

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY WITHIN THE SOLENT



A 2022 needs assessment prepared on behalf of the Solent Armed Forces Covenant Partnership Board

Who is included

Armed Forces (AF) personnel and their families, and veterans living within the 4 local authorities of Portsmouth, Gosport, Southampton and the Isle of Wight.

Key findings

Councils and other partners work well together to meet the Armed Forces Covenant Duty.

Better data capture would allow this be assessed more effectively.

Funding constraints on public services and the pandemic have impacted on Armed Forces communities and on public services' ability to support them.

Local providers in the Voluntary and Community Sector delivering support to the Armed Forces community are a major strength.

What we know about the size of the AF Community

9,300

regular serving personnel

883 reservists

31,255

who previously served¹

Percentage of population

3.1% in Southampton

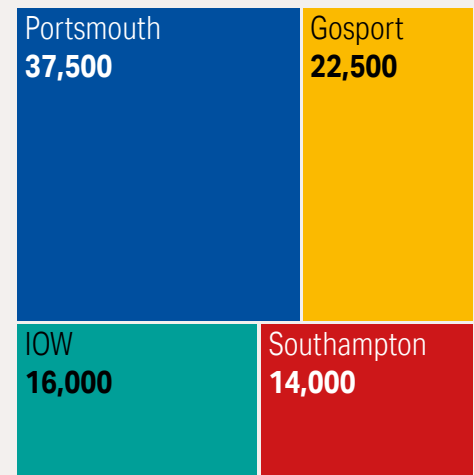
5.4% in Portsmouth

6% on IoW

12.5% in Gosport

Estimated total size of Armed Forces Community in Solent

90,000



Housing

Service Family Accommodation for over **4,000** people in the Solent area.

744 spaces for veterans to be housed in **veteran-specific accommodation**, and 1 veteran-specific care home.

Policies in place in all areas to ensure **no disadvantage in access to social housing**.

Health and Wellbeing

20

Veteran Friendly GP practices

5

accredited Veteran Aware Hospital Trusts including 2 with Gold 'Defence Employer Recognition'

500

current or former Armed Forces personnel supported by the Alcohol Specialist Nurse Service at QA Hospital

1,000+

visits by veterans to local Veterans Outreach Support drop-ins in 2022 alone

Challenges – access to health services for AF Community (similar to civilian population), access to data to understand AF-specific issues

Children and Young People

Estimates of the **total cohort of children (0-15)** from Armed Forces families could be up to **9,000**

2,200 pupils in receipt of **Service Pupil Premium**

Attainment of Service children equal to or better than peers. Challenges remain with impact of increased mobility

31 schools and **833 Service children** supported through 'Pompey's Military Kids'

>300 Service children supported at Gosport and Fareham Multi-Academy Trust