

ARMED FORCES COVENANT

FUND TRUST

**Consultation on the new ways to
tackle Serious Stress in Veterans,
Carers and Families Programme**



Have your say on the £4M programme to find new ways to tackle Serious Stress in Veterans, Carers and Families Programme

The new ways to tackle Serious Stress in Veterans, Carers and Families programme is one of the first Covenant Fund programmes launched by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust. This £4M programme will look at how we can best support veterans who are very unwell; while also recognising the needs of their carers, partners and children. This programme will deliver one of our four core themes - providing non-core healthcare services for veterans.



We want to deliver a programme which will support innovative ideas that make a tangible difference; and give those ideas the best possible chance of being sustained in the future once our grant has ended. We really value your input and thank you for taking the time to help us shape this work.

Melloney Poole

Chief Executive; Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust

What is the Serious Stress in Veterans, Carers and Families Programme?

It is a £4 million grant programme providing funding for innovative and new ways of working to reduce serious stress in veterans, their carers and families. It will make grants to try new ways of working that are on top of existing services. This programme will fill gaps in statutory provision, making a genuine and lasting difference to those in significant need, while not overlapping with any of the existing veterans' mental health services.

This programme will support veterans with severe mental health needs that are not being addressed through current services. We are also interested in how carers and families can be supported.

We want this programme to make a long-term difference by being able to show how the best ideas improve care for veterans and their families. We will be commissioning a support and research project that will evaluate the grants we make; and we want to explore how the most successful projects can be supported to continue. If you would like more information about the aims of this programme there is a more detailed publication available on our website.

How will this programme be delivered?

The intention of this programme is to fund a small number of projects that will enable charities and health professionals to work together to develop and try new ideas that they have developed with veterans and their carers and families. We want to fund projects where there is good evidence to suggest that the idea might produce outcomes that are better than current sources of support on offer. Grants of between £300,000 to £700,000 will be available for two year projects.

What will your views inform?

We want to fund projects that have the best chance of making a real difference to veterans with serious stress; and their carers and families. We would like you to help us think about the types of projects we should fund, and how we should make these grants. Your input will help us to develop our assessment framework for this programme. The assessment framework is the criteria that we use when assessing applications. We will publish our assessment framework before the programme opens so that organisations who might like to apply for a grant can see what we are looking for.

What are the timeframes for this programme?

This consultation will close on **19th June 2018**.

We anticipate that this programme will open for applications in September 2018. Grants will be awarded in February 2019. Projects will be expected to complete their work by April 2021. Advanced programme guidance will be released prior to the opening of the application window.

Who do we want to hear from?

We would like to hear from anyone who has a view to offer.

We are keen to hear from veterans, organisations that support veterans and veterans families; organisations that address mental health needs, academics, healthcare providers and anyone else who has an interest in veterans mental health.

Consultation questionnaire

How to take part

You can either answer the questions online on our website www.covenantfund.org.uk or, if you prefer, we can email a copy for you to fill in which you can email or post back to us. Please email us at enquires@covenantfund.org.uk

The consultation will close on 19th June 2018.

You can either tell us about yourself, and your organisation or you can fill in the questionnaire anonymously. You don't have to answer every question; and for most people the questionnaire will take between 10-20 minutes to complete

We have reproduced the questions below so that you can see them in advance.

The programme

- 1) How can we encourage the best possible partnerships between charities, voluntary sector organisations and statutory providers such as healthcare providers, community mental health teams and probation services?
- 2) How can we ensure that we are funding projects across the UK, including in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland?
- 3) Should projects need to have a charity or voluntary sector partner to be eligible? Please tell us why you think this
- 4) Should the lead partner be required to be a not for profit organisation? A lead partner would be the organisation that applied for a grant and managed the grant if they were successful. Please tell us why you think this
- 5) We are interested in understanding the needs of carers and families for veterans with mental health needs or stress needs through this programme. If there are additional sources of evidence that you are aware of, please provide them here. You can provide links.
- 6) How can we best encourage applicants to take a co-design approach and show good evidence of veteran and carer involvement in the design of their projects?

Types of projects

These are the types of projects that may be considered for support. The programme will look for innovative, new ideas that do not form part of statutory provision. This list is not exclusive, and a consortium might have a good idea based on evidence that is not on this list.

- New ways of providing respite care locally that supports the veteran to remain connected to their community while supporting their carer
 - Pathways of care for addiction treatment
 - Trialling the Recovery (“transition”) college model
 - Supporting carers and peers to maintain good mental health and prevent crises
 - Enabling more cost effective and reliable recovery from addiction and dependency
 - Supporting planned short term residential services that enhance resilience, prevent relapse/crisis, and enable sustainable long term purposeful living
- 7) Do you consider that any of these types of projects should be a high priority for support if there was robust evidence of local need?
- 8) Do you consider that any of these types of projects should be a lower priority for support if there was robust evidence of local need?
- 9) Are there any types of projects that you think might offer good support to veterans and their carers which are not on this list; please provide links and evidence.

Getting good value from grant funds

Grants made through this programme will provide additional funding on top of statutory provision for mental health services.

- 10) What do you consider should be the best possible sources of evidence that we should take into account to ensure that there was no statutory support available for a project? Can you provide any relevant links?

Research and Evaluation Provision

This programme will have an overarching research provider, which will be procured under an open tender. This will evaluate all the projects collectively rather than each project having to commission its own evaluation. This will ensure that all of the projects can be compared. We will also look at how well veteran and carers have done under these projects, and work out if this would make a saving to the public purse if other sources of funding support could be found

- 11) What benefits do you think there might be for grant holders working under this model?

- 12) What challenges do you think there might be for grant holders, and how can these be reduced?
- 13) What outputs and reports from the research provider would be most likely to have an impact on your work, and why?

Supporting long term change

This programme will make a small number of large grants, with the potential for 2-4 grants across England, and single grants in each of the devolved administrations. These grants will be awarded to projects with a good, evidence based idea, delivered in partnership in a way which has the potential to make a change to how veterans and carers with similar needs are supported in future

- 14) What barriers can veterans' projects face in accessing ongoing funding?
- 15) Are there any additional barriers that projects supporting veterans with stress related needs can face? Please provide details of any additional evidence that you are aware of.
- 16) if you would like to share anything further please add it here

We'll also ask some questions about you, and about your organisation if this is relevant. You don't have to answer any of these questions if you don't want to; but it helps us if we can get an idea of how ideas might differ.

You'll be able to sign up for information about the outcome of this consultation and further updates on this programme.

Confidentiality

We will use the information that you give us for research purposes to develop the new ways to tackle Serious Stress in Veterans, Carers and Families Programme. We won't share your comments outside of the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust unless you give us permission to do so by selecting a box in the survey.

We will produce a report following the consultation summarising the outcome and this will be shared with people with an interest in the new ways to tackle Serious Stress in Veterans, Carers and Families Programme.

If you choose to sign up for information about the outcome of the consultation and further updates on the programme then we will hold your information securely, and only use it for this purpose. You'll be able to remove yourself from the mailing list if you change your mind.

About us

The Covenant Fund was previously administered by an in-house MOD team and the funding has moved to the new independent trust as from 1 April 2018. The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust manages the grant programmes funded by the Covenant Fund. You can find out more about our work at www.covenantfund.org.uk.

The Covenant Fund is an annual grant of £10 million which is paid to the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust to fund grant programmes that support the armed forces community.

The Covenant Fund makes grants in support of the Armed Forces Covenant. There are four overall themes that the Covenant Fund must take into account now and in future years when making decisions.

- Non-core healthcare services for veterans;
- Removing barriers to family life;
- Extra support after service for those that need help; and
- Measures to integrate military and civilian communities and allow the Armed Forces community to participate as citizens

About the Armed Forces Covenant

The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise from the nation that those who serve or have served, and their families, are treated fairly.

You can find out more at <https://www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk/>



Contact details

www.covenantfund.org.uk

enquiries@covenantfund.org.uk

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