



ARMED FORCES  
COVENANT

PROUDLY  
SUPPORTING  
THOSE WHO  
SERVE.



Leeds  
CITY COUNCIL  
ARMED FORCES  
COVENANT

# Leeds City Council Armed Forces Presentation

29<sup>th</sup> September 2025



Association for  
Public Service  
Excellence



# The Leeds Team



## Leeds City Council Armed Forces Leads

**Cllr Jane Dowson – Armed Forces Champion**

**Cllr Tom Hinchcliffe – Chair of the Armed Forces Covenant Board**

**Cllr Asghar Khan – Armed Forces Equality Lead**

## Leeds City Council Armed Forces Champions.

**Cllr Billy Flynn – Conservative Group Armed Forces Champion**

**Cllr Simon Brown – Morley Borough Independent Group Armed Forces Champion**

## Leeds City Council lead Officers

**John Ebo - Armed Forces lead officer**

**David Hornsby – Armed Forces support officer**

**Emma McGrath – Armed Forces covenant support officer**

**Helen Taylor – Leeds Armed Forces Day and Armed Forces Festival Lead**

## Leeds City Council Officers Working Group





# Armed Forces Portfolio

## Armed Forces Covenant Duty and Commitment

&

## Recognition, Support & Remembrance



Leeds Armed Forces Festival

Armed Forces Day/Festival

Remembrance Sunday

Bligney Sunday

Ceremonial Events

Veteran Breakfasts

Military Families in LCC



# Engaging with Local & National





# Pride in our GOLD achievement

**GOLD  
AWARD  
HOLDER**  
Est. 2023



Leeds City Council awarded Armed Forces Covenant Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award 2023



#GoldER523

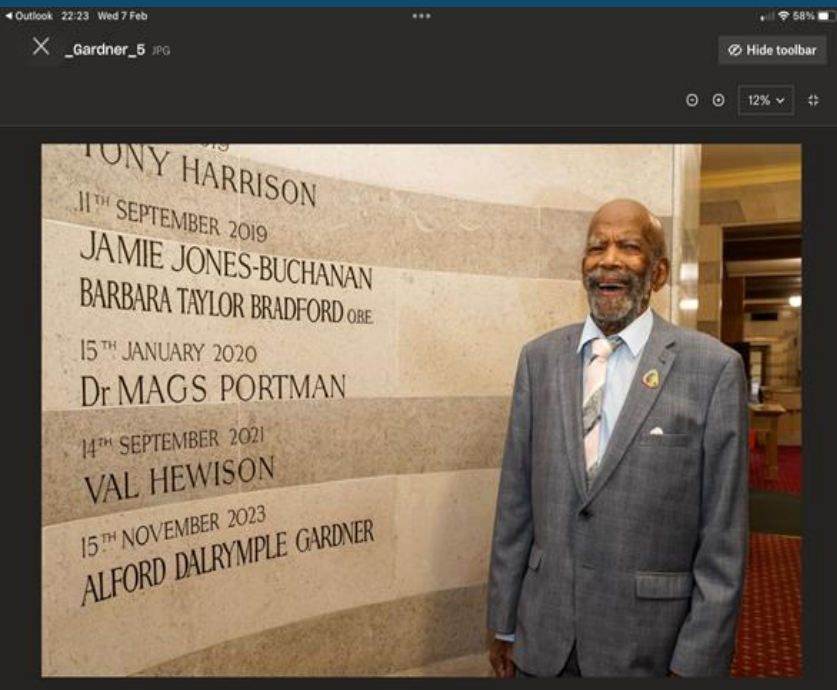
# VETERAN SUPPORT & ORGANISATION

- Covenant Board - Leeds Leadership and Outcomes
- Strong membership across region
- Shared learning with Yorkshire local Authorities
- Veteran lived experiences and story to direct activity
- "Dwayne's story – Walking with the wounded national campaign"
- Fighting with Pride





# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & AWARENESS











# Leeds Armed Forces Day

29 June 2025



[Leeds Armed Forces Day](#)

[Plan Your Visit](#)

[Armed Forces Day Festival](#)

[Contact Us](#)



- Sunday 29 June 2025
- 11am - 4pm
- Briggate, Leeds City Centre
- Great for families

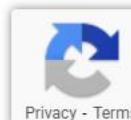
04  
Days

23  
Hours

01  
Minutes

**PROUD TO SHOW OUR SUPPORT**

**Armed Forces Day** is a chance to show your support for the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community: from currently serving



# INAUGURAL LEEDS ARMED FORCES FESTIVAL



A month-long extravaganza of themed activities, shows, talks, and exhibitions, culminating in the traditional city centre-based Armed Forces Day event on Sunday, 30 June.





# SUCCESSSES

## CREDIT THEIR SERVICE



### Credit their Service

A year of progress in fixing  
unfairness in the benefits system





**DWAYNE's success story in Leeds anchors National Campaign**





# YORKSHIRE MILITARY BUSINESS EXPO

Supported By Leeds City Council







# Leeds Armed Forces Annual Briefing

## LEEDS ARMED FORCES ANNUAL BRIEFING *Nov 2024*



### FOREWORD FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES LEWIS, LEADER OF LEEDS CITY COUNCIL



With nearly 20,500 veterans calling Leeds home, we are incredibly proud of our city's historic links with the armed forces and we recognise how important it is to provide targeted support and services to help those veterans, their families and all current serving members of the armed forces in Leeds.

At the council we are committed to improving our support offer for the armed forces community, and to being an exemplar in terms of the public services we provide them and in our role as an employer.

To demonstrate this, we are both proud signatories of the Armed Forces Covenant, and we are proud holders of the Employer Recognition Gold Award.

In a sign of our continued commitment to make a tangible difference to veterans and the whole community, we were also pleased earlier this year to fully sign up to the Royal British Legion's "Credit their Service" campaign, when we stopped treating military compensation as income in benefit calculations.

The council takes its commitments to the armed forces community seriously. We recognise the huge sacrifices made by members of the armed forces and their families in protecting and defending the country's interests, and on behalf of the council I would like to say a huge thank you for all that they do.





# CHALLENGES

- Improving awareness with our frontline services
- Delivering consistent training on service delivery across a large cohort of staff (14,000) of which 6000 frontline
- Secure funding for bespoke support activities
- ERS PRINCIPLES
  - Commitment** (good)
  - Integration** (work in progress)
  - Impact** (work in progress)
  - Engagement** (good)



# NEXT STEPS - LOOKING FORWARD

- Op Valour – Extended Covenant Duty
- West Yorkshire as part of Op Valour set up and role of Leeds
- West Yorkshire Combined Authority collaboration with new Armed Forces Champion

