

Q&A re Warwickshire's Spouse Development course

Q: What is the Spouse Development course?

A: This course is for spouses/civil partners of personnel serving in the UK Armed Forces who are thinking about their potential and what they could do to develop themselves in terms of job prospects, career development, starting a business or being able to provide a service to the Armed Forces community.

If a spouse/civil partner is considering making changes in their life then this could be the course for them. The course is about helping them along their own particular journey. It is NOT prescriptive about any type of job or business opportunity. That is for the spouses themselves to decide.

The course is funded and developed for spouses/civil partners of serving personnel in recognition of the barriers they can face in job, career and business opportunities.

Q: Who can take part in the course?

A: Any spouse/civil partner of someone who is serving full time in the UK Armed Forces. Unfortunately, it is NOT open for spouses of Reservists or Veterans.

Q: The course is provided through Warwickshire County Council. Do I need to live in Warwickshire to attend?

A: No. You don't need to live in Warwickshire or have any connection to Warwickshire. We have spare places so, through colleagues in the Royal Navy, Army and RAF Families Federations and others we are making this opportunity as widely available as possible. The course will be available online.

Q: When does the course take place?

A: The course takes place on a Tuesday, starting 28 September. Each session lasts 1.5 hours although there may be some work to do between sessions.

There will be a morning slot with 10 places at 10am and an afternoon slot with 10 places at 1pm.

Q: How long does the course last for?

A: There are 10 weekly sessions between 28 September and 7 December, with a gap for Half Term.

Q: How much does it cost?

A: The course is FREE. It is funded by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust and Warwickshire County Council.

Q: What will the course cover?

A: The course is completely online and will cover the following 10 sessions:

1. Getting to know each other and setting a good foundation
2. Where are you NOW? Reflect & Reconnect
3. What is it that you really want? Refocus and Recommit
4. What's Stopping You? - Barriers
5. A Closer look at what's stopping you
6. Pulling it all together
7. Exploration of options such as Social Media Spouses, Unsung Hero, Running a Business, Careers Guidance as well as individual 1:1 session for each participant
8. As per week 7
9. As per week 7
10. Review, Evaluate & Celebrate!

The course will involve both 1:1 sessions with a Coach at the beginning and end of the course as well as group coaching throughout. Taster sessions will also be offered from a range of organisations providing support, training and guidance for UK Armed Forces spouses.

Q: Who is providing the training/coaching?

A: The Coach is Tina Smith, who is a Professional Certified Coach with the International Coach Federation and has been a Coach for over 10 years. Tina is employed by Adult and Community Learning Services of Warwickshire County Council to provide a range of coaching and training courses. Tina specialises in delivering courses to women who are experiencing changes in their lives in a number of ways.

Q: What equipment do I need to take part?

A: You will need a laptop, pc or tablet with a camera, speakers and microphone. You will also need a stable broadband connection and, given the length of the session, access to direct power rather than relying on battery power.

Q: What do people say about the course?

This quote comes from a Service spouse who has signed up for the course:

This course has come at just the right time for me. My husband is due to move locations and I am considering moving with him for the first time. The course seems like a fantastic opportunity to reflect on my experience and skills and build new ones. This will hopefully put me in the right direction when I begin to seek alternative employment. (Natalie)

Q: How do I get onto the course?

A: You will need to register for one of the online briefing sessions. These are taking place on Tuesday 7 September at either 1000 or 1300. This will be an opportunity to learn more about the course and find out if it is suitable for you.

After the briefing sessions you will be given a link to complete your application for the course if you feel it is right for you.

Q: How many places are available?

A: There are 10 spaces on the 10am course and 10 spaces on the 1pm course.

Q: What is the process for registering for the briefing session?

A: You can register via the QR code on the course flyer. When you click on the QR code or link you will need to:

- Search 'Personal Development and Life Skills'
- Click on 'Armed Forces Spouses' (in the top right hand corner)
- Choose Morning (Bramcote) or Afternoon (Kineton) session. *Ignore any reference to Warwickshire, Bramcote or Kineton, just choose which is the best session for you.*
- Click on the blue 'Enquire' button
- Complete the form and click 'Next' and continue through the online process

Q: What if I can't attend the briefing session on the 7th, but still want to do the course?

A: You can still attend the course, but you will need to go through the registration process and book onto one of the briefing sessions. Just leave a note saying you can't attend the 7th, but still want to apply for the course.

Q: I've seen this, but it has gone past the 7th September. I'd still like to apply so how do I do that?

A: Please email acl@warwickshire.gov.uk to see if there are any places left. If there are Adult and Community Learning services will send you a link to apply.

Phil Deakin,

Armed Forces Covenant Worker

Warwickshire County Council