



# Security and Armed Forces

Local Information Sheet No. 12

## The Work

- Do you enjoy a challenge?
- Are you fit, disciplined and ready to move away from home?
- Are you willing to wear a uniform and work variable hours?

There are opportunities for people like this in the Police, Fire and Ambulance services, the Army, Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force. If you are considering a career in the **Police, Fire or Ambulance** services, you will need to be at least 18 years of age, unless you are considering joining the administrative staff. The **Armed Forces** offer plenty of opportunities. All offer high quality training with good career prospects in many trades. A career in the armed forces is likely to involve working away from home.

## What's Happening?

The Army employs 100,000, the Royal Navy 33,500 and 45,200 work within the RAF. There are around 140,000 police officers employed in regional and non-geographic forces such as the British Transport Police. The UK private security industry employs more than 500,000, from security guards and door supervisors, through to close protection officers, alarm installation engineers and security consultants. The justice sector is complex and includes policing and law enforcement, public prosecution, court services, custodial care, and community justice. Most prison officers are employed by the Prison Service, run by the Government. In the UK there are approximately 29,600 prison officers. There are also some private prisons. There are national skills shortages for defence medical service; aircrew; submariners and Royal Signals.

See Work Matters for more labour market information (see page five - Easy ways to get useful information).

## Possible Job Titles

- |                           |                          |                                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Army Officer              | Firefighter/Firefighting | Royal Air Force (RAF) Airman/Woman |
| Army Soldier              | Manager                  | Royal Air Force (RAF) Officer      |
| Close Protection Officer/ | Nurse                    | Royal Navy Officer                 |
| Bodyguard                 | Parking Attendant        | Royal Navy Rating                  |
| Crime Scene Investigator  | Police Officer           | Security Office/Manager            |
| Detective                 | Prison Officer           | Store Detective                    |

For information about these jobs see section **B/JOC/MAB/MAF** of the careers library.

## Your Options at 16 and 17

- **Further education at school or college** – continue to study, full or part-time, for a career or keep your future options open and simply continue to improve your qualifications.
- **Apprenticeships** (Level 2)/Advanced Apprenticeships (Level 3) – learn new skills with an employer, gain qualifications and get some real work experience. You will receive a wage, or, if you are eligible, an Education Maintenance Allowance of up to £30 a week.
- **Job** – regular, paid work that, with training, can lead to recognised qualifications.
- **e2e** (Entry to Employment) & **Pre-e2e** – programmes to help you prepare for a job, an Apprenticeship or further education.

For details of all these options speak to your Connexions personal adviser or see page five – Easy ways to get useful information.

## Section 1

### Further education: what's available locally and how to apply.

- This sheet lists full-time vocational courses. Other courses and ways of learning may be available.
- **Futures4Me** – explore all post-16 learning and training opportunities available in the West of England.
- Contact colleges/sixth form colleges for information and an application form. They all have websites.
- Go to open evenings and information events. See back page – Easy ways to get useful information.
- Ask colleges/sixth form colleges how well previous students have done on their courses.
- Use your school's Connexions Information Centre for information about local colleges and sixth forms.
- Higher education, Apprenticeships, a job with training, self-employment or time out to travel or do voluntary work are all options after college/sixth form college.
- Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is a weekly payment to help with costs if you go into the sixth form, college or go into training. Other financial support exists to help with travel, specialist courses, books and equipment and childcare. Terms and conditions apply to all. For more information - <http://moneytolearn.direct.gov.uk>

#### CITY OF BATH COLLEGE

Avon Street, Bath BA1 1UP

Tel: 01225 312191

Website: [www.cityofbathcoll.ac.uk](http://www.cityofbathcoll.ac.uk)

#### Public Services – BTEC First Diploma

(1 year). Entry requirements are 3 GCSEs grade D or above. This course will develop your knowledge and understanding of the uniformed services e.g. police, fire, ambulance and armed forces.

#### Public Services – BTEC National Diploma

(2 years). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grade C or above, preferably including Maths, English, Science, or a merit or above in BTEC First Diploma in Public Services. This course will develop leadership and teambuilding skills and provide a foundation for a career in public services.

#### CITY OF BRISTOL COLLEGE – ASHLEY DOWN CENTRE

Ashley Down Road, Bristol BS7 9BU

Tel: 0117 312 5000

Website: [www.cityofbristol.ac.uk](http://www.cityofbristol.ac.uk)

#### Public Services – BTEC First Diploma

(1 year). Entry requirements are 2 GCSEs grade C or 4 GCSEs grade D or equivalent Key Skills qualification. This course is suitable for those eventually wishing to join Police, Fire and Rescue Service, Ambulance Service or Armed Forces. You'll learn about the work of the public services and the personal skills and qualities required for successful entrance.

#### Public Services (Uniformed) – BTEC National Certificate/Diploma

(2 years). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grade C or above including English or BTEC First Diploma in Public Services, good health and a personal interview. This course is designed to prepare students for entry tests for a range of uniformed public services. You will study a number of modules ranging from Expedition Skills, Aspects of Sociology, Psychology and Current Affairs, Health and Fitness, Leadership and Teamwork. You will receive compulsory fitness training sessions, be tested termly and undertake outdoor activity training.

#### FILTON COLLEGE

Filton Avenue, Filton, Bristol BS34 7AT

Tel: 0117 931 2121

Website: [www.filton.ac.uk](http://www.filton.ac.uk)

#### Public Services – First Diploma (uniformed)

(1 year). Entry requirements 4 GCSEs grade D (including English Language). You should be at the required level of fitness and be keen to find out about careers in the public services.

#### Public Services – NCFE Certificate for Entry to Uniformed Services Level 1

Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grade E - F. You will need to reach the required fitness level, be motivated and be keen to learn about the uniformed services.

#### Public Services – National Diploma (uniformed)

(2 years). Entry requirements are 5 GCSEs grade C or above (or equivalent) including English Language at grade C and preferably Maths.

**NORTON RADSTOCK COLLEGE**  
 South Hill Park, Radstock, Bath BA3 3RW  
 Tel: 01761 433161  
 Website: [www.nortcoll.ac.uk](http://www.nortcoll.ac.uk)

**Public Services – all Levels – EDEXCEL**

(1 year). Entry requirements: All levels require GCSE grades, which vary according to programme. Public Service courses provide a thorough grounding in all aspects of roles in both uniformed and non-uniformed public service. Students undertake modules that are academic alongside skills based around physical activity, problem-solving and team work. The qualification is available from Level 1 – Level 3. Progression: Employment at any stage, higher level and degrees. (Football optional extra).

**Public Services (Uniformed) – BTEC Level 1 Diploma**

(1 Year). Entry requirements are GCSEs grades F - E. Students will study a range of units covering uniform and non-uniform public service sectors – health and safety, fitness and lifestyle, teamworking and the use of IT in these areas.

**Public Services (Uniformed) – BTEC First Diploma**

(1 year). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grade C or above. This course is ideal for those interested in joining the Police, Fire Service, Ambulance Service or Armed Forces.

**Public Services (Uniformed) – BTEC National Certificate**

(2 years). Entry requirement: you need to be over 16 years of age and have 4 GCSEs grade C or above, including English and Maths or BTEC First in Public Services with a merit or above.

**ST BRENDAN'S SIXTH FORM COLLEGE**  
 Broomhill Road, Brislington, Bristol BS4 5RQ  
 Tel: 0117 977 7766  
 Website: [www.stbrn.ac.uk](http://www.stbrn.ac.uk)

**Public Services – BTEC First Diploma**

(1 year). This Level 2 course is designed for students who wish to work in the Police, Fire or Ambulance services as well as the Armed Forces. The emphasis is on a practical approach which is mentally and physically challenging but rewarding.

**Public Services – BTEC National Award and Certificate**

(Check for length of course). This is a Level 3 course that prepares students for careers in the uniformed services such as Police, Fire and Ambulance as well as the Armed Forces. It can lead to a National Award or Certificate which is equivalent to one or two A levels.

**WESTON COLLEGE**  
 Knightstone Road, Weston-Super-Mare BS23 2AL  
 Tel: 01934 411411  
 Website: [www.weston.ac.uk](http://www.weston.ac.uk)

**Entry to the Uniformed Services – NCFE Certificate**

(1 Year). Entry requirements are at least some GCSEs in the C - E range and you must be able to demonstrate an interest in the subject and a willingness to study this course.

**Outdoor Activities – BTEC First Diploma**

(1 Year). Entry requirements are at least 4 GCSEs in the C - E range, or an appropriate Level 1 qualification such as an NVQ 1 or the BTEC Introductory Certificate or Diploma.

**Outdoor Activities – BTEC National Diploma**

(2 Years). Entry requirements are at least 5 GCSEs in the A - C range including English Language and Maths. Alternatively you will need an appropriate Level 2 qualification such as an NVQ Level 2 or BTEC First Diploma.

**Public Services – BTEC First Diploma**

(1 Year). Entry requirements are at least 4 GCSEs in the C - E range, or an appropriate Level 1 qualification such as NVQ 1 or BTEC Introductory Certificate or Diploma.

**Services (Uniformed) – BTEC National Diploma**

(2 Years). Entry requirements are at least 5 GCSEs in the A - C range, including English Language and Maths. Alternatively you will need an appropriate Level 2 qualification such as an NVQ 2 or a BTEC First Diploma.

## What's available outside the area?

**WILTSHIRE COLLEGE LACKHAM**  
Lacock, Chippenham, Wiltshire SN15 2NY  
Tel: 01249 466800  
Website: [www.wiltshire.ac.uk](http://www.wiltshire.ac.uk)

### Outdoor Adventure – BTEC National Diploma

(2 Years). Entry requirements at least 4 GCSE grades A - C or an appropriate Level 2 qualification. This is an ideal course if you are interested in land based outdoor activities including climbing, caving and orienteering. You will learn how to navigate and participate in expeditions and lead others in the outdoors.

**WILTSHIRE COLLEGE TROWBRIDGE**  
College Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 0ES  
Tel: 01225 766241  
Website: [www.wiltshire.ac.uk](http://www.wiltshire.ac.uk)

### Public Services – BTEC First Diploma

(1 year). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grades A - E. This course provides the opportunity for you to develop basic skills, knowledge and understanding through experiencing the range and types of activities that those serving the public are expected to carry out. There is a strong emphasis on your own health, lifestyle and fitness and you will develop your own competence in sports and physical recreation.

### Public Services – BTEC National Diploma (Uniformed)

(2 years). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grades A - C or BTEC First Diploma at Merit level in a relevant subject area. As part of this course you will look at the public service sector, its role in society and working in a public service organisation. You will learn about political influences on the public service and begin to understand more about human behaviour and how it will affect your work.

## Section 2

### Year 12 (Sixth Form)

- Choose from a wide range of courses including AS/A2 Levels, GCSEs, Diplomas, National Diplomas, NVQs and other work related courses.
- Contact sixth forms for information and an application form. They all have websites.
- Go to open evenings and information events. See page five – Easy ways to get useful information.
- Ask sixth forms how well previous students have done on their courses.
- Use your school's Connexions Information Centre for information about local sixth forms.
- Additional further education, higher education, Apprenticeships, a job with training, self-employment or time out to travel or do voluntary work are all options after the sixth form.
- Educational Maintenance Allowance is a weekly payment to help you continue to learn or train. EMA is worth up to £30 a week. Other financial support exists to help with travel, specialist courses, books and equipment and childcare. Terms and conditions apply to all. For more information – <http://moneytolearn.direct.gov.uk>

## Section 3

### Apprenticeships and Jobs

Both of these options allow you to learn new skills with an employer and get some real work experience – but only an Apprenticeship will **guarantee** you training and the chance to gain qualifications. You will receive a wage, or, if you are eligible, an Education Maintenance Allowance of up to £30 a week. See page five – Easy ways to get useful information.

### Local Organisations

- **Avon and Somerset Constabulary**, P.O. Box 37, Valley Road, Portishead, Bristol BS20 8QJ. Tel: 01275 816142. [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk) (click on recruitment)
- **Great Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust**, Tel: 0117 928 0222 for job enquiries - note that applications are only accepted online at [www.jobs.nhs.uk](http://www.jobs.nhs.uk) (click on Register for Jobs)  
Website: [www.gwas.nhs.uk](http://www.gwas.nhs.uk) for general information

- **Avon Fire and Rescue Service**, Brigade HQ, Temple Back, Bristol BS1 6EU  
Website: [www.avonfire.gov.uk](http://www.avonfire.gov.uk) (click on recruitment)

## Armed Forces

- **Armed Forces Careers Office**, 3rd Floor, 4 Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4TY
- **Royal Navy and Royal Marines**, Tel: 0117 926 0233 - [www.royalnavy.mod.uk](http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk)
- **Army**, Tel: 0117 926 2638 - [www.army.mod.uk](http://www.army.mod.uk)
- **Royal Air Force**, Tel: 0117 929 4051 - [www.raf.mod.uk/careers](http://www.raf.mod.uk/careers)

## Wiltshire

- **Great Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust**, Tel: 0117 928 0222 for job enquiries - note that applications are only accepted online at [www.jobs.nhs.uk](http://www.jobs.nhs.uk) (click on Register for Jobs)  
Website: [www.gwas.nhs.uk](http://www.gwas.nhs.uk) for general information
- **Wiltshire Constabulary**, Headquarters, London Road, Devizes SN10 2DN. Tel: 0845 408 7000 Ext 720 2314. [www.wiltshire.police.uk](http://www.wiltshire.police.uk) (click on Jobs and Volunteering)
- **Wiltshire Fire Service**, Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters, Manor House, Potterne, Devizes SN10 5PP. Tel: 01380 723601. [www.wiltshirefirebrigade.com](http://www.wiltshirefirebrigade.com) (click on Jobs).

## For more on Apprenticeships

- [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk) – visit the National Apprenticeship website for information including the National Apprenticeship Vacancy Matching Service (scroll down and click on the 'Apprenticeship Vacancies' link). This service lets you search for Apprenticeship vacancies in a variety of ways, such as by occupational area, provider or by postcode.
- **08000 150 600** – Call the National Apprenticeship Hotline for help and advice.
- If you are still not sure and need help, please contact careers staff in your school/college or your local Connexions West of England Centre (addresses at end of this leaflet).

## Time Off for study or training

- The right to Time Off for Study or training is designed to help you if you are aged 16-17, got few if any qualifications at school, and are now employed in a job which offers little or no training.
- For more information – [www.connexions-direct.com](http://www.connexions-direct.com) – look under work schemes>time off for study and training.

## Easy ways to get useful information

- [www.connexionswest.org.uk](http://www.connexionswest.org.uk) – information for 13-19 year olds; vacancies; local support agencies; education & training database; publication downloads.
- <http://options.connexionswest.org.uk> – Your Way Forward - Options @ 16 and 17. Post-16 learning, training and work options; qualifications; sources of finance; useful websites.
- <http://workmatters.connexionswest.org.uk> – Information about working in the local area; how much people earn; number of people employed; types of jobs; useful websites.
- **Futures4Me** – explore all post-16 learning and training opportunities available in the West of England.

Connexions West of England Centres are open Monday – Friday. Contact direct for opening hours.

Bristol  
4 Colston Avenue  
Bristol BS1 4ST  
Tel: 0117 987 3700  
Fax: 0117 987 3701  
Minicom: 0117 907 4514

Bath & North East Somerset  
28 Southgate  
Bath BA1 1TP  
Tel: 01225 461 501  
Fax: 01225 465 619

South Gloucestershire  
21-23 High Street  
Kingswood  
Bristol BS15 4AA  
Tel: 0117 961 2760  
Fax: 0117 960 7838

South Gloucestershire  
28 Gloucester Rd North  
Filton  
Bristol BS7 0SJ  
Tel: 0117 969 8101  
Fax: 0117 931 2978

North Somerset  
45 Boulevard  
Weston-super-Mare  
BS23 1PG  
Tel: 01934 644443  
Fax: 01934 644409

[www.connexionswest.org.uk](http://www.connexionswest.org.uk)  
[enquiries@connexionswest.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@connexionswest.org.uk)

Connexions Direct (confidential information, advice and support for young people)  
Tel: 080 800 13 2 19. Text: 07766 4 13 2 19. [www.connexions-direct.com](http://www.connexions-direct.com)

The information in this leaflet was correct at the time of writing. Please check details - information dates quickly.