Armed Forces Community Handbook

Military Families Edition

ARMED FORCES COVENANT

Connect to support Lincolnshire



Foreword

“It is a real honour to introduce this new Armed Forces Community Handbook for Lincolnshire. This guide brings together the organisations and resources to help every military family find the connection, confidence and support they need.

I’ve seen the importance of community from both sides: as someone who has deployed and as the one left at home while my partner deployed. It can be isolating to move to a new area with no immediate support structure and unfamiliar terminology; in those moments, knowing where to turn matters.

This handbook is designed to help families feel connected, informed and part of the wider Armed Forces family, wherever they live. It brings together clear advice and practical help across Lincolnshire so no one feels they must navigate things alone.

I am proud to commend it and grateful to all the organisations who support our Armed Forces community.”

Helen Seymour, former Royal Air Force pilot



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Lincolnshire Children's Centres

BEST START FAMILY HUBS AND CHILDREN'S CENTRES

Moving to a new area with young children can be challenging, especially when family and friends are far away. Lincolnshire's Best Start Family Hubs and Children's Centres provide a welcoming place for families to connect, access support and help children thrive. You can access support from pregnancy – such as free antenatal education, stay-and-play sessions, baby groups, parenting support, midwifery appointments and child health clinics. Our centres are a great way to meet other local families, build friendships and find out what's available in your community. All services are free, and you can attend any of our 47 Centres across Lincolnshire. Whether you're newly posted to the area or have lived here for years, we're here to help give your child the best start in life.
Scan our QR code to find out more.

www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/beststartinlife

LINCOLNSHIRE MILITARY CARE NAVIGATOR

The Lincolnshire Military Care Navigator is an NHS-funded role that bridges the gap between the NHS, military services, and the Armed Forces community. Supporting serving personnel, reservists, veterans, and their families, the Navigator provides advice, signposting, and advocacy to help people access healthcare, wellbeing, and support services while navigating the unique challenges of military life.

david.james28@nhs.net **07577 742474**

RAF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

Community Development Officers deliver high-quality community development, youth services, play work and early years provision that support Service Personnel, their families, and the wider RAF community, both in the UK and overseas.

Air-People-PFSpt-ComDev-Mlbx@mod.gov.uk

THE RAF HIVE SERVICE

Your gateway to information, support and signposting for Service personnel and their families, whether living on or off unit.
Find your local HIVE and contact details via the RAF HIVE Service Finder:

www.raf.mod.uk/community-support/serving-families/hive-finder

Alternatively, contact the HIVE Service Management Team for support and signposting: **Air-People-PFSpt-HIVEMlbx@mod.gov.uk**

Local Connections

MUMS IN SLEAFORD

Mums in Sleaford is a local community group created to bring mums and families together, help people make new friends and create a supportive local network with ambitions to grow. The group is a welcoming space where mums can connect with others, share recommendations, ask questions and get involved in activities within the local community.

Mums in Sleaford

neveatsleafordmumsgroup@gmail.com

RAF LINCOLNSHIRE SEN SUPPORT NETWORK



This initiative has been formed to serve as a one-stop shop for all Forces Families to seek advice, direction, guidance, experience, knowledge, and most importantly, a safe space to talk and discuss anything Special Educational Needs. It provides access to guidance and lived experiences that can help families navigate decisions and next steps. A supportive community where families can share challenges, successes, and strategies in a non-judgmental environment. Offering clear signposting to relevant agencies, policies, and services that can assist in planning, advocacy, and provision. There are also organised events, funded/non funded and regular coffee mornings with experts in there to provide direction & guidance.

Dai.Lawrence227@mod.gov.uk

MILITARY MOVE AND MINGLE

Funded by The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust, CVS Lincolnshire helps serving families new to Lincolnshire feel settled and connected.
They help families to:

- Find clear, accessible information about their new area
- Meet others and build a local support network, helping reduce feelings of isolation or loneliness
- Discover local activities and opportunities that support wellbeing and help families feel at home

vanessa@cvslincolnshire.org.uk **07458 016054**

THE MILITARY COWORKING NETWORK

The network believes that military spouses and partners deserve to have fulfilling and successful careers alongside military life, and beyond.
They are here to help you navigate the challenges, unlock your potential, achieve your professional dreams, and create the perfect future for you.
All online events are free to attend, and hub membership is just £30 per year.

info@militarycoworking.uk **www.militarycoworking.uk**

Useful Contacts & Information

SSAFA Military Families

SSAFA helps the families of all armed forces personnel and veterans, whether you need immediate help or long-term support.

0800 260 6780

www.ssafa.org.uk/get-help/military-families



Lincolnshire Holiday Activities and Food (HAF)

The Lincolnshire Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is a government-funded initiative designed to provide free holiday clubs for children from reception to year 11 who receive benefits-related free school meals. Participants can enjoy fun activities, learn about nutrition, and develop new skills while having the opportunity to socialise and meet new friends.

www.eequ.org/lincolnshirehaf

Liaise

Liaise is Lincolnshire's Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS).
They provide confidential and impartial information, advice and support to children and young people up to the age of 25, with SEN and disabilities, and their parents and carers.

www.liaiselincolnshire.org.uk

Forces Families Jobs

Forces Families Jobs (FFJ) is the free careers platform for family members of currently serving UK personnel, run for you by the tri-Service Families Federations. They understand the unique challenges, and opportunities, that being part of a serving military family can bring to your own career journey.

help@forcesfamiliesjobs.co.uk

www.forcesfamiliesjobs.co.uk

Visit Lincolnshire

Discover a host of exciting things to do in Lincolnshire. From rolling countryside with historic market towns and villages, to an award winning coastline and Britain's Best Small City, there is so much to see and do in this county of contrasts.

www.visitlincolnshire.com

Useful Contacts & Information

Faith in the Community Armed Forces Lead

As Faith in the Community Armed Forces Lead, Deacon Helen Gardner offers spiritual and pastoral support to service families as they settle into civilian life. By connecting them with welcoming local faith events, groups and further help, she enables families to build new friendships, feel less alone and find a renewed sense of identity and purpose.

helengardner76@icloud.com 07958 940263

H.A.Y Lincolnshire & Community Connectors

H.A.Y. Lincolnshire is an NHS-supported online directory that lists over 600 local groups, activities, and wellbeing services across Lincolnshire. Community Connectors bring organisations, services, and community groups together for the greater benefit of individuals in their local area. By building strong local connections, they help people access the support, activities, and information they need to improve their health and wellbeing.

www.haylincolnshire.co.uk/meet-the-team



Celebrate Military Children's Month and Wear Purple Day

Every April, schools, early years settings, colleges, businesses, community groups, public services, and organisations across Lincolnshire are invited to come together to celebrate Military Children's Month by taking part in Wear Purple Day. Purple represents all branches of the Armed Forces and recognises the unique experiences, resilience, and contributions of military children and young people. By wearing purple, sharing messages of support, and raising awareness, we can help military-connected children feel seen, valued, and celebrated within our communities. Together, let's make Lincolnshire a county that proudly champions its military children.

www.gov.uk/guidance/month-of-the-military-child



Family Federations

RAF FAMILIES FEDERATION

The RAF Families Federation exists to make life better for Service personnel, whether single, married, in a long-term relationship or separated, whether full-time or Reserve, and their families, at home and overseas. We provide reliable information on the topics that matter most to you, support you through to the resolution of unresolved problems resulting from Service life and gather evidence to help push for long-term positive change for our people.

enquiries@raf-ff.org.uk

01780 781650

www.raf-ff.org.uk

ARMY FAMILIES FEDERATION

The Army Families Federation serves as the independent voice for Army families, working to improve their quality of life wherever they are stationed around the world. The charity offers confidential advice and guidance on a range of issues unique to military life, including housing, education and employment.

contact@aff.org.uk

01264 554004

www.aff.org.uk

THE NAVAL FAMILIES FEDERATION

The Naval Families Federation (NFF) exists to give Royal Navy and Royal Marines families a voice and representation to the Ministry of Defence, Ministers, other Government Departments, the Chain of Command, and civilian service providers.
It provides support and guidance on matters affecting the daily lives of Naval Service families, acting as an advocate when appropriate to resolve complex issues.

contactus@nff.org.uk

023 9265 4374

www.nff.org.uk

Connect to support Lincolnshire

The Armed Forces Community Directory in Lincolnshire is a resource that connects individuals and families in the armed forces community to various support services.

It includes a comprehensive list of national, regional, and local organisations providing support and advice to service personnel, reservists, veterans and their families, and covers a wide range of topics, including mental health, education, housing, and employment support. The directory also features interactive maps showing where veterans live across Lincolnshire, helping families locate local support services. The Armed Forces Community directory is part of the Armed Forces Covenant, which ensures that those who serve or have served in the armed forces are treated fairly and respectfully.

Need help or support?

Physical & Mental Health
Finance, Benefits & Hardship
Children, Young People & Families
Employment & Training
Support & Social Groups
Housing & Homelessness

lincolnshire.connecttosupport.org/armed-forces-community-directory

Paul_Drury@n-kesteven.gov.uk for more information

