

THRIVE TOGETHER

*Empowering Veterans and Families:
Creating Connections, Building Futures*

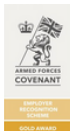


DMWS

Defence Medical
Welfare Service
Supporting
the frontline

Defence Medical Welfare Service

Supporting the frontline



ThriveMidlands@dmws.org.uk

www.dmws.org.uk

What we do



Defence Medical
Welfare Service
Supporting
the frontline

DMWS provide physical, mental health and specialist wellbeing support to the Armed Forces community across the UK.

We provide physical, mental health and specialist wellbeing support to those who serve in the military and in frontline public services, as well as their families, at their time of need.

Our support is free for patients to use.



Our footprint



Defence Medical
Welfare Service
Supporting
the frontline

- Embedded in over **46 NHS Trusts and Boards** with reach into local communities, including **Herefordshire & Worcestershire NHS Trusts**
- UK-wide **National Response Service** helpline
- **MOD** Welfare Service provider
- Supporting accreditation from **Veteran Covenant Healthcare Alliance**
- **Op Restore** delivery partner; **Op Community** Single Point of Contact: London; **Op Courage** – two-way referral partner
- We also have projects to support other **frontline** service people including **Police** and **NHS Staff**



Thrive Together

- What is Thrive Together?
- Midlands Consultation
- Portfolio of funded organisations

<https://dmws.org.uk/thrivetogether/>

Thrive Together Programme Midlands Region Monthly
Update September 2025



Who are the Armed Forces Community ?



Defence Medical
Welfare Service
Supporting
the frontline



Registered charity in England and Wales (1087210) and in Scotland (SC045460) Company Limited by Guarantee No. 04185635 (England and Wales)

Regular personnel – any current serving members of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, British Army or Royal Air Force.

Volunteer and regular reservists – Royal Naval Reserve, Royal Marine Reserve, Royal Auxiliary Air Force, Royal Fleet Reserve, Army Reserve and Air Force Reserve, Royal Fleet Auxiliary and Merchant Navy (where individuals served on a civilian vessel whilst supporting the Armed Forces).

Veterans – anyone who has served for at least a day in the Armed Forces as either a regular or a reservist, or Merchant Mariners who have seen duty on legally defined military operations.

Families of regular personnel, reservist and veterans – spouses, civil partners and children, and where appropriate can include parents, unmarried partners and other family members.

Bereaved – the family members of Service personnel and veterans who have died, whether that death is connected to their Service or not.



Defence Medical
Welfare Service
Supporting
the frontline



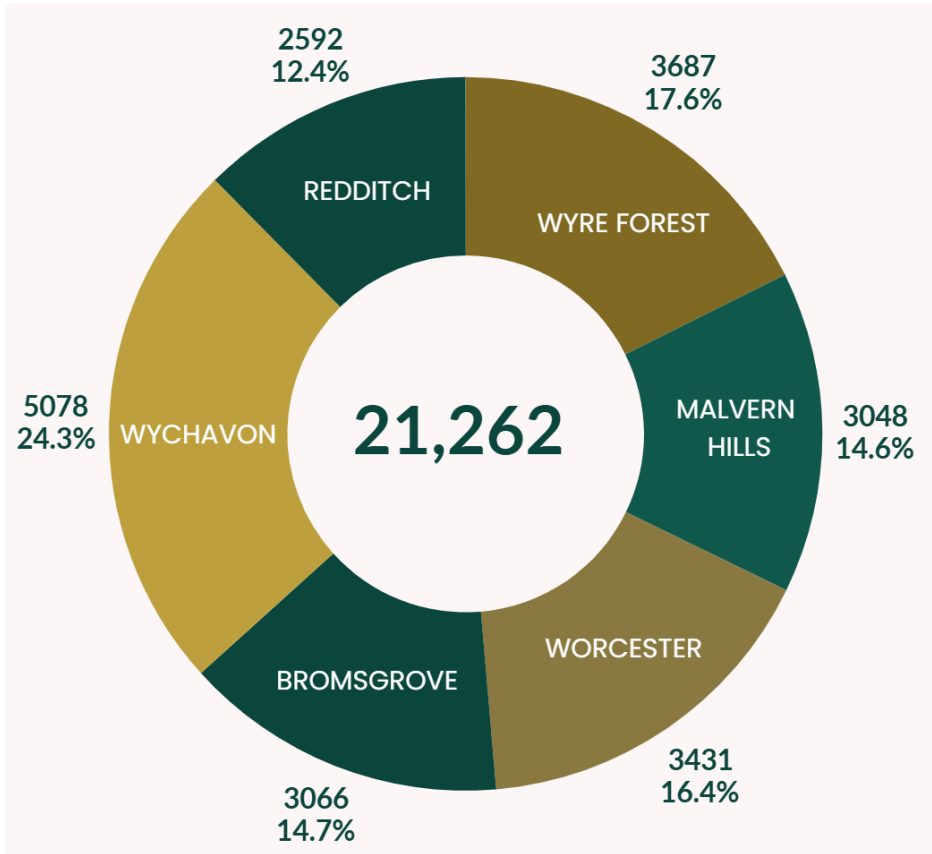
Registered charity in England and Wales (1087210) and in Scotland (SC045460) Company Limited by Guarantee No. 04185635 (England and Wales)

The Local Picture

Worcestershire



Defence Medical
Welfare Service
Supporting
the frontline



Small Serving footprint: 4 Reserve Units

~14% Female Veterans

8.3% of households has a veteran living there

4.2% of the adult population.

45% working age. ~20% Over 85.

Considering families ~50,000 members of the Armed Forces Community in Worcestershire

~500 military children in local schools

161 Organisations have signed the Armed Forces Covenant.

- Worcestershire Armed Forces Partnership: Strategic Group & Operations Group
- Local Authority & Councillor Champions
- WCC Gold ERS Holder



Registered charity in England and Wales (1087210) and in Scotland (SC045460) Company Limited by Guarantee No. 04185635 (England and Wales)



Defence Medical
Welfare Service
Supporting
the frontline

What springs to mind when you think of the Armed Forces Community?

THRIVE TOGETHER

*Empowering Veterans and Families:
Creating Connections, Building Futures*

<https://www.centreforevidence.org/>

[Veterans' data dashboard - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/veterans-data-dashboard)

Unique Experiences

of the Armed Forces Community. A snapshot.



Defence Medical
Welfare Service
Supporting
the frontline

Provision of support
Time keeping
Hierarchical
Predominantly Male
Support Unit
Military Law
Language
Mobilising a short notice
Humour!

Female Veterans
LGBT+ Veterans
Minority Groups
Reservists
Families & Dependents

Structure
Loyalty
Courage
Resourcefulness
Discipline
Respect
Commitment
Team-Work
Highly trained



"There's no handbook for civilian life. You just have to figure it out as you go along."

Thrive Together Focus Group Participant (veteran) - 2024

The Covenant

What's that and what's the difference?



Defence Medical
Welfare Service
Supporting
the frontline

“It’s shrouded in mystery!” *Thrive Together Focus Group Participant (VCSE) - 2024*

- The Armed Forces Covenant
- The Armed Forces Covenant Legal Duty
- The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust



The Covenant

What's that and what's the difference?

The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise by the nation ensuring that those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces, and their families, are treated fairly.



Defence Medical
Welfare Service
Supporting
the frontline



THRIVE TOGETHER

*Empowering Veterans and Families:
Creating Connections, Building Futures*

<https://www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk/>

Registered charity in England and Wales (1087210) and in Scotland (SC045460) Company Limited by Guarantee No. 04185635 (England and Wales)

The Covenant

What's that and what's the difference?



Defence Medical
Welfare Service
Supporting
the frontline

The Armed Forces Covenant Legal Duty

The Covenant Legal Duty is a legal obligation on certain public bodies to have due regard to the Covenant principles when carrying out certain functions in healthcare, education, and housing.

The public bodies subject to this Legal Duty include local authorities, governing bodies of certain state-funded schools, and various NHS bodies.

Impending changes to the legal duty

<https://www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk/>

THRIVE TOGETHER

*Empowering Veterans and Families:
Creating Connections, Building Futures*

The Covenant

What's that and what's the difference?



The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust (the Trust) awards grants that support the Armed Forces community.



Defence Medical
Welfare Service
Supporting
the frontline

AFCFT are both a charity and a Non-Departmental Public Body, or NDPB who deliver high impact programmes, including administration of the £10 million Armed Forces Covenant Fund, each year. AFCFT Funding Themes

- 1. Non-core healthcare services for Veterans.
- 2. Removing barriers to family life.
- 3. Extra support, both in and after Service, for those that need help.
- 4. Measures to integrate military and civilian communities and allow the Armed Forces community to participate as citizens



<https://covenantfund.org.uk/>

""The difference when agencies actually collaborate is night and day. You see better outcomes, people feel more supported, and things don't get missed."

Thrive Together Focus Group Participant (family member)- 2024

How can you support the Armed Forces Community?



Defence Medical
Welfare Service
Supporting
the frontline

- Identify them! “Have you ever served in the Armed Forces or are you immediately related to someone who has?”
- Do you know how many members of the Armed Forces Community work for you?
- Can you identify an Armed Forces champion for your organisation?
- Could they represent your organisation at local Armed Forces Partnership meetings?
- Could you include an Armed Forces module on your induction training?
- Do your HR policies support the families of serving personnel or reservists?
- Have you signed the Armed Forces Covenant, or have you applied for the Employer Recognition Scheme?
- Have you considered the implications of the Armed Forces Covenant Legal Duty, and the upcoming changes on your organisation? Do you pay due regard to the Armed Forces in your work?



Statutory Resources

include, not limited to:



Defence Medical
Welfare Service
Supporting
the frontline

- [Op Courage: The Veterans Mental Health Service \(NHS\)](#)
- [Op Restore: The Veterans Physical Health & Wellbeing Service \(NHS\)](#)
- [The Veterans Orthopaedic Service](#)
- [Op Nova: Supporting Veterans in the Justice System \(pre/post release/ at risk\) \(NHS\)](#)
- [Op Fortitude: Supporting Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.](#)
- [Op Ascend: Employment Service supporting veterans and their families.](#)
- [Veterans Welfare Service: Supporting Veterans and families with benefits, compensation & bereavement support](#)
- [Career Transition Partnership \(CTP\)](#)
- [Defence Transition Service \(DTS\)](#)
- [GP Veteran Friendly Accreditation](#)
- [Veterans Covenant Healthcare Alliance](#)
- [Veteran Friendly Framework for Care Homes](#)
- [Togetherall for the Armed Forces Community](#)
- [DWP Armed Forces Champions](#)

New initiatives in progress:

[VALOUR: A new Government support system for veterans.](#)

Interactive Service Map

Digital Veterans ID Card

Resources for organisations – Veterans Covenant Healthcare Alliance

Local Resources

Include, not limited to!

[Stepway](#)

[SSAFA Worcestershire](#)

[YSS Remember Veterans and Veterans Families First](#)

[DMWS Community Caseworker](#)

[DMWS Hospital Based Welfare Officer](#)

[Armed Forces Veterans Breakfast Clubs](#)

Host of National Services operating with local team:

[The Poppy Factory](#)

[Help for Heroes](#)

[The Warrior Programme](#)

[The Royal British Legion](#)

[BLESMA](#)

[Blind Veterans](#)

[Fighting With Pride](#)



Defence Medical
Welfare Service
Supporting
the frontline



National Resources

A snapshot of almost 2000 charities!

National Thrive Together Portfolio
Defence Medical Welfare Service
Combat Stress
Scotty's Little Soldiers
The Ripple Pond
Little Troopers
BLESMA
Blind Veterans
Fighting With Pride
SSAFA
The Royal British Legion
Help For Heroes

Walking with the Wounded
Forces Pension Society
Forward Assist
Waterloo Uncovered
Mission Motorsport
The Poppy Factory
Tom Harrison House
The Battle Back Centre

[Female Veterans Transformation Programme](#)
[LGBT+ Veterans Reparations Scheme](#)



Defence Medical
Welfare Service
Supporting
the frontline



COBSEO – The Confederation of Service Charities

Find support for veterans and their families - GOV.UK

Thrive Together Programme Midlands Region Monthly Update September 2025

Registered charity in England and Wales (1087210) and in Scotland (SC045460) Company Limited by Guarantee No. 04185635 (England and Wales)

Want to know more?



[About the Worcestershire Armed Forces Covenant | Worcestershire County Council](#)

[Covenant Legal Duty toolkit - Armed Forces Covenant](#)

[Armed Forces Awareness Training](#)

[E-learning - Armed Forces Network](#)

[Factsheets - Armed Forces Network](#)

[AFCFT Thrive Together – DMWS – Portfolio & Consultation Data, including Public Health data and VCSE Consultation Report.](#)

[Thrive Together National Portfolio](#)

THRIVEMIDLANDS@DMWS.ORG.UK





Any questions?

ThriveMidlands@DMWS.Org.UK

