

Grants awarded under the Force for Change programme 2020/21 June 2021

64 grants totalling £602,428

Organisation	Project Title	Grant Amount (£)	Project Description
Scotland			
Art Space G41 CIC	Create and Make Ceramics Together	10,000.00	The project will provide eight-week ceramic course for veterans, Reserves, serving personnel and their families. They will learn new pottery techniques through projects, then glaze their ceramic creations - all in a safe and social environment.
Scottish Veterans Residences (SVR)	Art/Craft Veterans Club (ACVC)	10,000.00	The organisation will provide an art and woodworking club for homeless and vulnerable veterans being supported by Scottish Veterans Residences (SVR) as well as isolated veterans in the local community in Glasgow.
The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund	THRIVE – supporting RAF spouses/partners	9,600.00	Thrive provides RAF spouses/partners with a series of group workshops to tackle social isolation and loneliness and other health and wellbeing issues. The workshops include developing courage, dealing with adversity, understanding self, goal setting, health and wellbeing, values, beliefs, life skills, seeking employment and more.
Walking With The Wounded	OP-REGEN Scotland	9,750.00	OP-REGEN is Walking With The Wounded's Core volunteering project that provides a platform for ex-military and their families to re-integrate back into society, have a meaningful positive impact on their communities and the environment in which they reside. This project will offer volunteering opportunities for veterans and their families in Scotland

Wales			
Brecknock Play Network	Stay and Play	7,350.00	The project will deliver regular open access play sessions within Infantry Battle School (IBS) Camp and its outlying community where Service families are based. These will be child-led, building confidence, resilience and self-esteem in the children while building on an integration between civilian and military participants within the local community.
Caerphilly County Borough Council	Armed Forces Directory of Support	9,000.00	The organisation will develop an in-depth directory of support, organisations and activities available to the Armed Forces community for South East Wales. This directory will enable members of the AFC and support organisations to access information and will navigate through the options available; and will be designed to support people from Armed Forces communities that may struggle to access information through digital means
Caerphilly County Borough Council	Veterans Support Group Caerphilly Borough	10,000.00	The Veteran Support Group will work with veterans and Service personnel, developing their confidence and skills to access the help they need, where and when they need it. It will reinforce people's self-reliance, esteem, and self-empowerment. It will be a place where veterans feel they 'Belong'.
Cardiff Council	Get Active Social Group	9,956.00	The project will deliver a timetable of engaging activities to bring together members of the Armed Forces community and 'Civvy' communities through the enjoyment of being active. Attendees will meet new people from all different backgrounds and communities, building friendships and strengthening community ties through group activities designed to get people moving.
Firing Line Limited	The Abandoned Soldier Memorial Garden	10,000.00	The Firing Line will create a garden surrounding the Statue of the Abandoned Soldier, designed, built and maintained by

			veterans and volunteers from the local community. The project will provide a safe, welcoming space for veterans and volunteers to engage, reconnect and create new friendship/support groups, through gardening activities.
The Game Change Project CIC	Fast Track Futures	9,360.00	Fast Track Futures will empower ex-Service personnel in rural mid-Wales to become more engaged in their local area by mentoring young people. Working alongside the organisation's professional staff, veterans will support disengaged young people to participate in activities including vehicle maintenance, working with horses, conservation and other community projects.
MAB7	Creating outdoor fun	10,000.00	The project will bring the community back together after Covid; creating a multi-purpose outdoor space whereby all members of the military and civilian community can come together safely. Rebuilding community spirit and building old and new relationships through fun, laughter and the outdoors.
Monmouthshire County Council	Garden of Remembrance	7,026.00	Funding will be used to support veterans with mental health difficulties. This space will provide veterans with an area of quiet contemplation either before and/or after receiving specialist psychological therapy for military attributable mental health difficulties. The organisation will provide a garden as a safe space for veterans and families to meet.
Northern Ireland			
Army Welfare Service Northern Ireland	IMPACT	10,000.00	The project will support women within the Armed Forces community of Northern Ireland, through a project that will enhance physical and mental health and wellbeing using an exercise programme and art sessions to enhance mental and physical health, and boost resilience. The project will support women who have experienced isolation and family stresses.

Beyond the Battlefield NI	Veterans Meet Up Lunch Club	9,764.00	The organisation will work with veterans and families throughout NI, offering breakfast and lunch clubs that will reduce isolation. The project is particularly focused on the North Down & Ards Peninsula and Belfast areas.
Northern Ireland Garrison Support Unit	Summer for Service Children	10,000.00	The project will seek to reduce the impact that COVID-19 and isolation has had on Service children's social and emotional wellbeing through activities and educational trips over the summer months for children from Armed Forces families.
Regenerate	Heads hands heels	9,600.00	Heads, hands, heels will provide a person-centred, focused project for veterans and their families, reducing social isolation and enabling meaningful engagement with others from a similar background. Delivery will be through socially distanced outdoor activities, workshops and training provision, to enhance the resilience, mental health and wellbeing of veterans.
The Royal British Legion	Snap to Remember	10,000.00	The grant will support a photography project for veterans. Veterans will have opportunities to learn new skills and will receive tuition in taking the photographs and editing them by a professional photographer. The project will also ensure that veterans can access the equipment they need. This will culminate in the production of a calendar that will be sold to sustain the project.
Schomberg Society Kilkeel Ltd	Life Skills for Veterans	10,000.00	The Society will engage with veterans in Mourne to participate in a gardening project, encouraging veterans to be more engaged and active within their local community. This project will reduce isolation and combat the effects of loneliness from the pandemic by providing opportunities for veterans to contribute to a major community project.
Ballynahinch Branch Royal British Legion	Build a trike together	10,000.00	The project will allow veterans across Northern Ireland to get together in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere to work

			together to build a trike from a donor bike. Veterans will be able to learn new skills and the project will seek to reduce isolation through offering an engaging activity for veterans.
England			
17 Port & Maritime Regiment RLC, Mulberry Community and Families Centre	Exercise SERENE SEAHORSE	600.00	The organisation will use this small grant to deliver a two-week long project to promote resilience and general wellbeing within the regiment, to include interactive lectures and physical activity.
9 Regiment RLC	9 Regiment Open House	9,842.00	9 Regiment RLC will use this grant to support the development of a new contact house and improve the community centre. These improvements will increase the appeal and cohesion of all members of the regiment, from single soldiers to married with families, and incorporating all ranks.
Abberton Rural Training (ART)	'Quick Start' Rustic Recovery	9,976.00	The organisation will 'quick start' isolated veterans and wounded and injured (WIS) military Service personnel on a Rustic Recovery Programme. The project will address a backlog (due to Covid 19) of individuals waiting to start their mental and physical recovery through horticulture, woodlands and other land-based skills training.
AFC Fylde Community Foundation	Just Join In	9,950.00	Just Join In will provide a range of activities for serving families of The Mercian Regiment that have recently arrived at Weeton Barracks. The activities will improve their health and wellbeing as well as helping them to become more engaged in their local community and reducing social isolation and loneliness.
Age UK Leicestershire and Rutland	Joining Forces Engaging Together Project	10,000.00	The Joining Forces - Engaging Together project aims to both reduce the levels of social isolation and loneliness experienced by older veterans during the Covid-19 Crisis and encourage them to re-engage in local community activities.

			Veterans will be supported to re-establish feelings of being connected to others and local services.
Age UK Mid Mersey	Mersey Veterans Together (v3)	10,000.00	The Mersey Veterans Together (v3) project is aimed at tackling isolation, loneliness and the adverse impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on older veterans by providing person-centred wellbeing support and activities that encourage and enable them to 'Love Later Life'.
Age UK North Yorkshire and Darlington	Older Veteran Community Engagement	10,000.00	The organisation will deliver weekly Veterans' Cafés and Veterans' Befriending in Skipton, Darlington, Northallerton and Richmondshire. These will be run by and for ex-Service men and women, providing a place for older veterans to meet, make new friends, take part in activities and enjoy mutual support and camaraderie.
Age UK Sunderland	Supporting Our Veteran Heroes	9,999.00	AUKS will offer older members of the local veteran community structured opportunities to come together and share experiences, stories, make connections, keep mentally active, learn new skills and gain new knowledge. They will attend three, 12-week groups of 10 participants with skilled tutors
Aggie Weston's	Aggie's Community Waves (Portsmouth_Plymouth)	9,525.00	Aggie Weston's community Pastoral Workers are responding to the need for post-Covid recovery and support to be provided to the naval communities. Aggie's will provide safe spaces for families to meet, through gatherings in the Plymouth and Portsmouth areas, to expand the activities enabling signposting and support.
Aldershot Military Museum (Hampshire Cultural Trust)	Creative Wellbeing: Military Heritage	7,860.00	Aldershot Military Museum will provide weekly workshops to local veterans, in partnership with Combat Stress, engaging with the museum's collection and utilising art as a form of

			self-expression, reducing loneliness and improving mental health and wellbeing.
Amicus Trust	Activities for isolated homeless veterans	10,000.00	The organisation will use sports and meaningful activities to reduce isolation, improve wellbeing and increase confidence for veterans suffering homelessness and mental health conditions.
Armed Forces Community Support Hub	COVID and Beyond 2021.	10,000.00	This focused project will give all members of the local Armed Forces community the opportunity to have a central welcoming Hub, with support, to facilitate the transition into the digitalised world and provide safe access to online services having a sustainable positive impact on health, housing, education, employment and welfare.
Army Welfare Service - Weeton Barracks	Wild Weeton Community Garden	8,220.00	Weeton is a remote camp, and the 2 MERCIAN unit are new to the area having relocated from Cyprus in the height of the Covid 19 Lockdown. Funding will be used to engage the isolated community in a gardening project where they can prepare, grow, maintain and cook produce.
Carnagill Community Primary School	Supporting Service Children to 'THRIVE'	10,000.00	The organisation will identify and address gaps caused by the unique stressors Service children face and the disruption to their development. This funding will enable targeted work with Service pupils and their families. Service pupils will be able to access 1:1 or small groups designed to support and address any gaps in their development. These strategies and interventions will be shared, strengthening links with parents and carers.
Cranwell Primary School PTA	Trim Trail Aiding Social Integration	10,000.00	Funding will be used to build a Trim Trail for children attending RAF Cranwell's local primary school. Trim Trails encourage children to engage with their peers thus aiding social integration between military and civilian children; help children learn about taking risks in a safe environment; allow

			children to challenge themselves; promote fitness & mental wellbeing.
Crimsham Farm CIC	Crimsham Farm Vets Support Group	9,992.00	Crimsham Farm Vets Support Group is a safe space for veterans to come together in a social and supportive network. Through activities such as animal care, horticulture, and woodwork, veterans can learn skills, improve their mental health and wellbeing, and be supported by other veterans to integrate into their civilian community.
Family Friends	Families Together	10,000.00	Families Together builds on the organisation's specialist support for Armed Forces families and children in Windsor. Bespoke support will help Army families feel happier, more connected and more resilient, able to overcome the challenges and isolation of Covid19 restrictions and enjoy family and wider community life in future.
FirstLight Trust	Be Active. Be Healthy	10,000.00	This project will give veterans the opportunity to take part in weekly six-a-side football or tennis. The project builds on successful virtual activities that were delivered through the Covid pandemic.
Forward Assist	Veterans' Health & Wellbeing Hub	10,000.00	The veterans' health and wellbeing hub incorporates a veteran-run community cafe and daily activities to reduce social isolation and loneliness. Funding will help the organisation to reopen their community cafe following shutdown due to Covid, and welcome veterans back into the centre. Reopening the cafe and activities will be a significant step forward to support veterans, and veterans are able to access a range of services and support at the Hub.
Gateway Primary School	'The Hanger' family hub	9,770.00	The Hanger family hub will welcome local families to engage in social events and support from the school family support worker; supporting those new to the area, families who have

			a partner deployed and families with limited local support, with regular coffee mornings and stay and play sessions.
Gloucester Rugby Foundation	Veterans Activity Hub	9,985.00	'Veterans Activity Hub' will sustain provision of weekly 'rugby inspired' sessions for veterans of all ages with a focus on reducing inequalities that have heightened throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. Work readiness support, group mental fitness activities, physical activity, and sport-based reminiscence will all be made available through 'Hub' sessions.
Montgomery Junior School	Parenting Support for Military Families	3,855.00	The organisation will deliver a course to provide parents with guidance and support for their children's behaviour, mental health and wellbeing, including during periods of deployment and the recent pandemic. This will provide an opportunity for parents to meet and share experiences around any particular issues faced by military families.
New Vic Theatre	Appetite for more	10,000.00	Tri-Services & Veteran Support Centre & Appetite will be supporting veterans with the development of new shared arts and cultural related interests and hobbies through the drop-in centre, structured activities in the local area and community and further afield.
On Course Foundation	Veterans Golf, North West England	9,500.00	Funding will assist the organisation with the ongoing delivery of a programme of residential confidence building Golf Skills Development Events for veterans based in the North West of England; offering veterans the opportunity to engage in activities that can have a positive impact on wellbeing.
Operation Veteran	Operation Bounce Back	8,824.00	Operation Bounce Back will reignite post lockdown in-person services which focus on improving connectivity, building healthy relationships between veterans and the wider community, provide an opportunity to meet regularly, share experiences, access wellbeing and emergency response

			support. The organisation will facilitate increased activities to promote good mental health and figure out what comes next.
RAF Brize Norton Families Club	RAF Brize Norton Families Club	10,000.00	Funding will be used to improve the RAF Brize Norton Families Club to provide a quality leisure and social space for service personnel and families. With investment to improve the current offer, The Families Club will be a true all ranks space providing support to the station community.
Rochdale AFC Football in the Community Trust	Rochdale Forces Family Football	10,000.00	Rochdale AFC Community Trust will continue to provide much-needed support to veterans of all ages - both through access to football and other sporting activities, as well as regular social activities and opportunities for families to come together and take part in positive activities.
Smart Savings CIC	Veterans Regroup	10,000.00	Veterans Regroup offers a drop-in to support veterans and their families in Cornwall by providing information on money, housing and employment, local events, social activities and arranges food parcels. The drop-in will create volunteering opportunities for veterans to lead activities both virtually and face-to-face.
Spurgeons	Play, Talk and Grow Together	8,310.00	The project will decrease social isolation, improve wellbeing, and enable families to make friendships, including with civilian families. This project will enable families in Tidworth to attend weekly sessions to create a community memorial and garden.
Stable Lives	Stable Lives Respite and Support	9,400.00	Stable Lives provides a calm, quiet place where equine and land-based courses and respite days are offered to military veterans and their families facing mental health challenges.
Stories Outside Community Interest Company	The lamps are going out	8,500.00	To mark Armistice Day 2021 the organisation will develop a creative-arts project, working with military families and veteran communities to create lantern puppets to acknowledge the contributions of animals, particularly those

			who have been awarded the PDSA Dickin Medal 'For Gallantry' which has been awarded 72 times since 1943.
Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council	Tameside's Dig for the Future	10,000.00	The organisation will be working towards a harvest at their allotment space created in partnership with Tameside Armed Services Community. There will be cooking lessons provided by The Veterans Food Company, ingredient hampers for participants to take home, and the creation of a recipe booklet for wider distribution across partner agencies
The Bolton Guild of Help	Bridging the Gap	9,180.00	During and after Covid, this project will provide ways and means to continue delivering ongoing support to veterans and their families within the Borough of Bolton. It will help to tackle issues of loneliness and isolation and provide access to both practical and pastoral support as, when and where required.
The Bridge for Heroes	Project Open Door	10,000.00	The organisation's existing premises do not offer sufficient space for their veteran beneficiaries to undertake many of the indoor activities in a socially distanced setting. The grant will help the organisation develop an activity centre offering spaces where both meetings and activities can be undertaken in a Covid secure manner. These will include Arts and Crafts, Photography, Cycle Maintenance and Preparation, IT Instruction and tutorials, Fitness and Yoga, Carpentry and general events and training.
The Leeds United Foundation	Combat Cafe	10,000.00	The organisation will deliver weekly combat cafe events at Leeds United FC (Elland Road) whereby they provide veterans of all ages with the opportunity to come together for a chat and a bite to eat as well as the chance to take part in facilitated 'walk and talk' sessions.
The Soldiers' Arts Academy CIC	SAA Art workshops	10,000.00	The organisation will provide eight, six-week art courses at the Nottingham Society of Artists for WIS and their family

			members. The courses will be run by local artists Robin Perko and Lt Col. Stewart Hill. An online zoom link will enable additional students to join the class.
The Soldiers' Arts Academy CIC	Photography Courses for Veterans	10,000.00	The organisation will run photography courses for the military community. Led by serving photographer Rupert Frere, they constitute weekly online evening sessions. The organisation also plans to introduce further courses and residential weekends in London, Exeter and Yorkshire. They will teach new skills, promote recovery, wellbeing and confidence.
Veterans In Crisis	Crossing the Divide	9,924.00	Veterans in Crisis (VICS) Sunderland aims to encourage participation through the provision of newly created activity groups in light of the relaxation of covid lockdown regulations. In offering a variety of activities, the aim is to appeal to more veterans and their families.
Veterans Woodcraft	Introduction to CNC Woodworking	10,000.00	Veterans Woodcraft will deliver a series of CNC (Computer Numerically Controlled) woodworking machine workshops at both their Richmond and Newton Aycliffe workshops to help veterans and/or their spouses out of lockdown.
Walking With The Wounded	OP-REGEN Mission Green	9,800.00	Mission Greater Manchester will provide access for veterans to secure paid placements to support environmental improvements and tackle climatic issues in Greater Manchester. Collaborating with partners and local authorities across Greater Manchester, volunteers from the Armed Forces community will aim to plant three million trees within the next five years.
West Lancashire Crisis & Information Centre	VIP (Veterans Inclusion Project)	10,000.00	The organisation will use funding to develop a veterans' volunteering & Development Programme as part of Birchwood's Social Inclusion Café which offers veterans in the

			West Lancashire area an opportunity to engage in meaningful community activity and participate in community life.
Wigan Council	Re-Cycling Minds Project	10,000.00	The project, based at the Spinners Mill in Leigh, will centre on a furniture up-cycle venture providing 'somewhere to go, something to do and someone to talk to' for veterans and their families. It will also include access to a wide range of other activities based at the Mill.
Wyton on the Hill Parish Council	Connect and Transform Wyton	10,000.00	The organisation will deliver a series of activities and events designed to unite their mixed community of military and civilian families, building an inclusive and cohesive place to live and thrive, helping to combat loneliness, improve mental health, and supporting each other by enabling several communication channels taking in to account all age groups.
UK-Wide			
HMS Protector	AFCS support to HMS PROTECTOR	9,000.00	HMS Protector, as the UK's Ice Patrol Ship, spends extended periods amid inhospitable areas of the world. Funding will be used to provide items that will reduce isolation and improve mental health of the crew.
The War Widows' Association of Great Britain	Bereavement Buddies	9,010.00	The organisation will deliver a UK-wide project connecting War Widows with a Regional Organiser (RO) throughout their 60 Regions, ensuring they are contactable as bereavement buddies to new members/ members who are lonely or who feel isolated. The project will improve wellbeing by enhancing the link to RO and between members.
Total Awarded		£602,428	