



Westbourne Medical Centre

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:

Westbourne Medical Centre

Signed: *Dr R Schuster Bruce*

Name: Dr Robert Schuster Bruce

Position: General Practitioner

Date: 12 April 2021



The Armed Forces Covenant

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.



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Section 1: Principles of The Armed Forces Covenant

1.1 We, **Westbourne Medical Centre**, will endeavour 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*
- *in some circumstances special treatment may be appropriate especially for the injured or bereaved.*

Section 2: Demonstrating our Commitment

2.1 To those who proudly protect our nation, who do so with honour, courage, and commitment, the Armed Forces Covenant is the nation's commitment to you.

It is a pledge that together we acknowledge and understand that those who serve, or who have served, in the armed forces and their families, should be treated with fairness and respect in the communities and society they serve with their lives.

We recognise the value serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families bring to our communities, businesses and our country. We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, by:

- **Promoting the Armed Forces Veteran Friendly Practice Accreditation:** Promoting the fact that we are an Armed Forces-friendly organisation to our staff, patients, visitors, suppliers, commissioners and contractors and wider public.
- **Ensuring equality of access to healthcare:** The Armed Forces community should enjoy the same standard of, and access to healthcare as that received by any other UK citizen in the area they live.
- **Prioritising Treatment:** Veterans should receive priority treatment for a condition which relates to their service, subject to clinical need.
- **Upholding the NHS Constitution:** The NHS Constitution states '*The NHS will ensure that in line with the Armed Forces Covenant, those in the Armed Forces, reservists, their families and veterans are not disadvantaged in accessing health services in the area they reside*'.



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