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Hopkins backs 'Troops to Teachers' plan

Keighley and Ilkley Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidate Kris Hopkins has backed a plan to encourage former members of the Armed Forces to become teachers.

The so-called "Troops to Teachers" scheme, launched by Shadow Education Secretary Michael Gove, will offer £9,000 bursaries to ex-servicemen wanting to train as teachers.

Free university places would also be provided to former Forces personnel who had been on active duty including in Iraq and Afghanistan

Cllr Hopkins - who served with the Duke of Wellington's Regiment in Kenya, Northern Ireland and Germany - said he believed the proposals would be well-received by ex-servicemen and women including many of his former colleagues.

"After leaving the Army, I had the opportunity to complete my degree before becoming a media lecturer. However, I was very fortunate.

"Many of my friends in the Duke's left without the slightest idea of what they were going to do next.

"Being presented with a ready-made chance to study for higher education qualifications or to enter teaching would have appealed to a great number of them and will no doubt be of equal appeal to present day Forces personnel considering their career options.

"I was delighted to be advised of these new ideas and offer them my full and active support."

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