



Edinburgh





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# Foreword

A message from Edinburgh's Armed Forces Champion



*As Armed Forces Champion for Edinburgh, I am delighted to welcome you to our area's Service Community.*

*This guide is your starting point for useful information about housing and welfare services, military and civic support, for those who have served, are Serving Personnel and their families.*

*We are committed in Edinburgh to recognising the immense value Serving Personnel, Reservists and military families bring to our Capital and to our communities. As part of this, we have many people in our city who are working together to help prevent people from being disadvantaged as a result of their service, and I hope this guide helps to highlight the support which is on offer.*

*An example is the Council's Housing Service, where time spent in the Forces is recognised as years of tenure. If you are a Veteran and declare yourself to us within three years of leaving the Forces, we can count this service as residency in Edinburgh.*

*Edinburgh is also home to a number of organisations and charities which have signed the Armed Forces Covenant and have publicly made their own promises of support – I hope you find all of the support you need right here and at our website [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20272/armed\\_forces\\_and\\_veterans](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20272/armed_forces_and_veterans)*

*I work closely with Edinburgh Garrison and the Veterans Charities in the city. We are here to provide advice and contacts for Veterans and their families for areas of concern and, if there is anything I can do, please do not hesitate to contact me on [lord.provost@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:lord.provost@edinburgh.gov.uk)*

Yours sincerely

**The Right Honourable Lord Lieutenant and  
Lord Provost of Edinburgh  
Frank Ross**

## A message from Edinburgh Garrison Commander



*Leaving the Armed Forces and returning to civilian life is a daunting step, but the Edinburgh and Lothian area is a good place to do it. You should be reassured to know that most Service Leavers and their families make a hugely successful transition, building on the skills they have acquired during their service to become well-established, valued members of their community.*

*I spend much of my time trying to ensure that local authorities and businesses understand the valuable skills and experience that Service Leavers can bring to them. The good news is that our local authorities are listening; the City of Edinburgh Council, Midlothian, East and West Lothian have all signed up to the Armed Forces Covenant, pledging action to ensure that Service Personnel are not disadvantaged by their service. All the local authorities are demonstrably eager to 'do right' by the Armed Forces Community and my team is working closely with them.*

*The support is out there, and this guide aims to explain how you can find it, whether you have questions about employment, housing, health, education for you or your children, benefits or social and business networks. It's whole life support too, not just for the immediate period of transition from the military to civilian life.*

*Most Service Leavers and their families are proud of their service, but we're not good at telling people about it. If you take nothing else away from this guide, I urge you, when seeking support or assistance from your local authority (whether it's in the GP surgery, looking for employment, or trying to manage your children's schooling) to tell them that you or your partner served in the Armed Forces. We are encouraging the Edinburgh and Lothian local authorities and businesses to ask the question, and, more importantly, to know what to do when you say 'yes'. Being ex-Forces may not push you to the front of the queue, but it should ensure that you can close any gaps, whether you're aware of them or not.*

*And I'd like to hear your concerns and feedback on what work I still need to do to ensure that the ex-Service Community continues to have the support it deserves from society in the Edinburgh and Lothian area.*

**Lt Col Hugo Clark**  
**Edinburgh Garrison Commander, 0131 310 5020**

# Introduction

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The City of Edinburgh Council has made a pledge to support Her Majesties Armed Forces. As part of this pledge they have signed up to the Armed Forces Covenant. The City of Edinburgh Council has chosen to produce an information booklet to help those leaving the Armed Forces settle in Edinburgh. Their aim is to make transition as easy as possible should you choose to live in the area.

## The Armed Forces Community

What is the Armed Forces Community? The Armed Forces Community comprises current and former Service Personnel (Regular, Reserve – Territorial as was – and National Service) and their families, from the Royal Navy, British Army, and Royal Air Force, as well as members of the Merchant Navy who have served on board a commercial vessel in support of UK military operations. Any former member of the above may be referred to as a ‘Veteran’ or as ‘ex-Forces’.

## What is the Armed Forces Covenant?

The Armed Forces Covenant refers to a pledge made by the UK Government on behalf of the nation as a whole to ensure that Serving Personnel, Veterans and their families are not disadvantaged as the result of service. It reflects an understanding that the duties, rights and responsibilities of members of the Armed Forces are different from the rest of society, that the demands, obligations and risks of the job are unlike those in any other occupation or profession, and that in return Veterans and those currently serving should be treated fairly and supported when in need.

For more information about the Covenant go to [www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk](http://www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk)

## Is this booklet for me?

If you have served at least one day in the Armed Forces you are classed as a Veteran regardless of your rank, gender, age or reason for leaving. You may have had time to plan your discharge or this may have happened suddenly. Whatever your discharge circumstances this booklet is to help you settle into your new life.

The City of Edinburgh Council also has a dedicated webpage for members of the Armed Forces Community as well [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20272/veterans](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20272/veterans) with a downloadable PDF of useful information [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/10811/lothian\\_armed\\_forces\\_community\\_leaflet](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/10811/lothian_armed_forces_community_leaflet)

# Edinburgh

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Edinburgh is Scotland's compact, hilly capital. It has a medieval Old Town and elegant Georgian New Town with gardens and neoclassical buildings. Looming over the city is Edinburgh Castle, home to Scotland's crown jewels and the Stone of Destiny, used in the coronation of Scottish rulers. Arthur's Seat is an imposing peak in Holyrood Park with sweeping views, and Calton Hill is topped with monuments and memorials.

There are around 1,500 Serving Armed Forces Personnel living and contributing in the Edinburgh area. There are four regular army sites: Dreghorn and Redford Barracks; Glencorse (in Midlothian); and Edinburgh Castle. The service community includes two regular Army regiments, 34 regular minor units and 15 reserve units.

As you can imagine being Scotland's capital city, there are excellent transport links to the rest of Scotland as well as links to England through the East Coast and West Coast train lines and indeed the rest of the world through Edinburgh airport. In 2010, Edinburgh attracted around 3.27 million visitors to the city which generated just over £1 billion. By 2015, the number increased to 3.85 million and £1.32 billion in visitor expenditure. Well over a third (38%) of visitors to Edinburgh are from outside the UK. Edinburgh is also home to the internationally recognised Edinburgh Festival Fringe which is the world's largest arts festival, in August 2018 it spanned 25 days and featured more than 55,000 performances of 3,548 different shows in 317 venues.



# Housing

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Finding somewhere to live can be challenging for many people when they choose to leave the Armed Forces. There are many factors to consider; this section will hopefully give you a better understanding of your options.

## Renting a property

You may wish to rent a property from a private landlord or apply for housing from a social landlord, either a local council or housing association.

## Social housing

Social housing homes are managed by housing associations, and the council and offer a secure tenancy. You can visit the City of Edinburgh Council's housing webpage at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/housing](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/housing). Here you can find out more information about applying for a council/housing association home. You will also find links to housing support and advice.

The City of Edinburgh Council has a policy that if you have left the UK regular Armed Forces within the last 3 years your application for a local authority house may be backdated to the date you entered the Armed Forces. You must provide written evidence of the date you enlisted and the date you left.

## Mid-market rent

Many organisations in Edinburgh provide homes for mid-market rent. These homes are aimed at helping people on low to modest incomes to access affordable, private rented accommodation. Information on mid-market rent options in Edinburgh can be found at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/midmarketrent](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/midmarketrent)

## Private rent

Homes for private rent can be found online through websites such as [www.rightmove.co.uk](http://www.rightmove.co.uk), [www.citylets.co.uk](http://www.citylets.co.uk) and [www.lettingweb.com](http://www.lettingweb.com)

If you want to rent a home privately, there are steps you should follow. For example, before you move into a property, you should sign a tenancy agreement which sets out the terms of your tenancy. You'll usually pay the first month's rent and the deposit on the day you move into the property – your deposit must then be lodged in a tenancy deposit scheme. This is a government backed service which ensures your deposit is safe. Your landlord must use one of three organisations authorised to run a deposit scheme. This means that when you leave the property your deposit will be returned in full

if the property is left in good condition and all rent and bills have been paid. Further information on private rent tenancies can be found at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20058/private\\_housing/1873/private\\_housing\\_tenancies\\_scotland\\_act](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20058/private_housing/1873/private_housing_tenancies_scotland_act)

Comprehensive information for tenants about private renting in Scotland can be found in the Private residential tenancies: tenant's guide at <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/private-residential-tenancies-tenants-guide/>

## Buying a home

If you wish to buy a home but cannot afford the total cost, there are a number of schemes that might be able to help you.

The Forces Help to Buy Scheme enables Service Personnel to borrow up to 50% of their salary (to a maximum of £25,000) to buy their first home, or to move to another property on assignment or as their families' needs change. More information can be found at [www.gov.uk/guidance/forces-help-to-buy](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/forces-help-to-buy)

The Scottish Government operates shared equity schemes which can help you to buy a home that is for sale on the open market, or to buy a new build home from a housing association or local council. Support is also offered through the Help to Buy (Scotland) Scheme to purchase a new build property from a participating builder. Funding for these schemes is provided by the Scottish Government and you can find out more about them at [www.mygov.scot/help-buying-home/](http://www.mygov.scot/help-buying-home/)

Edinburgh Council provides information on help for first time buyers and options for low cost ownership in the city [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20058/private\\_housing/320/help\\_for\\_first\\_time\\_buyers](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20058/private_housing/320/help_for_first_time_buyers)

## Further housing advice

The Armed Services Advice Project (ASAP) [www.adviceasap.org.uk](http://www.adviceasap.org.uk) provides free, impartial advice to members of the Armed Forces Community.

You can also visit Housing Options Scotland and download their military matters booklet [www.housingoptionsscotland.org.uk](http://www.housingoptionsscotland.org.uk) or visit the East of Scotland Housing Hub [www.eastscotlandhousingoptions.co.uk](http://www.eastscotlandhousingoptions.co.uk)

Alternatively you can go to [www.mygov.scot/veteran-housing/](http://www.mygov.scot/veteran-housing/) and download the Scottish Governments Housing Guide. This guide also has links to charity organisation that can offer support and advice.

# Education

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## Schools and nurseries

You can visit [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/schoolplaces](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/schoolplaces) where you will find out what schools are in your catchment area and how to apply to these schools. There is also information on applying for schools outside your catchment area.

You can also visit [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20014/schools\\_and\\_learning](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20014/schools_and_learning) where you can find further information about the schools in Edinburgh as well as nurseries and childcare, community centres and adult education amongst other things.

## Early years learning and childcare

Funded early learning and childcare is free to parents, but funded by the Scottish Government.

If your child is 3 or 4, you can get up to 600 hours a year (the equivalent of 16 hours a week if taken in term time). This will be increasing to 1140 hours a year by August 2020. You can claim your funded early learning and childcare place by visiting the local council's website. More information is available at [www.mygov.scot/childcare-costs-help/when-funded-early-learning-and-childcare-can-start/](http://www.mygov.scot/childcare-costs-help/when-funded-early-learning-and-childcare-can-start/)

Depending on whether you are eligible for certain benefits, you may also be entitled to funding for early learning and childcare if your child has turned 2. You can find more on entitlement and eligibility to childcare for children aged between 2 and 3 years old at [www.mygov.scot/childcare-costs-help/funded-early-learning-and-childcare/](http://www.mygov.scot/childcare-costs-help/funded-early-learning-and-childcare/)

Once your child qualifies for early learning and childcare, they will stay qualified.

## School age and stages

There are differences in the ages children start school across the UK, and children might start school later in Scotland than they would in England. Children start in Primary 1 and move up to the next class each year through to Primary 7. All children in Primaries 1–3 receive free school meals.

Children move up to secondary school automatically after primary school (aged 11 or 12 depending on when they started school). The secondary school curriculum has two phases – completion of the broad general education (S1–S3) and the senior phase (S4–S6).

## The school year

### Term time

The school year is broken into three terms which will include public holidays and may include a mid-term break (schools will be closed for one or two weeks).

- \* Autumn term begins in August and usually ends in December
- \* Spring term begins in January and will usually end in March/April
- \* Summer term begins in April and will usually end in June/early July

Term dates will vary depending on the local authority area. You can find term dates at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20074/schools/20/term\\_dates](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20074/schools/20/term_dates)

### My child needs extra support

Additional support for learning in Scotland is different to special educational needs in England.

In Scotland we understand that children from Service Families may need additional support to overcome barriers to learning which may arise because of the nature of their parent's work. An additional support need can be of short or long-term duration and can arise for any reason. We have a Scottish advice service for additional support for learning, where you will find useful information about when your child might be entitled to extra support. This can be found at [www.enquire.org.uk/](http://www.enquire.org.uk/)

Contact the local authority as early as possible if your child has significant or complex learning needs. Educators will want to begin communication with the family and child before a school move, if possible.

Additional information can be located on the Forces Children's Education website [www.forceschildrenseducation.scot](http://www.forceschildrenseducation.scot). This is a dedicated site for Armed Forces families that provides information about schools and communities and has links to local authority sites.

# Adult Education

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## Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)

The Scottish Qualifications Framework helps people of all ages and circumstances to access the education and training that is appropriate to them over their lifetime. It can help you plan your learning and develop progression routes to follow, whatever your situation may be.

The SCQF has recently undertaken a project to map the qualifications of Veterans to the SCQF (Scotland's Lifelong Learning Framework) – initially focusing on infantry soldiers.

Some of the qualifications you gained while serving may be recognised on the SCQF or may be English qualifications and therefore you may be concerned whether they will be recognised and accepted in Scotland by employers or by educational institutions.

Full details can be found at <https://scqf.org.uk/support/support-for-learners-parents/support-for-veterans/>

## Further education

If you are interested in starting a college or university course, there are many options in the Lothian areas:

### Edinburgh College

[www.edinburghcollege.ac.uk](http://www.edinburghcollege.ac.uk)

#### Sighthill Campus

Bankhead Avenue  
Edinburgh EH11 4DE

#### Granton Campus

350 West Granton Road  
Edinburgh EH5 1QE

#### Milton Road Campus

24 Milton Road East  
Edinburgh EH15 2PP

#### Midlothian Campus

46 Dalhousie Road  
Dalkeith EH22 3FR

## **West Lothian College**

[www.west-lothian.ac.uk](http://www.west-lothian.ac.uk)

Almondvale Crescent  
Livingston EH54 7EP

## **Edinburgh Napier University**

[www.napier.ac.uk](http://www.napier.ac.uk)

### **Craiglockhart Campus**

219 Colinton Road  
Edinburgh EH14 1DJ

### **Merchiston Campus**

10 Colinton Road  
Edinburgh EH10 5DT

### **Sighthill Campus**

9 Sighthill Court  
Edinburgh EH11 4BN

## **The University of Edinburgh**

[www.ed.ac.uk](http://www.ed.ac.uk)

Old College  
South Bridge  
Edinburgh EH8 9YL

## **Heriot-Watt University**

[www.hw.ac.uk](http://www.hw.ac.uk)

### **Edinburgh Campus**

Edinburgh EH14 4AS

## **Queen Margaret University**

[www.qmu.ac.uk](http://www.qmu.ac.uk)

Queen Margaret Drive  
Musselburgh EH21 6UU

These are just some of the colleges and universities in the area. You can find out more information on each of them by visiting their websites. All of the organisations mentioned have shown support for our Armed Forces Community and some have admission routes specifically aimed at ex-Service Personnel.

# Healthcare

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## Access to healthcare

Members of the UK Armed Forces and family members should have any previous NHS waiting times taken into account when moving to a new location, including to Scotland. The expectation is that treatment in your new location will be met within the waiting time standards, treatment time guarantee and according to clinical need.

## Registering with your local GP

When settled in a place of residence in Scotland your family should register with a local doctor – a general practitioner (GP). Your GP will be able to care for your health conditions and provide treatment if you become unwell. Any prescriptions prescribed by your GP are free of charge. You can find more information at [www.nhsinform.scot/care-support-and-rights/nhs-services/doctors/registering-with-a-gp-practice](http://www.nhsinform.scot/care-support-and-rights/nhs-services/doctors/registering-with-a-gp-practice)

## Registering with a dentist

Your family can get care, advice and treatment from NHS Scotland to keep your mouth, teeth and gums healthy. Scotland also provides free dental checks. You can find a dentist near you using the links at [www.nhsinform.scot/care-support-and-rights/nhs-services/dental/receiving-nhs-dental-treatment-in-scotland](http://www.nhsinform.scot/care-support-and-rights/nhs-services/dental/receiving-nhs-dental-treatment-in-scotland)

## Registering for your Baby Box

Every baby born and living in Scotland is entitled to a Baby Box. This is an opt-in scheme, and expectant parents register to receive their box via their midwife, at approximately 20 weeks.

Further information on Scotland's Baby Box can be found via the Scottish Government's ParentClub website at [www.parentclub.scot/baby-box](http://www.parentclub.scot/baby-box) or via your health professional.

## In an emergency

NHS 24 is Scotland's telephone service providing health advice 24 hours a day.

The telephone service allows people who feel unwell or those caring for them to obtain health advice if it is not possible to wait until they can visit their GP when the practice is next open. You can call them on 111 if you are ill or need any health services. Alternatively, you can access their website at [www.nhs24.scot](http://www.nhs24.scot)

The advice line is not intended as a substitute for obtaining an emergency ambulance service. For all life threatening emergencies you should still call 999.

## NHS Lothian main hospitals in the area:

Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh

51 Little France Crescent  
Edinburgh EH16 4SA

Western General Hospital

Crew Road South  
Edinburgh EH4 2XU

St John's Hospital Livingston

Howden Road West, Howden  
Livingston EH54 6PP

There are other NHS services in the area and these can be found online at [www.nhsinform.scot](http://www.nhsinform.scot)

## Mental health

NHS Scotland provides mental health services that offer a range of treatments and self-help advice for those experiencing mild, moderate or more complex mental health problems. The first point of call for accessing NHS care is usually your GP. You can discuss any issue with your GP, who can also arrange referral to more specialist services if that is necessary. You can find more details regarding support and services at [www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/mental-health](http://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/mental-health). There is also a free and confidential 24-hour helpline available for you to talk about mental health, which family members or carers can use too. You can access this through Combat Stress at [www.combatstress.org.uk/helpline](http://www.combatstress.org.uk/helpline)

In addition, <https://edspace.org.uk/> is a web-based service that helps signpost people to appropriate mental health services in Edinburgh.

### **Veterans First Point (VIP)**

VIP Lothian is made up of Veteran peer support workers, clinicians, therapists and an administration team. They provide:

- \* Peer support worker led caseload management of welfare issues
- \* Mental health assessment and treatment with both psychiatry and psychology
- \* Self-referral through afternoon drop-in, phone and email (we also accept referrals through GPs and other agencies)
- \* Peer support worker led activities including fly fishing, city walks, music groups, archery, etc
- \* In-house clinics from Citizen's Advice Bureau, Veterans UK and Edinburgh Housing Advice Project (EHAP)

[www.veteransfirstpoint.org.uk](http://www.veteransfirstpoint.org.uk)

### **Lothian Veterans Centre**

The Lothian Veteran Centre is a charity that was designed to meet the need for a Veterans drop-in centre with no appointment necessary allowing complex needs to be catered for in an environment which is familiar and friendly.

[www.lothiansveteranscentre.org.uk](http://www.lothiansveteranscentre.org.uk)

### **Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Clubs**

To help tackle isolation and loneliness, there are a number of breakfast clubs. For more information please see [www.afvbc.net/](http://www.afvbc.net/)

# Employment

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There are a number of ways to find work in Edinburgh and below is a list of the support services that we provide to help you in securing employment.

## Jobcentre Plus

Jobcentre Plus is committed to supporting Veterans, Service Leavers, Serving Personnel, their partners and families. It provides a number of programmes and services to help jobseekers, unemployed people, those with disabilities and others who may need extra help in finding work.

Jobcentre Plus works closely with the Ministry of Defence and other partners to provide support to Service Leavers, including resettlement advice, job searches or training. They work closely with a range of partners, including Veterans First Point, Glasgow Help for Heroes, Poppy Scotland, and Right Management. The organisation has Armed Forces Champions based in each Jobcentre Plus district. Job search support and advice for those who have left the service is available in all job centres, and specialist advisers can assist Service Leavers and their families in overcoming more complex barriers to employment.

Visit your nearest Jobcentre Plus for help with finding a job and information on any benefits you and your family might be entitled to, or visit the website at [www.gov.uk/browse/benefits/entitlement](http://www.gov.uk/browse/benefits/entitlement)

You can find further information surrounding the support services available at [www.mygov.scot/working-jobs/](http://www.mygov.scot/working-jobs/)

## Skills Development Scotland (SDS)

SDS provides careers information, advice and guidance, as well as work-based training programmes aimed at building career management skills. They support a wide range of pathways into work, including Modern Apprenticeships (further information below). There are SDS Careers Centres based in each local authority area which you can visit to access support, more information on these can be found at [www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk](http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk)

There is also an online service, My World of Work ([www.myworldofwork.co.uk](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk)), which can assist you through every stage of your working life. Anyone can access information on a wide range of subjects, including choosing a career, learning and training, applying for jobs and making a career change. You will find information on researching careers to building your CV. You can also access specific information and assistance for veterans and early service leavers through the dedicated page at [www.myworldofwork.co.uk/support-armed-forces-leavers-and-veterans](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/support-armed-forces-leavers-and-veterans)

## StartScotland

StartScotland will work with you to give you all the tools you need to help you get ready for work. You will work with your dedicated personal adviser who will be with you every step of the way – working through your barriers and challenges to help identify what support you need to help you make the transition back into the workplace.

You will get:

- \* a personalised employment action plan to help you meet your goals while giving you access to a wide range of specialist support if required such as health and wellbeing, basic skills, personal development and lots more
- \* the opportunity to gain accredited and vocational qualifications such as Level 1 City and Guilds in ICT, customer services and much more
- \* support to help you build on your existing skills and attributes to develop a professionally formatted CV
- \* help with searching and applying for jobs
- \* help with preparing for an interview such as interview coaching and conducting mock interviews
- \* the chance to take part in suitable work placements, work trials or volunteering opportunities
- \* the self-confidence you need to progress in work

To find out more information call 0800 049 7061 or visit [www.startscotland.scot/your-journey](http://www.startscotland.scot/your-journey)

## Next Steps Edinburgh

This is a new, impartial and free service based in your local area. Next Steps Edinburgh provide support for those seeking employment and people experiencing difficulties in the workplace. Their friendly staff team are on hand to answer any questions you may have and if they cannot help, they will ensure you are put in touch with the right service for you. They can help with:

- \* Money and benefits advice
- \* Assistance with job applications and support to arrange adjustments
- \* Support to source vacancies
- \* Job coaching within the workplace by an experienced employment worker
- \* Support to retain a job if you need it
- \* Signposting to other services in Edinburgh, if appropriate

For more information contact 0300 365 0025 or email [info@communityrenewal.org.uk](mailto:info@communityrenewal.org.uk)

## All in Edinburgh

All in Edinburgh is a service which supports people with a disability or long-term health condition to find and maintain paid jobs, providing a personalised service that meets each client's needs and aspirations. It is delivered by the Edinburgh Supported Employment Consortium which is made up of the Action Group, Forth Sector, Intowork and ENABLE Scotland. This support can include:

- \* Money and benefits advice
- \* Assistance with job applications and support to arrange adjustments
- \* Support to source vacancies
- \* Job coaching within the workplace by an experienced employment worker
- \* Support to retain a job if you need it
- \* Signposting to other services in Edinburgh, if appropriate

If you're interested in finding out what they can do to help you find a job, call 0300 0200 101 or email [info@allinedinburgh.org.uk](mailto:info@allinedinburgh.org.uk)

## Working in your local area

A wide range of jobs in the public and third sector are advertised on the My Job Scotland website. To search, view and apply for jobs in your local area visit [www.myjobscotland.gov.uk](http://www.myjobscotland.gov.uk)

## Regular Forces Employment Association (RFEA)

REFA exist to provide life-long, life changing support, jobs and training opportunities to Service Leavers and Veterans, irrespective of circumstances, rank, length of service, or reason for leaving. Founded in 1885 and operating across the UK, they have the specialist knowledge and understanding to bridge the gap between military life and civilian employment.

For more information check their website [www.rfea.org.uk/](http://www.rfea.org.uk/)



# Other Sources of Support

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## Benefits and social care

The City of Edinburgh Council have welfare rights advisers who can help you with problems surrounding benefits or your eligibility. [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20127/benefits\\_and\\_grants](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20127/benefits_and_grants)

Citizens Advice Scotland can help you find information on benefits and other issues like housing, debt and employment [www.cas.org.uk/bureaux](http://www.cas.org.uk/bureaux)

## Department of Work and Pensions (DWP)

The DWP is responsible for most welfare, pensions and child maintenance policy. They deal with the administration of a range of working age, disability and ill-health benefits.

As part of the Armed Forces Covenant, the DWP has initiatives that help current and former members of the Armed Forces and their families access Jobcentre Plus services. This includes having an Armed Forces Champion in every Jobcentre Plus district who ensures that the DWP provides support that meets the needs of the Armed Forces Community. See more information on the DWP and the Armed Forces at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/jobcentre-plus-services-for-the-armed-forces-and-their-families](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/jobcentre-plus-services-for-the-armed-forces-and-their-families)

## Veterans Welfare Service

The Veterans Welfare Service (VWS) are tri-service and part of the MOD. VWS provide support to enable the seamless transition from service to civilian life, assist bereaved families or respond to life events that present welfare needs. They achieve this by facilitating access to all appropriate services.

VWS provide one to one welfare advice to Veterans and their families.

Contact for Scotland: 0141 224 2709 or email [Veterans-UK-VWS-Scot-NI@mod.uk](mailto:Veterans-UK-VWS-Scot-NI@mod.uk)

## Other useful information

We have a great network of organisations in Scotland which can help and support the Armed Forces Community. For example:

**Legion Scotland**  
New Haig House  
Logie Green Road  
Edinburgh EH7 4HQ  
0131 550 1583  
[www.legionscotland.org.uk](http://www.legionscotland.org.uk)

**Poppyscotland**  
New Haig House  
Logie Green Road  
Edinburgh EH7 4HQ  
0131 557 2782  
[www.poppyscotland.org.uk](http://www.poppyscotland.org.uk)

**Veterans Scotland**  
[www.veteransscotland.co.uk](http://www.veteransscotland.co.uk)  
[www.veterans-assist.org/](http://www.veterans-assist.org/)

**Combat Stress**  
Call: 0800 138 1619  
Text: 07537 404 719  
[www.combatstress.org.uk](http://www.combatstress.org.uk)

**Veterans Gateway**  
0808 802 1212  
[www.veteransgateway.org.uk](http://www.veteransgateway.org.uk)

**Armed Forces Covenant**  
[www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk](http://www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk)

**Veterans UK**  
[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/veterans-uk](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/veterans-uk)

**Support in Mind Scotland**  
[www.supportinmindscotland.org.uk](http://www.supportinmindscotland.org.uk)

**SSAFA The Armed Forces Charity**  
New Haig House  
Logie Green Road  
Edinburgh EH7 4HR  
0131 557 1697  
[www.ssafa.org.uk](http://www.ssafa.org.uk)

**Veterans First Point**  
Floor K  
Argyle House  
3 Lady Lawson Street  
Edinburgh EH3 9DR  
0131 220 9920  
[www.veteransfirstpoint.org.uk](http://www.veteransfirstpoint.org.uk)

**Armed Service Advice Project (ASAP)**  
0808 800 1007  
[www.adviceasap.org.uk](http://www.adviceasap.org.uk)

**Shelter Scotland**  
<https://scotland.shelter.org.uk>

**Lothian Veterans Centre**  
11 Eskdail Court  
Dalkeith EH22 1AG  
0131 660 5537  
[www.lothiansveteranscentre.org.uk](http://www.lothiansveteranscentre.org.uk)

**Naval Families Federation**  
02392 654374  
<https://nff.org.uk>

**Army Families Federation**  
01264 382324  
<https://aff.org.uk>

**RAF Families Federation**  
01780 781650  
[www.raf-ff.org.uk](http://www.raf-ff.org.uk)



## HAPPY TO TRANSLATE

ترجمے کے لئے حاضر ہر سعیدنا توفیر الترجمة 很樂意翻譯

MOŻEMY PRZETŁUMACZYĆ আনন্দের সঙ্গে অনুবাদ করব

You can get this document on tape, in Braille, **large print** and various computer formats if you ask us. Please contact the Interpretation and Translation Service (ITS) on 0131 242 8181 and quote reference number 19-5481. The ITS can also give information on community language translations.

