

THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT FUND TRUST



Supporting the Armed Forces Covenant through funding real change



Who we are

The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust (the Trust) supports the Armed Forces Covenant by delivering funding programmes that create real change to Armed Forces communities across the UK.

We are a charity and are classified as a Non-Departmental Public Body, or NDPB. We look after the Armed Forces Covenant Fund, worth £10M each year.

The Armed Forces Covenant Fund has four broad funding themes now and in future years.

- 1. Non-core healthcare services for veterans.**
- 2. Removing barriers to family life.**
- 3. Extra support, both in and after Service, for those that need help.**
- 4. Measures to integrate military and civilian communities and allow the Armed Forces community to participate as citizens.**

We also work with HM Government to run other funding programmes that have a positive impact on Armed Forces communities.

THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT FUND TRUST

Trust 1.0: May 2015- February 2018

- Covenant Reference Group direction
- Principles of decision making established
- National Panel appointed
- Regional and Devolved Administration Boards set up
- Simple grant making but challenge proof systems

Trust 2.0 February 2018 – March 2020

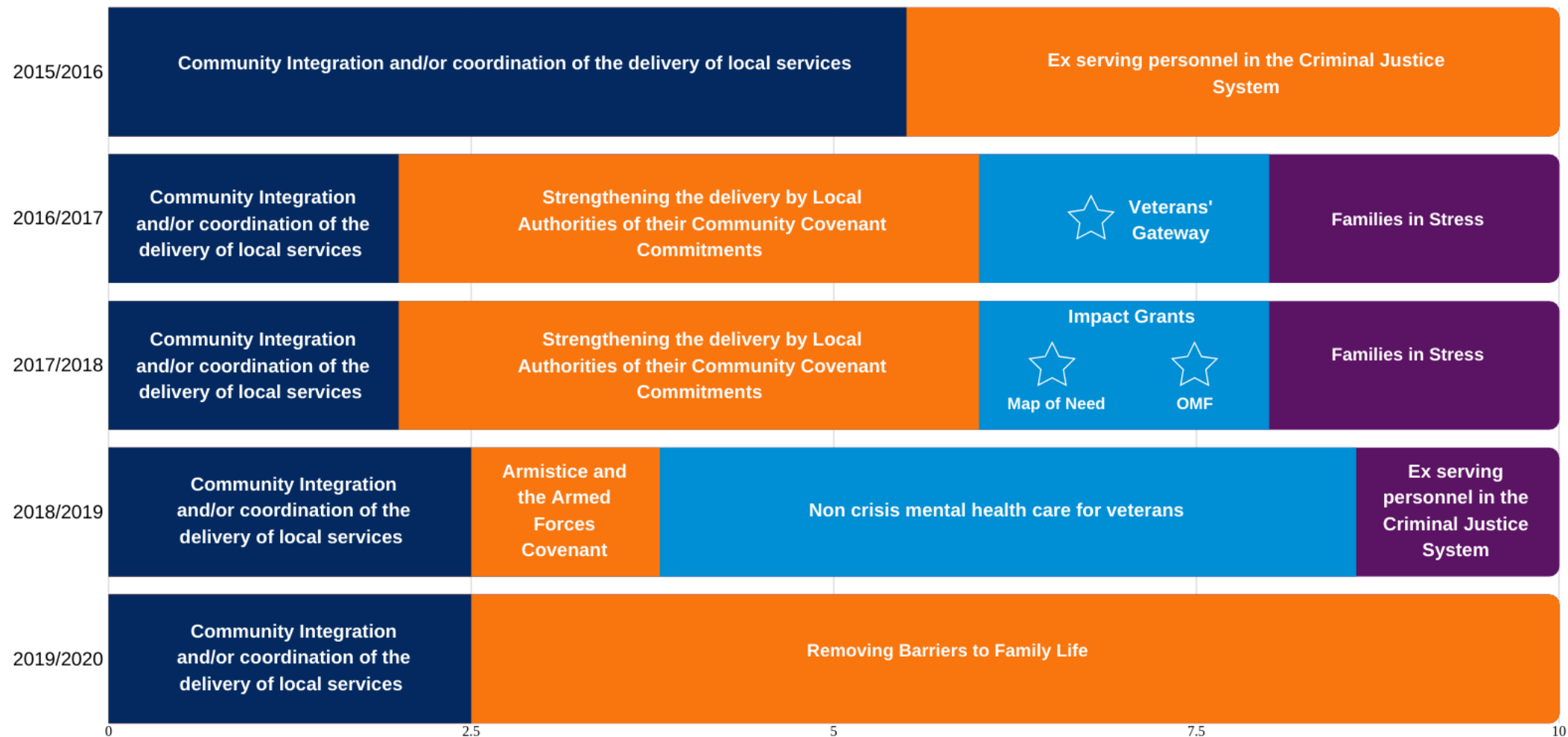
- Independent charitable Trust- regulated by the Charity Commission and the Trust Deed
- Board of Trustees
- Management systems and open recruitment of specialist staff
- Collecting evidence and developing impact methodology
- Evidence based directed strategy and increasing innovation

Trust 3.0 April 2020

- NDPB classification
- Intelligent understanding and open funder
- Ability to collect, understand and disseminate data and evidence based innovations
- Building lasting partnerships in and for the military charity sector
- Efficient, effective, responsive and proven probity

What we've done so far...





PLUS

Aged Veterans Fund	£30 M
Veterans Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund	£10 M
Veterans Community Centres	£3 M

Plus LIBOR Grants

So by March 2020, the Trust will have £946 M in Grant Management (including closed grants)

ARMED FORCES COVENANT: LOCAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

2015-2020

*Grants of up to £20,000
Supporting community integration
and delivery of local services*



ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE
RECEIVES £19,856
FOR SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR
OLDER PEOPLE AND VETERANS

THIEPVAL BARRACKS NORTHERN
IRELAND EQUESTRIAN CENTRE
RECEIVES £20,000
FOR EQUINE FACILITATED
REHABILITATION AND SPORT FOR
INJURED VETERANS

READING FORCE RECEIVES
£15,100
FOR A READING/SCRAPBOOKING
PROJECT FOR FAMILIES

OUR WILTON TRUST RECEIVES
£15,228
FOR A MEN'S SHED WORKSHOP
SPACE

GOREBRIDGE COMMUNITY CARES
RECEIVES £20,000
FOR WORKSHOPS SUPPORTING
THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY

HEALTHIER HEROES CIC RECEIVES
£20,000
FOR HEALTH RELATED ACTIVITIES
FOR EX-FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES

CHILDREN'S LINKS RECEIVES £7,950
FOR CHILDREN'S MESSY PLAY
SESSIONS

THE SOLDIERS' ART ACADEMY CIC
RECEIVES £20,000
FOR PRODUCTION OF A 6-WEEK PLAY

MAKE SOME NOISE RECEIVES
£20,000
FOR CREATIVE MUSIC SESSIONS FOR
FORCES FAMILIES

**718 AWARDS
MADE**

£11.6m AWARDED

ARMISTICE AND ARMED FORCES COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME

"The event was organised by exclusively senior members of our community. The meetings we had to do this, presented a great opportunity for members who live alone. We have decided as a group to continue meeting."

2,773

awards were made across the United Kingdom

982

awards had a particular focus on involving young people

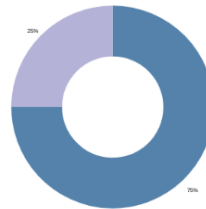
69%

of projects said that the events brought communities together more than they were expecting



260 people attended each event

this is the median average



75% of projects planned to do follow up work as a result of their event

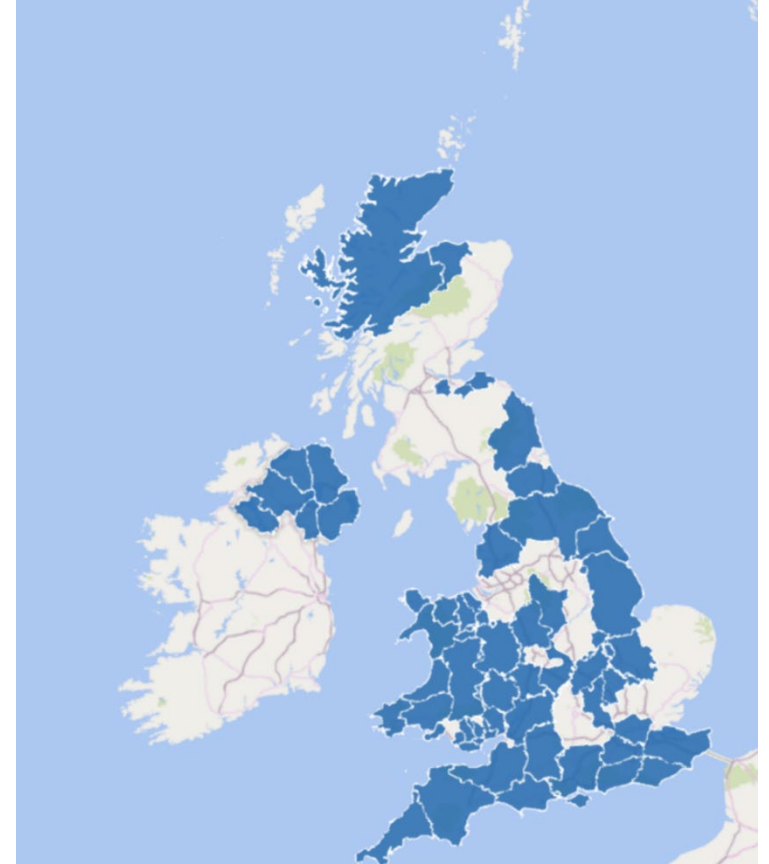


Strengthening local government delivery of the Covenant

**£6.6M awarded to
44 clusters of
local authorities**

**153 local authorities
received support
under the programme**

**OUR
COMMUNITY
OUR
COVENANT**



Local authorities are significant partners to those responsible for fulfilling the aims of the Covenant.

This programme enabled many to take on the challenges and best practice set out in the 2016 publication: *Our Community Our Covenant*.

Families in Stress

**£4.3M
to 24 projects**

Projects provide direct support to the families of serving personnel across the UK, facing specific types of stress, needing immediate intervening and short-term support.

Collaboration is key:

Projects work in partnership with their local Armed Forces Units, and projects were designed to complement existing welfare support, providing specialist intervention 'outside the wire'

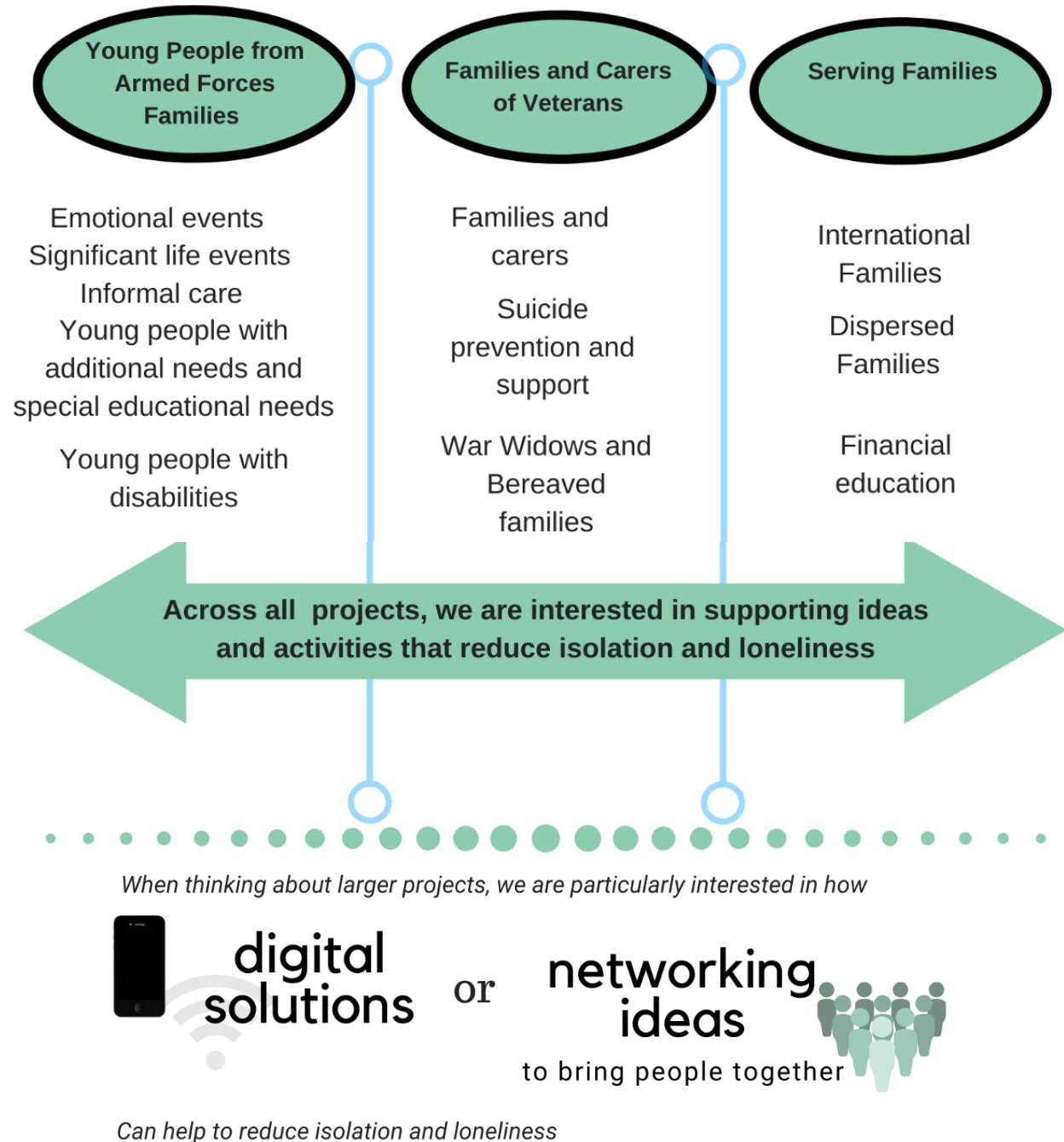


REMOVING BARRIERS TO FAMILY LIFE

The programme supports families from both serving and veteran communities, including reservists.

60 awards made in
February 2020

worth
£7,194,735



A complex, strategic programme aimed at funding innovative and new ways of working to reduce serious stress in veterans, their carers and families.

TACKLING SERIOUS STRESS IN VETERANS, FAMILIES AND CARERS



MEASURING IMPACT

The programme is independently evaluated by academics at the University of Chester, who collate data to understand the clinical outputs from the programme as well as to support the value for investment and economic modelling of the project.

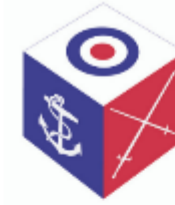
A closed project symposium is taking place in March 2020.

Strategic Partners

Innovative support
to Positive
Pathways grant
holders and
applicants

Providing mentoring and support

This includes support with
governance, sustainability,
project planning,
programme mentorship,
training and access to
wider healthcare
pathways.



Cobseo
The Confederation
of Service Charities



**POSITIVE PATHWAYS
BY VETERANS, FOR VETERANS**



Projects funded have ranged from sporting, fitness and activity programmes, to cultural and heritage visits, garden therapy and veteran camping experiences.

Two new rounds for 2020/21



Funding for activity based projects, for veterans, that can have a positive impact on mental health

Supporting Former Service personnel who are in the Criminal Justice System



£4.6M

14 grants awarded in 2015 to support projects with ex-Service personnel with the aim of reducing re-offending



£1.1M

Continuation grants made in 2018 under the Former Service Personnel in the Criminal Justice System: Continuation and Sustainability Fund



£5.7M

Projects are working across the Criminal Justice System with police at point of arrest, within prisons and post release.

The programme is being evaluated by RAND Europe; exploring the complexity of needs of the project beneficiaries and pathways and outcomes for those supported.

Impact grants





**VETERANS'
GATEWAY**

The first point of contact
for veterans seeking support

Veterans' Gateway is made up of a consortium of organisations and Armed Forces charities, including The Royal British Legion, SSAFA – the Armed Forces charity, Poppyscotland, Combat Stress and service provider Connect Assist.

Funded by The Armed Forces Covenant, this is the first time a group of this kind has come together formally to deliver a service to help the Armed Forces community.

The Map of Need Project

The Northern Hub for Veterans and Military Families Research was established in 2014 and sits within Northumbria University Newcastle. It is a collective of academics, service providers and service users with an interest in improving the health and social wellbeing of veterans and their families.

Contact: Gill McGill
 gill.mcgill@northumbria.ac.uk
www.northumbria.ac.uk/militaryveterans

The Northern Hub for Veterans and Military Families Research at Northumbria University has developed an online directory of services available to the veteran community. The online directory is publicly available at: www.veteransgateway.org.uk/local-support/

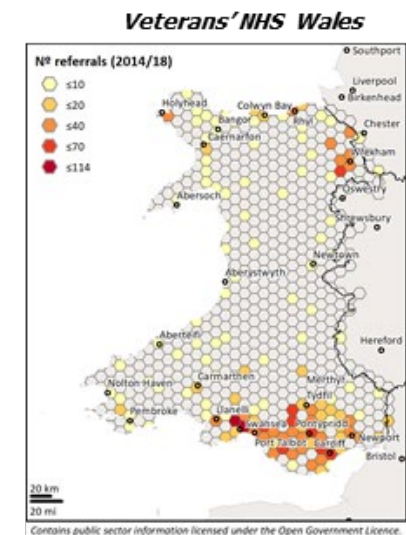
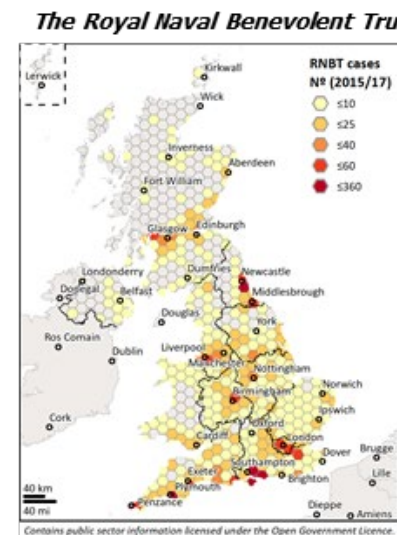
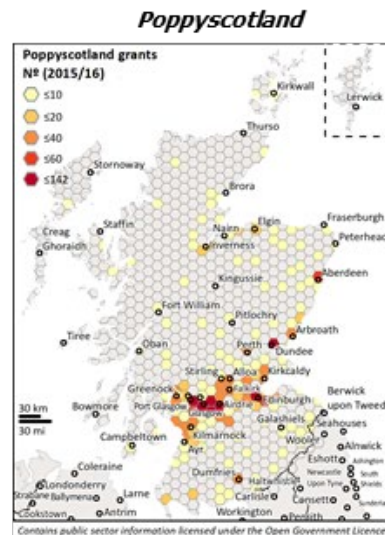
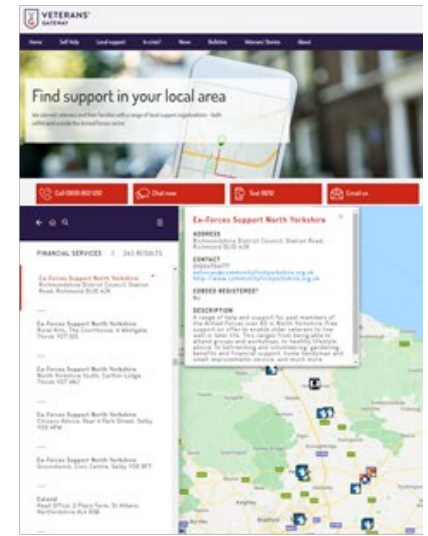
On the 1st January 2020, the directory of services included 15,940 markers across the UK, each representing a service available to veterans and families.

The build of a bespoke software solution allows anyone in the UK or worldwide to access the information within the directory through the Veterans' Gateway website. Through the usage of the platform it is possible to identify what users are looking for and where they are looking for it with total anonymity. This generates geolocated search histories for wider analysis.

'Mental Wellbeing', followed by 'Employment', 'Housing' and 'Finances' were the primary general search criteria for users of the directory of services during 2019.

Data sharing partnerships are central to the analysis within the project, they enable statistical comparisons with multiple data sources when examining a veterans or family issue and comparisons with wider research findings. This approach seeks to use multiple data sources to provide end users with the most accurate picture of a phenomenon as possible.

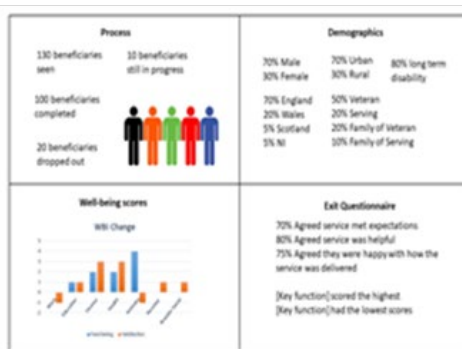
Key Stakeholders: RN Benevolent Trust; ABF The Soldiers' Charity; RAF Benevolent Fund; Poppyscotland; UDR & R IRISH Home Service Aftercare Service; Veterans' NHS Wales; Combat Stress; SSAFA; Veterans' Gateway; The Royal British Legion; Royal Air Forces Association; Help for Heroes; Women's Royal Naval Service Benevolent Trust.



THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT FUND TRUST

Outcomes Measurement Framework (OMF)

OMF: Developed by Fossey, Godier-McBard et al, Veterans and Families Institute for Military Social Research



The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust challenge

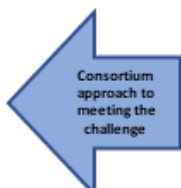
The framework must be able to:

- Work with the complexity of different programmes and heterogeneity of beneficiaries
- Demonstrate the impact of grant funding



Considerations

- Easy to use
- GDPR Compliant
- Ethically sound
- Meaningful and useful
- Validated metrics
- Provide robust data
- Reporting function
- Mobile friendly on iOS & Android smartphones & tablets
- Minimal cost to end-user
- Scope for use beyond AFCFT
- Business plan development support
- Academic analysis
- Strategic planning and policy development
- Grounded in previous work



Consortium approach to meeting the challenge



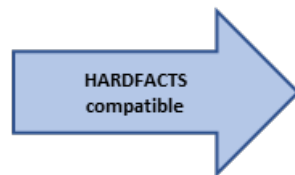
The Golden Metric: Measuring Wellbeing

COMPREHENSIVE: provides holistic assessment of important aspects of military veterans' life circumstances

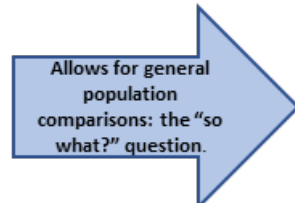
MULTIDIMENSIONAL: includes multiple indicators to provide simultaneous identify areas of strength and vulnerability

ACTIONABLE: assessment results can be used to guide efforts to promote veterans' well-being

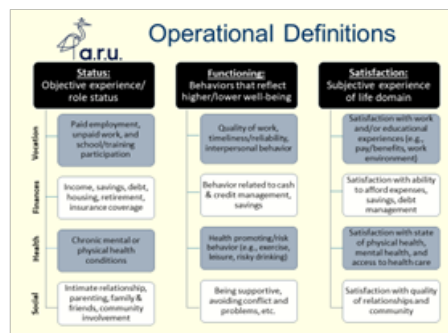
VALIDATED: already used with 10,000+ US personnel and adopted into the Transition Assistance Programme (TAP). UK data collection ongoing.



HARDFACTS compatible



Allows for general population comparisons: the "so what?" question.



Next Steps??

- Imbedding wellbeing data across military pathways
- Creating a wellbeing data registry
- Enabling access to all veteran charities

How we measure and evaluate



The Trust's current evaluations

A = Grant management data plus additional data from funded projects (can include project and beneficiary questionnaires, interviews, case studies, site visits, reviews of independent evaluations funded as part of the grant; and additional sources)
B= use of the OMF

Programme	Dates of Distribution	End date of Programme	Number of Grants	Project methods of evaluation	Programme evaluation and number of grants
LIBOR (excl. VAF) £500M Mixed revenue and capital Large and small grants	2012-2018	2021	393	A	Sample of grants Directory of Social Change TBC: June 2021
Veterans Accommodation Fund £42M Large capital grants	2014-2015	2020	18	A	All grants Internal August 2020
Aged Veterans Fund £30M Large portfolio grants distributed in 2 rounds	2016-2018	2020	18	A	All grants Internal with support from University of Chester TBC: May 2020
Armed Forces Covenant: Local Grants £11.6M Small revenue grants distributed over 5 years	2016-2020	2021	715	A	All grants Internal quantitative review thematically based TBC: June 2021
Armistice and the Armed Forces Covenant £1.2M Small non-financial awards	2018	2018	2,773	A	All grants Internal quantitative review published in April 2019
Ex-service personnel in the Criminal Justice System £5.7M Large grants distributed under 2 rounds	2016-2017 and 2019	2020	22	A and B	All grants External evaluation by RAND Europe TBC: September 2020
Families in Stress £4.4M Large grants distributed in 2 rounds	2017 and 2018?	2020	25	A	All grants External evaluation to be openly procured Spring 2020 Procured June 2020
Tackling Serious Stress £4.2M Large grants	2019	2021	7	A	All grants Simultaneous data collection by University of Chester External evaluation by University of Chester TBC: May 2021

The Trust's current evaluations

A = Grant management data plus additional data from funded projects (can include project and beneficiary questionnaires, interviews, case studies, site visits, reviews of independent evaluations funded as part of the grant; and additional sources)
B= use of the OMF


Programme	Dates of Distribution	End date of Programme	Number of Grants	Project methods of evaluation	Programme evaluation and number of grants
Removing Barriers to Family Life £7.2 M Large grants distributed in 1 round	2020	2022	60	A and B	All grants External evaluation to be openly procured Spring 2020 Procured June 2020
Local Authorities £6.6M Large revenue grants to clusters Distributed in 2 rounds Continuation funding programme – to be announced	2017 and 2018 2020	2023 because of continuation funding	44	A	All grants External evaluation to be openly procured Spring 2020 Procured August 2020
Veterans Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund £9.5M Large grants distributed in 1 round Medium grants distributed in 3 rounds	2019 and 2020	2022	96 to date (anticipate a further 22)	A and B	Evaluation proposals to be discussed in light of new funding
Veterans Community Centres £2.9M Capital grants up to £30K or £150K	2019 and 2020	2020	68	A	All grants Internal evaluation


What we're doing this year...




Programme supports

KEY

 **Veterans**

 **Armed Forces families**

 **Serving personnel**

Funded through the Covenant Fund

Funded through the £10M Veterans' Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund

Emergency support for Armed Forces Communities affected by Covid

Veterans Should Not be Forgotten

Grants of up to £20,000 to provide help to vulnerable veterans isolated by Covid. £2M allocated to projects

 **Delivered**

Covid Emergency Programme

£6M emergency programme, from the Government, for Armed Forces Charities and CICs delivering vital services to people from Armed Forces communities

   **Delivered**

Forces Communities Together

Awarding grants of up to £10,000 for projects that support veterans and Armed Forces families who are self isolated, with engaging activities they can do at home.

   **Decisions August 2020**

Supporting veterans' mental health and wellbeing

Positive Pathways

Grants of £35,000 for active projects for veterans that have a positive impact on mental wellbeing.

 **Decisions November 2020; February 2021**

Strategic Pathways

A smaller, targeted programme offering support to Positive Pathways grantholders to help provide better outcomes and sustainability for Positive Pathway grantholders, and the veterans accessing those projects

 **Decisions August 2020**

One is Too Many



Targeted funding for projects that provide support to those affected by suicide risk

 **Decisions February 2021**

Targeted support for serving personnel and families

NAAFI Fund

Grants to make improvements to life and welfare on and around bases, complementing other work. A consultation on this programme will take place summer 2020




  **Decisions February 2021**

Funding projects for people from Armed Forces communities, in the communities where they live

Armed Forces Covenant: Force for Change




Grants of up to £20,000 for community projects that reduce isolation and promote integration

Including small grants to build on the previous £6.6M awarded to local authorities to strengthen the Covenant locally

   **Decisions November 2020; February 2021**




Tackling Loneliness

Grants of £70,000 for two-year active and engaging projects that reach people from Armed Forces communities who are very isolated

   **Decisions February 2021**

Tackling Social Isolation

A smaller, targeted programme offering support to Tackling Loneliness grantholders to help provide better outcomes and sustainability for grantholders, and the people from Armed Forces communities accessing those projects

   **Decisions August 2020**



Grants of up to £20,000 were made to provide immediate, six-month support for vulnerable veterans with reduced social contact via grants to members of ASDIC, Age UK branches and eligible and invited members of Cobseo.

119 AWARDS
MADE
£2M+ AWARDED





The poster features a white central area with a red top border and a dark blue bottom border. It includes logos for the Ministry of Defence, Cabinet Office, and the Armed Forces Covenant. The text is centered and reads: 'Covid-19 Impact Programme' in a large, bold, dark blue font, followed by 'Emergency funding for frontline Forces charities' in a smaller, dark blue font.

Ministry
of Defence

Covid-19 Impact Programme

Emergency funding for frontline Forces charities

Cabinet Office

ARMED FORCES
COVENANT

 THE ARMED FORCES
COVENANT FUND TRUST

£6 million made available in a single round of funding in June 2020.

Charities must have been working in one of nine key areas:

- Support to the elderly (including care homes)
- Mental and physical health
- Welfare
- Domestic violence
- Housing
- Criminal Justice System
- Service families (including childcare)
- Bereavement
- Employment

**The Armed Forces Covenant Fund:
Forces
Communities
Together
Programme**

£850,000+ Awarded
100 Forces projects supported



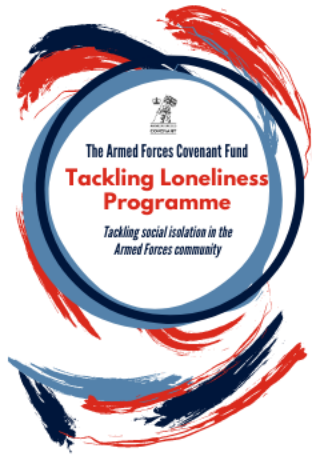
Grants of up to £10,000 were awarded to projects focused on engaging and enjoyable projects that could take place during ongoing lockdown restrictions.

Organisations had to show how they could safely bring people together while maintaining social distancing guidance.



Our open programmes





The Tackling Loneliness programme

- Fixed grants of £70,000 over 2 years
- Supporting projects that tackle social isolation in the Armed Forces community
- Making decisions in February 2021



The Force for Change programme

- One-year grants up to £20,000
- Supporting projects that encourage local communities to become more engaged to help reduce isolation
- Making decisions in November 2020 and February 2021



The One Is Too Many programme

- Two-year grants up to £300,000
- Supporting projects that aim to reduce suicide risk among vulnerable veterans
- Making decisions in February 2021



The Positive Pathways programme

- One-year fixed grants of £35,000
- Supporting projects that aim to improve veterans' mental health and wellbeing through positive activities
- Making decisions in November 2020 and February 2021



The NAAFI Fund

Grants of between £5,000 and £20,000 available to support serving Armed Forces communities. Making decisions March 2021