

Case studies about people joining the council after leaving the military

CASE STUDY 1

Cheryl Huntbach – was in the RAF Reserves and has worked for the council for 11 years.

Why did you decide to join the council?

“I worked for the Local Authority in Derbyshire and when I was looking to relocate to Oxfordshire there was a vacancy that interested and suited me, so I went for it!

Where did you work before you came here?

“I worked in Derbyshire in schools, supporting children who had additional needs. I became a behaviour specialist assisting children who needed extra help to fully engage with learning.

How do your armed forces skills translate into the job you are doing now?

“I currently work as a Community Coordinator within the Locality Community Support Service (LCSS). I would say that being organised with a strong sense of teamwork have been two skills that have been the most important with my current role. As I support local organisations/charities with accessing support/funding, the ability to think on my feet and to try and find creative solutions to issues is a great asset.

What support has OCC given you as a member of the armed forces community?

“When I was in the RAF Reserves, I was able to take time off to complete my annual two-week residential courses which was vital so I was able to maintain my training and development.

Would you recommend OCC as an armed forces friendly employer?

“I would say yes, I have experienced some support in the past, but appreciate that there is currently more support available.”

CASE STUDY 2

Catherine Branton - is an armed forces spouse and has worked at the council for 10 months.

Why did you decide to join the council?

Honestly the hours were perfect for me as I was coming back to work after having my daughter and the job itself sounded really interesting.

Where did you work before you came here?

I was on maternity leave, but previous to that I was a team leader at Tesco Café.

How do your armed forces skills translate into the job you are doing now?

Living with a soldier has taught me a lot about patience and the ability to adapt and change plans at the drop of a hat.

What support has OCC given you as a member of the armed forces community?

As an employer OCC has been great. I have had a lot of support and flexibility of changing hours etc when I've have child care issues when my husband has been deployed. I can only comment on my team and manager and they have been great with regards to support and understanding.

Would you recommend OCC as an armed forces friendly employer?

Certainly, as an Armed Forces spouse.

CASE STUDY 3

Roger Hiley - Spent 10 years in the Life Guards (Household Cavalry). He has been with the council for 10 years full-time and been at the Riverside Centre for over 23 years.

Why did you decide to join the council?

The council gave me 'an offer I couldn't refuse!', I had been involved with the Riverside Centre as a volunteer, staff trainer and part time staff member, so when the opportunity to become the Interim Head was a possibility, I jumped at it.

Where did you work before you came here?

I was self-employed Farrier and before that in the Life Guards (Household Cavalry) for nearly 10 years, from school.

How do your armed forces skills translate into the job you are doing now?

"As a Head of Centre, I need to lead a team who work in a dynamic risk environment, the team needs to be able to follow instructions and process, but not be spoon feed solutions. I also need to manage the building, vehicle fleet and staffing HR issues. So that makes me a mix of a Squadron Quartermaster Corporal (SQMC) (Squadron Quartermaster Sergeant SQMS for the rest of the British army) - they have responsibility for all the vehicles, equipment and accommodation for an individual squadron of soldiers (140-200 people) and an Adventure Training Officer Commanding.

Would you recommend OCC as an armed forces friendly employer?

"Very much, OCC is a large employer with different directorates and services having different styles and cultures."