



Barnsley – the place
of possibilities.

Armed Forces Community Needs Assessment



**ARMED FORCES
BARNLSLEY**



BARNLSLEY
Metropolitan Borough Council

Introduction

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 bereaved. [1]

Barnsley Council is committed to upholding the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant and this needs assessment builds on this commitment by working with our local Armed Forces Community to develop a greater understanding of what challenges they face to help us improve services to meet their needs.

We have used data from the 2021 Census, surveys and from discussions with members of the local Armed Forces Community to develop the priorities set out in this document.

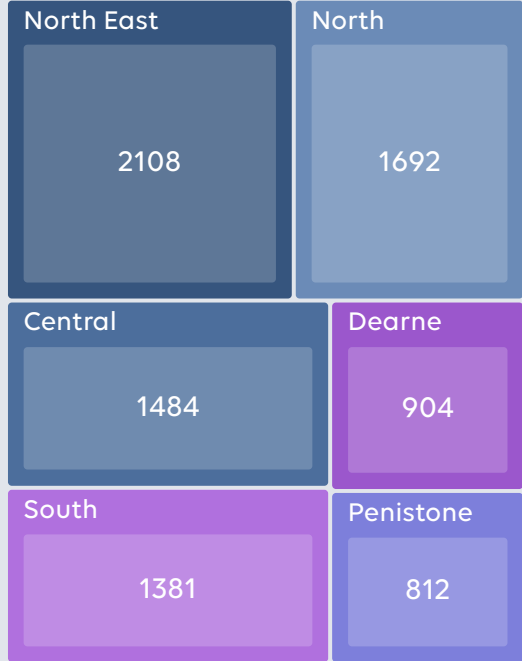
Our Armed Forces Community

8,321 people in Barnsley identified as being a Veteran in the 2021 Census. The total Armed Forces Community is likely to be much higher as this includes dependents and families of veterans, those still serving, Reservists and cadets.

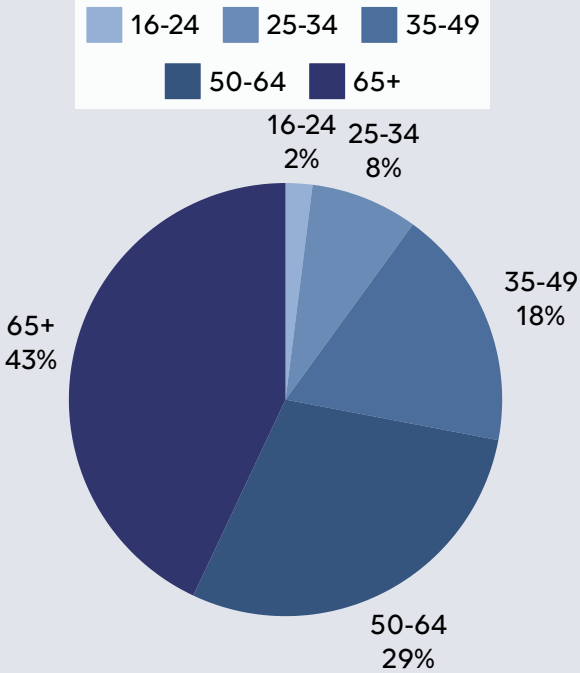
Gender
87% male, 13% female



Where they live?



Their age



1 Armed Forces Covenant, Ministry of Defence

What they told us

Our research identified six main challenges faced by members of the Armed Forces Community when transitioning into civilian life. These six categories will form the priorities for the Barnsley Armed Forces Covenant.

Housing

Improved coordination of housing options during the military notice period to ensure housing can be secured in a timely manner on exit.



Employment

Better recognition of transferrable military skills, and improved promotion of the benefits of employing ex-military personnel. Support for service leavers to access civilian employment.



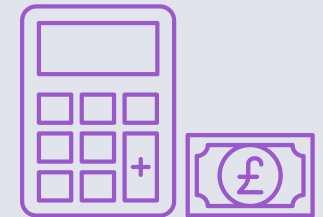
Physical and mental health

Increased identification of ex-military personnel by primary care practitioners, and an understanding of the unique issues experienced by those who have served.



Finance and debt

Support to ensure Veterans and their families understand the financial responsibilities they will face when they transition back into civilian life.



Education

Better coordination of school admissions to ensure places are available on exit from the military, and in proximity of housing. Supporting Veterans to enhance their civilian qualifications.



Adjusting to civilian life

Maintaining the unique bond and camaraderie between Veterans to support their transition into civilian life and improves their wellbeing. Ensuring service families are supported.

