not hit the threshold for safeguarding, action may still be taken, such as a referral to the Tamworth Vulnerability Partnership (TVP)/County or mental health teams.
- Successes had been seen following on from safeguarding training, through the street scene team highlighting concerns.
- Children's Safeguarding board – Section 11 Audit just being completed – working with other districts and borough safeguarding representatives.
- Proposed membership of Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) – more detailed updates should be available at the next meeting.
- Community Safety Forum – following on from the last meeting Street Angels recruited an additional six volunteers.

The Committee made the following comments/observations and asked the following questions:

1. The Committee thank the Officer for the comprehensive report.
2. Are there separate figures for cases that do not meet the safeguarding threshold?
The Officer confirmed that the miscellaneous figures are these cases, and where they can these are investigated by Officers by a safe and well check. Where a referral cannot be made the data is still recorded.
3. Do you work with academies as well as county schools when addressing issues such as county lines?
Work is predominantly within schools including with Kettlebrook Short Stay School. There is lots of networking and joined up working.
4. Where is cyber bullying/cyber-crime picked up, in particular around children?
The officer confirmed that financial abuse is seen through the internet but a lot of financial abuse they see is through people that are known to the victim, i.e carers etc. This is picked up within the safeguarding policy, whistleblowing policy, staff code of conduct etc. There are training modules available to staff. The Community Safety partners have liaised with banks previously to highlight this. Ensuring that staff do not put themselves in a vulnerable situation with residents is also highlighted.
The Council links into Internet safety weeks and highlights national campaigns as well as signposting, however, schools play a vital part in education parents around what young people can access on their devices.

Resolved that the Committee:

1. reviewed the report and raised any questions in relation to the content with the Assistant Director Partnerships in collaboration with the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Health and Community Partnerships, and thereafter endorsed.

(Moved by Councillor D Maycock and seconded by Councillor S Daniels)

99 HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024

Report of the Chair provided the Committee with a draft of the Committee's Annual Report for 2023/2024 (Appendix 2) together with a draft of the Introductory Report (Appendix 1) which will be presented to full Council in the 2024-25 municipal year.

Resolved that the Committee:

1. considered and commented on the draft Annual Report and Introductory Report and thereafter endorsed the draft Annual Report and Introductory Report for submission to full Council, following agreement by the Chair of any final amendments and updates to reflect the final meeting of the 2023/24 municipal year.

(Moved by Councillor C Dean and seconded by Councillor S Daniels)

100 FORWARD PLAN

There were no new items identified.

101 WORKING GROUP UPDATES

There were no updates.

102 HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY WORK PLAN

The Committee were happy with the work plan.

The Committee thanked the Chair for the work done this year.

The Committee thanked Councillor Cook for the information and experience he had shared with them.

The Chair closed the meeting.

Chair

This page is intentionally left blank

Thursday 16th July 2024

Report of the Portfolio Holder for People, Services, Leisure & Engagement

Armed Forces Covenant Update 2024

Exempt Information

N/A

Purpose

To report on work done to ensure the Council meets its commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant and associated plan

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. Endorse the updated Tamworth Borough Council Armed Forces Covenant work plan.
2. Recognise and affirm the award to Tamworth Borough Council of the Silver Employee Recognition Scheme Award.

Executive Summary

The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise by the nation that the Armed Forces Community should be treated fairly and face no disadvantage when accessing public and commercial services, with special provision made in appropriate cases for those who have sacrificed the most.

The Covenant was established in its current form in 2011 and since then, thousands of different organisations – including businesses, local authorities, universities, and charities – have chosen to sign a pledge to honour the Covenant and support their Armed Forces Community.

Tamworth Borough Council, with Staffordshire County Council and all other districts and boroughs in Staffordshire, re-affirmed commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant and the Armed Forces Act 2021 Covenant Duty in February 2023.

The Tamworth Armed Forces Covenant plan was endorsed by Cabinet in July 2023 with agreement that an annual update be provided to H&W Scrutiny annually.

The updated plan is attached as Appendix 1.

Key successes in 2023/24:

- The Council has successfully achieved the Employer Recognition Silver Award **(announcement embargoed until after the General Election)** which will be presented at the National Memorial Arboretum in September 2024.
- Enhancement of support to armed forces communities by improving policies including:
 - Automatic interviews for veterans and forces family members meeting the minimum job requirements.
 - Advertising vacancies on forces specific websites.

- Increased paid annual leave for Reservists which meets the Gold standard ERS scheme
- Events were arranged for DDAY 80 Celebrations with the Royal British Legion Tamworth Branch.
- A commitment has been made to recognise and celebrate annual Armed Forces Day event with free admission for serving and retired service personnel (and half price family) to Tamworth Castle.
- Compulsory training put in place for all staff to raise awareness of our commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant.
- Provided over £6,000 grant funding to Tamworth and Lichfield Sea Cadets to meet core funding costs.
- £10,000 grant awarded (announcement embargoed until after the General Election) to the Staffordshire 3 for a permanent memorial in the Castle Grounds to three local men killed on active service in Iraq.

Options Considered

The Council had already committed to the Armed Forces Covenant and re-affirmed in line with the other boroughs/districts in Staffordshire in line with the Armed Forces Act 2021.

Resource Implications

The Community Cohesion Officer will work in conjunction with appropriate teams within the Council to ensure that the action plan is implemented and is appointed until February 2025 (to be reviewed).

There are no direct financial implications because of this report. Events or activities identified through the Action Plan will be subject to budgetary resourcing and further reports.

Legal/Risk Implications Background

The Covenant Duty is not prescriptive about the approach the Council should take to comply with their legal obligations. It also does not mandate that any conclusions are reached, or specific public service delivery outcomes achieved because of that consideration. The actions and outcomes that bodies deem appropriate will vary across the country depending on local circumstances.

- The Covenant Duty does not abolish or replace existing Covenant pledges and other commitments.
- The Duty only applies to specific functions in healthcare, education, and housing. Other functions in these three areas, and functions in other, unrelated areas, are not within the scope of the Duty, though may still be relevant to the wider Covenant commitments.
- The Duty only applies to specified bodies. Many organisations that have signed the wider Covenant pledge are therefore not within scope of the legal Duty at all.
- The Duty applies to specific groups in the Armed Forces Community. Other groups in the Community may be included within the purposes of the wider Covenant.

The Covenant Duty does not supersede or replace any other statutory requirement. Those subject to the Duty must balance the requirements of the Duty with the need to deliver services more generally and the need to satisfy other statutory requirements, such as the Public Sector Equality Duty in England, Scotland and Wales, or the statutory duty on public authorities regarding equality of opportunity in s.75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

Equalities Implications

The Armed Forces Covenant Duty is in place to ensure that there is no unfair treatment for serving personnel, their families or veterans when accessing public services.

Advantageous treatment as a matter of course is not within scope of the Duty, such as offering discounts to all through the Defence Discount Service, or to a broad group through the Veterans Railcard. However, bodies are still free to implement such schemes as part of their support to the Armed Forces Community through the Covenant . Similarly, the Duty does not give an individual any automatic right to the best house, best school, or to jump a queue. However, special provision can sometimes be justified on a case by case basis and will be recorded.

The Council has decided to offer some discounts and free access to certain events to serving personnel, veterans and families on special occasions where their service is at the forefront of the celebrations or commemoration and is part of the event planning.

A full Community Impact Assessment has previously been completed.

Environment and Sustainability Implications (including climate change)

There are no environmental or sustainability implications because of this report.

Background Information

Tamworth Borough Council has committed to the Armed Forces Covenant since 2012 and recognise the commitment to those that have and still remain serving the nation.

The Armed Forces Act 2021 amended the Armed Forces Act 2006 by inserting sections 343AA to 343AF. These place a legal duty (the 'Covenant Duty') on specified public persons and bodies to have due regard to the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant when exercising certain statutory functions in the fields of healthcare, education and housing ('relevant functions').

When a specified body exercises a relevant function, it must have due regard to:

- (a) the unique obligations of, and sacrifices made by, the Armed Forces;
- (b) the principle that it is desirable to remove disadvantages arising for Service people from membership, or former membership, of the Armed Forces.
- (c) the principle that special provision for Service people may be justified by the effects on such people of membership, or former membership, of the Armed Forces.

Relevant functions in scope of the Covenant Duty include healthcare, education and housing.

The Council must have due regard to:

- Allocations policy for social housing
- Tenancy strategies (England only)
- Homelessness
- Disabled Facilities Grants

The Housing Allocations and Homelessness strategies have due regard to the Duty and are compliant. Disabled Facility grant administration has just been brought back into Council management which fund adaptations to a disabled person's home to enable them to live independently and comfortably.

Report Author

Joanne Sands – Assistant Director Partnerships
Anna McLauchlan – Community Cohesion Officer

List of Background Papers

Armed Forces Act 2021

Appendices



**Armed Forces Covenant Action Plan
Tamworth Borough Council
April 2023 – March 2025 (Update June 2024)**

The Armed Forces Covenant defines the general principles that should govern the relationship between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces community and has several key principles

- 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.

It also seeks to encourage local communities to develop a relationship with the service community in their area.

Tamworth Borough Council, alongside all local authorities within Staffordshire re-signed the Staffordshire Covenant to reaffirm our commitment to the Armed Forces Community following the Armed Forces Act 2021

Every Local Authority adhering to the Covenant is committed to produce and publish an Action Plan to underpin the Covenant. This forms part of the 'Core infrastructure for Covenant Delivery' which includes naming an Armed Forces Champion. This action plan sets out the overall direction of the Covenant and helps ensure the Council keeps on track with its commitments.

Armed Forces Action Plan		
Aims	Actions	Comments/ Date for Next Review
1. Recognise and remember the sacrifices and challenges faced by the Armed Forces community.	1.1 Remembrance and Recognition Days Promote participation in, and support events and functions, to celebrate and remember the sacrifices of Armed Forces personnel, both past and present. Armed Forces 'Remembrance and Recognition' days to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armed Forces day (June 29th 2024, June 28th 2025) • Poppy Appeal (October/November) • Remembrance Sunday (Nearest Sunday to 11th November) • Armistice day (November 11th) 	Next review 2025 Events in calendar Flags on Marmion House and the Castle Lighting of castle
	1.2 Maintain Mercian Regiment Freedom of the Borough Promote and support Freedom of Borough events and parade	Ongoing and supported on request
	1.3 Consider Events for 80th Anniversary of VE Day May 2025	Discussions and planning meetings to commence July 2024 to include Arts & Events Teams and external armed forces charities groups Link to national events
2. Promote understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces community	2.1 Publicise the Commitments made in the Armed Forces Covenant Publicise Tamworth's commitment to Armed Forces personnel, and their families, receiving equal access and opportunity	Endorsement through Cabinet July 2023 Link to County plan and pages New TBC web content live on website . Promotion of Silver Employer Recognition Scheme award once embargo is lifted.(after 4 th July) Increased promotion of links on social media sites for TBC and Castle including involvement of armed forces community in events TBC presence and promotion on Troopr

		platform and armed forces families/veterans recruitment websites.
3. Encourage the local community to support the Armed Forces community in the Borough	3.1 Community Volunteering Encourage collaborative community volunteering by signposting to charities and volunteering opportunities in the district.	To link back to County plan and through Staffordshire Connects. Webpage information Encourage VCSE partners to sign up to the pledge and promote volunteering opportunities
4. Encourage activities which help to integrate the Armed Forces Community into local life	4.1 Signpost Direct Armed Forces Community members to volunteering opportunities, additional support, services, sports clubs, charities	Webpage links to Support Staffs Voluntary Organisations and Staffordshire Connects
	4.2 Promote best practice engagement with communities Work with Staffordshire County/Armed Forces to identify and promote examples of good practice for community engagement and integration across Staffordshire	Promote on social media platforms as examples occur/ Link to Staffordshire Armed Forces communications plan
5. Encourage the Armed Forces Community to help and support the wider community, whether through participation in events and joint projects, or other forms of engagement, utilising funding obtained through the Community Covenant Grant scheme as appropriate	5.1 Volunteering and Community Action Support members of the Armed Forces Community to access volunteering and community action opportunities, especially for Forces personnel during transition	Support Staffordshire engagement/VCSE promotion Work with contractors such as Wates to promote and support community action projects. Encourage contractors and wider business engagement to sign covenant
	5.2 Access to Council Services Support Armed Forces Personnel, and their families, as well as service leavers and veterans to access Tamworth Borough Council Services.	To be directed via web page Armed Forces Covenant webpage outlining TBC support for armed forces added to new website and housing factsheet for veterans.

<p>6. Provide advice, support and information to service personnel regarding their housing needs</p> <p>STATUTORY ARMED FORCES HOUSING DUTY</p>	<p>6.1 Housing Allocations Scheme Priority status is awarded to Armed Forces personnel that meet the criteria set out in the 2017 Housing Allocations Scheme.</p>	Policy is compliant
	<p>6.2 Support and Advice Promote the Veterans' Housing Advice Service. This service provides a pathway for ex-Service personnel in housing need by supporting them to move into a permanent home.</p>	<p>Link to the VHAS and other support organisations on our webpages</p> <p>Include links to Disabled Facilities Grants information</p>
	<p>6.3 Homelessness Armed Forces personnel are considered as per current legislation with the aim of understanding any concerns relating to service leavers at risk of homelessness within the Borough and possible solutions.</p>	<p>Policy is compliant</p> <p>Homelessness advice is available on our website</p>
<p>7. Maintain core infrastructure for Covenant delivery</p>	<p>7.1 Tamworth BC to be represented on Staffordshire Armed Forces Covenant Partnership Board Armed Forces Champion to attend the working group</p>	Community Cohesion Officer to attend and action in conjunction with AD Partnerships
	<p>7.2 Name an Armed Forces Champion and Armed Forces council officer lead</p>	<p>Armed Forces Champion: Councillor Lewis Smith</p> <p>Armed Forces officer lead: Jo Sands, Assistant Director Partnerships/Anna McLauchlan, Community Cohesion Officer</p>
	<p>7.3 Tamworth Borough Council Armed Forces Action Plan The Armed Forces Action Plan will be updated annually.</p>	Progress to be considered by the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee – in place annually
<p>8. Support the recruitment of members of the Armed Forces community</p>	<p>8.1 HR Policies Ensure due regard to Armed Forces Covenant</p>	<p>Annual Leave/Reservist Policies compliant and recently updated to meet Gold ERS standard.</p> <p>Community Impact Assessment for all</p>

		policies to include reference to Covenant Duty
	<p>8.2 Consider The Defence Employer Recognition Scheme The Scheme recognises employers who support defence and the armed forces community. www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-employer-recognition-scheme/defence-employer-recognition-scheme</p>	TBC has successfully achieved Silver status (being awarded Sept 2024) updates to website and Troopr page with Silver logo once received.
	<p>8.3 Encourage Business Community to sign up to Covenant</p>	Part of County plan and to be included in webpage links. Communications to be shared with Chamber of Commerce/wider business community (AM)

This page is intentionally left blank



Tamworth Borough Council
Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Work Plan
2024 - 2025

To provide effective scrutiny of the achievement of the Council's strategic priorities by scrutinising the performance of the Executive and external providers in securing a safe environment in which local people can reach their full potential and live longer, healthier lives :-

- Statutory Health Obligation
- Leisure
- Voluntary Sector
- Non HRA Housing
- Disability Service
- Social Care
- Elderly and Vulnerable People Services

To undertake such other scrutiny activities relevant to the committee's scope, as may be required in relation to the performance of the Council, governance, financial management and discharge of statutory functions.

Membership: (The Committee shall comprise 9 members of the Council and one co-opted member with voting rights being a member nominated by Staffordshire County Council) :

Chair: Councillor Chris Bain

Committee Members: Councillors M Bailey, R Claymore, S Doyle, H Hadley, P Pallett, N Statham, P Turner, A Wells

County Council Representative: Councillor Jason Jones

Date	Issue	Reason	Lead Officer	Lead Member
16 th July 2024	Armed Forces Covenant	Annual Update	AD, Partnerships	People Services, Leisure & Engagement
	Disabled Adaptations Service Development Plan		AD, Assets	Housing & Homelessness/Planning
	Disabled Adaptations Policy	Returning following Scrutiny	AD, Assets	Housing & Homelessness/Planning
17 th September 2024	Housing Strategy update	Previous quarterly update – now annual	AD, Partnerships	Housing & Homelessness/Planning
24 th October 2024	Safeguarding Update	Twice Yearly	AD, Partnerships	People Services, Leisure & Engagement
TBC	Wellbeing Strategy	Follow on - Last update 28.11.23 To return to committee 2024		

Items Considered/Recommendations to Cabinet/Further Action

Date of meeting	Item	Action	Cabinet Meeting Date	Response from Cabinet /Any further action

Items Considered/No further action

Date of meeting	Item	Action

Working Groups

Working Group	Members	Current Work

Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Meetings

Meeting dates :

16/07/24

17/09/24

24/10/24

26/11/24

11/02/25

20/03/24

This page is intentionally left blank