Northumbria University NEWCASTLE

The Map of Need Project

SSAFA: Main findings (2014-2019)

ARMED FORCES COVENANT FUND TRUST

Evidence based findings about the British veteran population

The Ministry of Defence estimated that there were approximately 2.5 million UK Armed Forces veterans residing in households across Great Britain in 2016, based on responses to the Annual Population Survey conducted by the Office for National Statistics. UK-wide, in 2016 the veteran population represented 5% of household residents aged over 16. Whilst the overall number of veterans residing in Great Britain is projected to decrease over the next years, the percentage of veterans of working age is projected to increase from 37% in 2016 to 44% by 2028.

The Northern Hub for Veterans and Military Families Research 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 across the life-span.

www.northumbria.ac.uk/militaryveterans

- The Northern Hub for Veterans and Military Families Research developed an online directory of services available to the veteran community.
- The online directory is publicly available at:

https://www.veteransgateway.org.uk/local-support/

The Northern Hub for Veterans and Military Families Research

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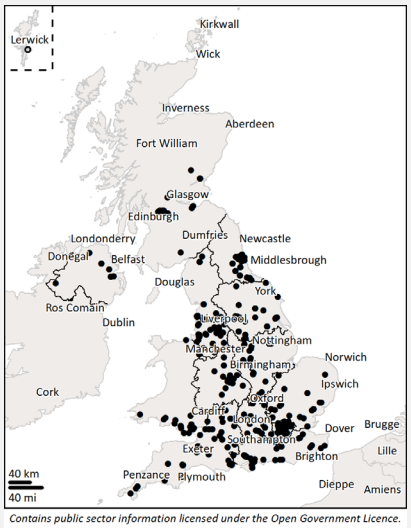
The 2011 Armed Forces Act provided a comprehensive legislative framework for the British Armed Forces and created the requirement for an annual Armed Forces covenant report to UK Parliament each year. In order to support the armed forces community more effectively, there is an increasing demand for evidence-based findings.

One of the main goals of the Map of Need project is to provide evidence-based findings about the veteran population. Data sharing partnerships are central to the analysis within the project, allowing us the ability to statistically compare multiple data sources when examining a veteran or family issue, and then compare these with wider research findings. The approach we have adopted seeks to use multiple data sources to provide end users with the most accurate picture of a phenomenon as possible.

By using service usage data, we are obtaining a reliable source of actual service usage.

Financial hardship and housing issues are the most prevalent topics affecting veterans that seek assistance from the main charities in the sector. The data shows that most of those that seek assistance for financial hardship are in fact older veterans (>50 years). Also, the veteran population seeking financial assistance is spatially differentiated based on the military branch that they served in. UK-wide, a similar pattern in all the data analysed suggests that benevolence payments to the veteran community cannot be only explained by deprivation in a given area.



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Note: The data for the following analysis comprised the years between 2014 and 2019. The trend scenarios were predicted before the COVID pandemic, which might have a significant impact in the demand for assistance. As the data becomes available the results will be updated.

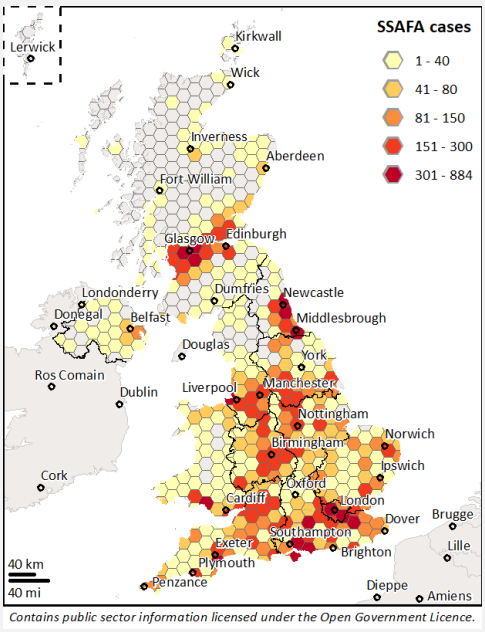
SSAFA (2019)

- Results are only representative of the geocoded sample of UK cases used in this analysis (N=32,659). The sample was composed of financial assistance cases managed by SSAFA in 2019.

- The main purpose of assistance in 2019 was:
  - ‘Household Goods (brown)’: 16.51% (n=5,391).
  - ‘Household Goods (white)’: 9.28% (n=3,031).

- One third of the cases were concentrated in Scotland and England’s South East. Scotland stood out with 17% (n=5,572) of the SSAFA cases in the UK. While Northern Ireland had the lowest number of cases (n=471), less than 2% of the UK total.

- When considering a crude case record rate, which considers the number of cases vs the total population:
  - Scotland had the highest rate of SSAFA cases, followed by England’s North East. London was the region with the lowest case record rate.
  - Local authorities of Wiltshire (South West), Glasgow City (Scotland) and County Durham (North East) had the highest total case count.
  - Local authorities of Gosport (South East), North Ayrshire (Scotland) and East Ayrshire (Scotland) had the highest case rate.



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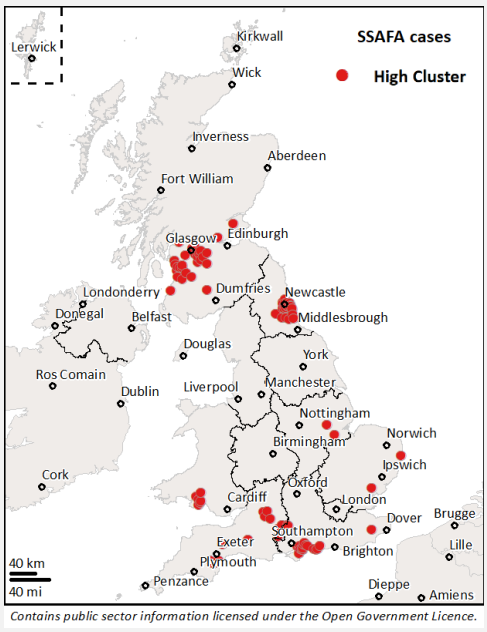

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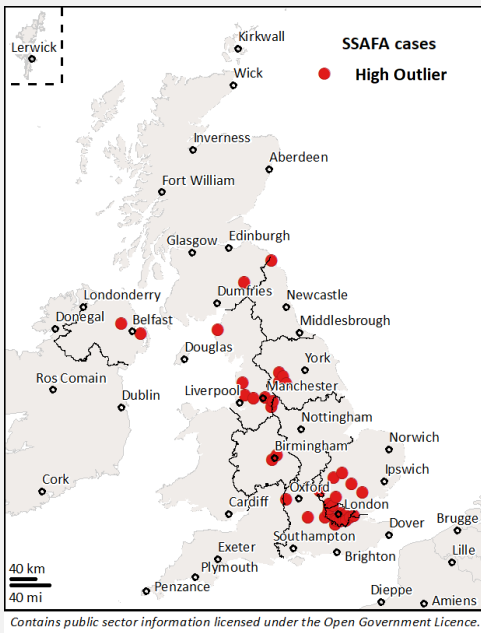

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- There were three main clusters of postcodes with a high number of beneficiaries: Scotland’s central belt, England’s North East and South East.

- Postcode outliers could be found in Belfast, the Liverpool-Manchester corridor, Birmingham and scattered across London.

- Considering a crude case rate, most clusters of high prevalence amongst the background population were concentrated in Scotland, Wales and England’s South West.

- At the postcode level, there are several areas that we draw the reader’s attention to:
  - G33 (Scotland): This single postcode concentrated 0.6% of the UK total and 3% of the cases in Scotland. With 181 cases, G33 had the highest number of SSAFA cases in the UK.
  - NE29 (North East): This postcode registered 0.4% of the UK total and 6% of the cases in the North East.

SSAFA (2014-2019)

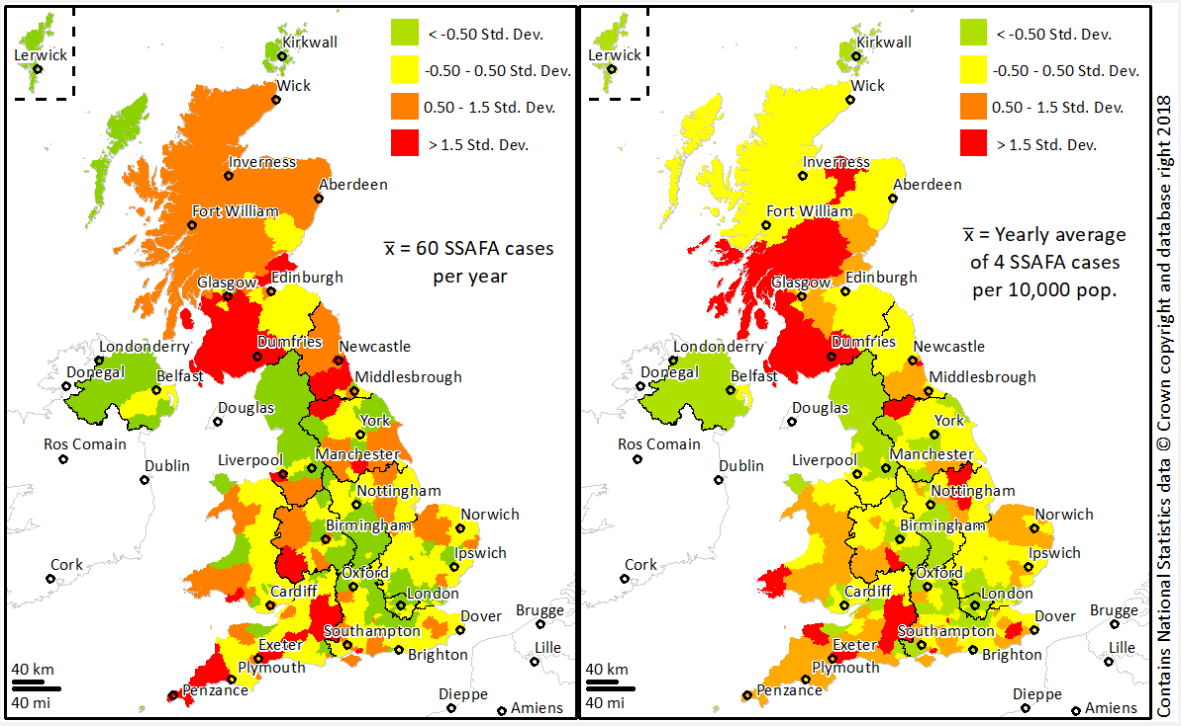
- The analysis used a sample of SSAFA cases from January 2014 to December 2019. The sample was comprised of 139,621 cases of financial assistance.
    - Scotland had the highest number of SSAFA cases, 17% (n=24,127).
    - Northern Ireland had the lowest number of benefit recipients (n=1,209), less than 1% of the UK total.

- Considering a crude case rate, clusters of high prevalence amongst the background population were in Scotland. Whereas London and Northern Ireland had the lowest case record rate

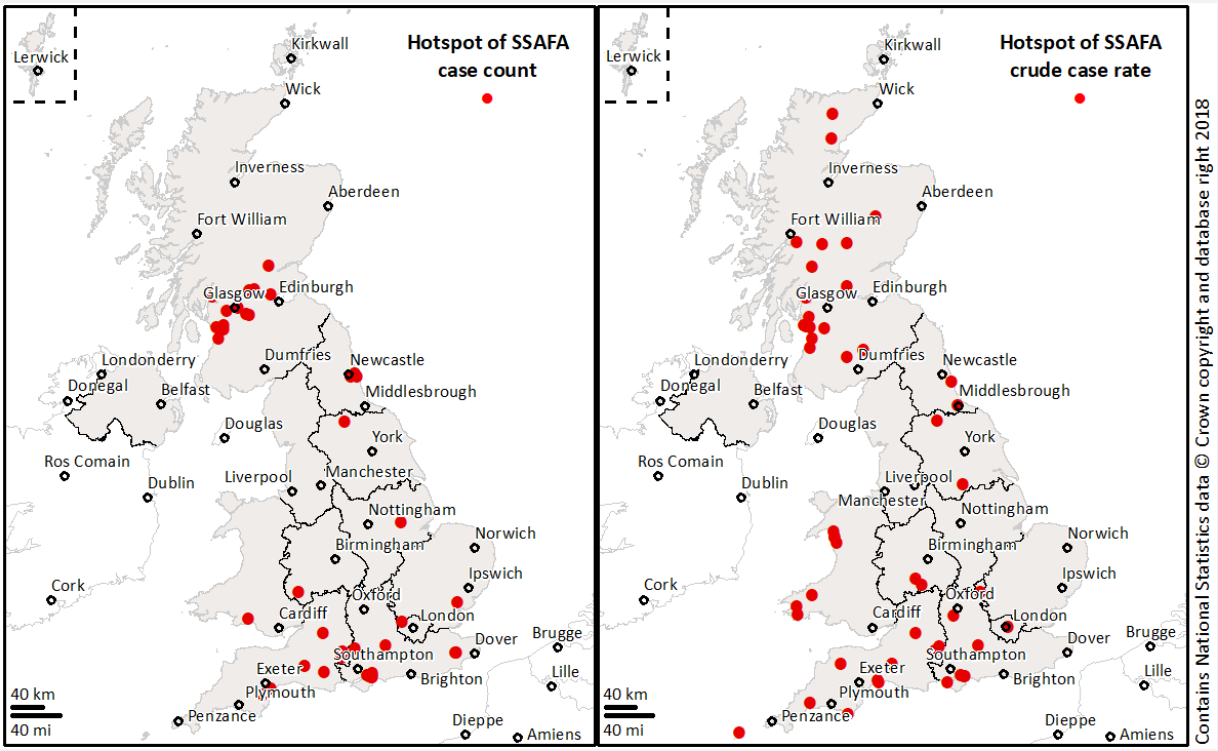
- UK wide the mean age of SSAFA recipients was 57 years.
    - On average, the youngest recipients could be found in Northern Ireland while the oldest were in the West Midlands.
    - Overall, the results indicate that the majority of SSAFA benefit recipients are older veterans.

- Despite an increase in the number of cases, for most of the UK, the spatial distribution of cases remained identical over the years. UK wide, the areas of high demand for assistance remained the same between 2014 and 2019.
    - Wiltshire, Glasgow City and Portsmouth registered the highest SSAFA case count - 6% of the UK total and averaged more than 400 cases per year.
    - Richmondshire, Gosport and North Ayrshire, had the highest prevalence of SSAFA cases amongst the background population.
    - The DL9 (Richmondshire), PO13 and PO12 (Gosport) postcodes registered the highest SSAFA case count.
    - DL9 (Richmondshire), FK20 (Stirling), PH17 (Perth & Kinross), had the highest prevalence of SSAFA cases amongst the background population.

SSAFA case count (on the left) and crude rate (on the right) across the UK's local authorities (2014/19).



The red indicates areas where case count (on the left) and prevalence (on the right) was greater than 1.5 standard deviations above the respective yearly mean, and the green where it was less than 0.5 standard deviations below the yearly mean. The classification of [-0.50 – 1.5] indicates the areas where the numbers were roughly the same as the yearly average (mean) across the UK's local authorities. The clustering pattern across Scotland and England's South West is noticeable.



Between 2014 and 2019, several hotspots could be found across the UK. However, the hotspots were clustered essentially in Scotland and England's South East and South West.

Trend of case count at the macro level.

	Actual cases (2014-2019)							
	Y2014	Y2015	Y2016	Y2017	Y2018	Y2019	Yearly average change 2014-2019	Trend
East Midlands	872	1,347	1,445	1,324	1,892	2,303	24%	
East of England	1,687	2,005	1,683	1,797	2,462	2,425	9%	
London	263	312	598	597	1,002	1,209	40%	
North East	1,558	1,599	1,553	1,667	2,156	2,569	11%	
North West	732	904	1,028	1,000	1,677	1,860	23%	
Northern Ireland	57	110	113	142	316	471	59%	
Scotland	3,103	3,290	3,438	3,563	5,161	5,572	13%	
South East	2,468	3,183	3,112	3,501	5,215	5,128	17%	
South West	2,358	2,766	2,469	2,743	3,858	4,461	15%	
Wales	830	943	1,329	1,398	1,774	2,074	21%	
West Midlands	1,503	1,547	1,297	1,287	2,433	2,517	16%	
Yorkshire and The Humber	1,354	1,690	1,731	1,503	2,217	2,070	11%	
UK	16,785	19,696	19,796	20,522	30,163	32,659	15%	

- Between 2014 and 2019, all the regions and home nations registered a yearly average increase in the number of cases.
    - The increase in the number of beneficiaries ranged from 9% in the East of England up to 59% in Northern Ireland.
    - UK wide the yearly average increase was 15%.
    - The increase in the number of cases was more exacerbated in 2018, consequently, the predictions of case count underestimated the number of cases almost everywhere in the UK.
    - The model suggests an increase of 19% in 2020, 8% in 2021 and a decrease of 13% in 2022.

Summary of predictions of case count at the macro level.

	Predicted change 2019-2020	Y2020			Predicted change 2020-2021	Y2021			Predicted change 2021-2022	Y2022		
		Prediction of case count	95% confidence interval			Prediction of case count	95% confidence interval			Prediction of case count	95% confidence interval	
			Lower bound case count	Upper bound case count			Lower bound case count	Upper bound case count			Lower bound case count	Upper bound case count
East Midlands	+10%	2,535	1,141	3,929	+12%	2,838	1,446	4,230	-15%	2,399	1,863	2,935
East of England	+22%	2,966	1,150	4,782	+6%	3,157	1,422	4,892	-21%	2,504	1,869	3,138
London	+29%	1,561	715	2,407	+10%	1,723	934	2,512	-7%	1,609	1,299	1,919
North East	+8%	2,774	1,394	4,153	+7%	2,982	1,684	4,279	-13%	2,605	2,059	3,150
North West	+24%	2,312	925	3,698	+8%	2,506	1,197	3,815	-12%	2,194	1,670	2,718
Northern Ireland	+14%	539	254	824	+13%	611	344	878	-5%	578	457	698
Scotland	+18%	6,594	3,386	9,801	+7%	7,033	3,994	10,071	-8%	6,452	5,218	7,686
South East	+25%	6,419	2,983	9,856	+9%	6,988	3,745	10,230	-14%	6,023	4,741	7,304
South West	+12%	5,017	2,324	7,709	+9%	5,472	2,924	8,019	-15%	4,669	3,653	5,684
Wales	+21%	2,515	1,195	3,835	+9%	2,748	1,485	4,011	-11%	2,441	1,923	2,959
West Midlands	+19%	2,993	1,352	4,634	+7%	3,209	1,675	4,743	-12%	2,830	2,230	3,430
Yorkshire and The Humber	+28%	2,654	968	4,340	+2%	2,694	1,131	4,257	-17%	2,237	1,645	2,828
UK	+19%	38,878	17,788	59,968	+8%	41,958	21,981	61,935	-13%	36,538	28,627	44,449

Trend of case count in the top 20 local authorities with the highest count of cases in 2019.

Macro area	Local authorities	Actual cases (2014-2019)							
		Y2014	Y2015	Y2016	Y2017	Y2018	Y2019	Yearly average change 2014-2019	Trend
South West	Wiltshire	467	401	326	350	592	748	+14%	
Scotland	Glasgow City	261	250	273	449	653	688	+24%	
North East	County Durham	340	331	221	277	385	489	+11%	
South West	Cornwall	232	333	260	244	510	459	+23%	
Scotland	North Lanarkshire	1	3	291	266	380	439	+1,970%	
Scotland	Fife	131	207	238	243	503	433	+34%	
Scotland	North Ayrshire	335	218	184	187	303	403	+9%	
South East	Portsmouth	423	445	367	325	397	390	-1%	
Wales	Swansea	86	82	156	166	203	352	+38%	
North East	Newcastle upon Tyne	194	210	131	254	250	334	+19%	
Scotland	East Ayrshire	198	149	169	198	265	331	+13%	
Scotland	South Lanarkshire	6	43	266	230	284	318	+231%	
North East	North Tyneside	132	152	170	164	261	316	+21%	
South East	Arun	16	97	100	96	279	290	+140%	
Scotland	Edinburgh, City of	13	161	62	40	216	287	+303%	
Scotland	South Ayrshire	233	174	164	125	254	266	+11%	
East Midlands	South Kesteven	85	101	64	61	187	257	+44%	
North East	Sunderland	222	223	171	178	178	257	+5%	
South West	South Somerset	158	139	132	130	159	255	+13%	
South East	Gosport	318	220	175	164	224	252	-2%	

- At the macro level the model suggests an increase of cases for the next years that will peak in 2021. Until 2022, Scotland will continue to be the home nation with most beneficiaries, followed by England's South East.

- Between 2014 and 2019, most of the local authorities with the highest count of cases in 2019 registered a yearly average increase. UK wide the yearly average increase was 15%
  - At the local authority level, North Lanarkshire (Scotland) stands out with a yearly average increase of almost 2,000%.
  - Portsmouth and Gosport (South East) registered a slight decrease over the years

- The model predicts that the number of cases will continue to increase sharply across the core areas of SSAFA assistance in Scotland: Glasgow, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire, Edinburgh and South Ayrshire.
  - We suggest that more resources will be needed in these areas to face the predicted increase in the demand for assistance.
  - The model predicts that in 2022 Glasgow will overtake Wiltshire and become the local authority in the UK with most beneficiaries, with a lower bound of 837 beneficiaries and an upper bound of 1,090 beneficiaries (95% confidence interval).

- Amongst the top 20 local authorities with the highest count of cases in 2019 it is possible to unveil three opposite dynamics.
    1) Local authorities that had a high case count and are expected to continue to increase the number of cases until 2022: Glasgow City, Cornwall, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire and Fife.
    2) Local authorities that had a high number of cases in 2019 and are predicted to stabilize within an equally high case count in 2022: Wiltshire, County Durham, North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire, Swansea.
    3) The third dynamic is expected to occur in some local authorities that registered a high number of cases in 2019 but are expected to decrease their case count by 2022: Portsmouth, Newcastle upon Tyne, Sunderland and Gosport.

- The majority of the postcodes with the highest count of cases in 2019 have increased their number of benefits since 2014. In some postcodes this increase was substantial:
    - ML1 in North Lanarkshire (Scotland) had no beneficiaries in 2014 and 2015, but in 2016 it registered 104 beneficiaries and ended 2019 with 96.
    - ML2 in North Lanarkshire only had 1 beneficiary in 2014 and 2015, but in 2016 it registered 77 cases and ended 2019 with 112 cases.
    - Other postcodes registered a similar trend. PO9 in Havant (South East) registered a yearly average increase of 883%, whereas NG31 in South Kesteven (East Midlands) increased by 663%.

- Amongst the top 20 postcodes with the highest count of cases in 2019 only PO13 in Gosport (South East) and DL9 in Richmondshire (Yorkshire and The Humber) registered a yearly average decrease between 2014-2019. In both cases the yearly average change was modest, -1% and -7% respectively.

- At the postcode level, it is predicted that in 2022, the G33 postcode (Glasgow City) will continue to register the highest count of SSAFA cases, with a lower bound of 256 cases and an upper bound of 285 cases for a 95% confidence interval.