

**Grants awarded under Round 1 of the Armed Forces Covenant Fund: Force for Change programme 2020/21 November 2020;
56 grants totalling £1,028,599**

Organisation	Project Title	Grant Amount	Project Description
Scotland			
Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust	Dreghorn Nursery Outdoor Activities	£18,550	The organisation will develop an outdoor space at a local nursery. Families will be encouraged to work together to make outdoor improvements and design and construct the new area at the nursery. There will be gardening workshops, woodland activities and physical activity sessions for the parents to get involved in as well as family conservation activities for the wider community.
First Light Trust	Growing Activities	£18,684	The organisation will appoint a support worker to develop weekly activities with the local community at a local garden site.
Horseback UK	Horse Back Volunteer Force	£7,500	The organisation will adapt an old stable area into a multi-purpose classroom to allow it to deliver its activities in line with Covid restrictions. A team of veteran volunteers will carry out the work, providing a sense of purpose and to reduce isolation.
Housing Options Scotland (HOS)	Volunteer Development for Military Matters	£18,308	The organisation will deliver a pilot scheme with veteran volunteers to research and develop local opportunities and activities such as homelessness interviews, home visits and help with filling out forms, to support isolated clients.

Rhu Primary School	Culture Cafe	£8,000	The organisation will run a periodic culture café lead by a different year group each time. Pupils will exhibit music, art, environmental lectures, cooker demonstrations and more and the community will be invited to register for events hosted in a Covid secure way.
Scottish Veterans Residences (SVR) Bellrock Close	Whitefoord House Veterans' Fitness Challenge	£4,928	The organisation will deliver a 6-week challenge designed to encourage residents to get involved in a community-wide competitive activity. Activities will include a walking challenge, cycle challenge and running challenge.
Wales			
Army Welfare Service Haverfordwest	Virtual Youth Staying Connected - Stronger Together	£19,630	The organisation will use iPads to provide support and better connect with the community. There will be weekly virtual participation groups featuring a range of activities such as cooking, film/book reviews and quizzes. This will enhance mood and reduce isolation, providing the chance to meet with peers and meet people from other bases in Wales too.
CAIS	Troop Café Community Hub	£20,000	The organisation will recruit two hospitality and activity coordinators to create an inclusive setting at the Troop Café Community Hub. Planned activities include quizzes, curry evenings, clinics and learning opportunities.
Hafal	Digital Inclusion Skills for Armed Forces Veterans in Wales	£19,937	The organisation will provide access to digital inclusion training and workshops for veterans. This will be followed by a number of digital coffee

			mornings for veterans who wish to improve their skills.
The VC Gallery	Ex-Forces volunteer Coordinator South	£19,620	The organisation will recruit a volunteer co-ordinator to help deliver opportunities for the Forces community to take part in such as fishing trips, art workshops, photography and social events.
The VC Gallery	Ex-Services Peer Mentor	£20,000	The organisation will recruit a peer mentor to help deliver opportunities for the Forces community, building relationships and providing a stabilising and consistent role to help reduce isolation.
Vulnerable Learners Service (VLS)	Armed Forces Education Support	£20,000	The organisation will employ a key worker to monitor the progression of children from military families, ensuring continuity of learning during transition between schools, and offering pastoral support.
Wrexham County Borough Council	Volunteer access to Mental Health First Aid	£19,440	The organisation will deliver training packages to enable individuals/groups who are working with the AFC in North Wales to gain recognised qualifications in Mental Health First Aid Training (veteran specific).
Northern Ireland			
Northern Ireland Garrison Support Unit	Thiepval Wood Mountain Bike Trail	£20,000	The organisation will offer user-friendly, fun and rewarding mountain biking activities to reduce isolation amongst serving personnel and their families.
Brooke House Project	Extraordinary Times, Extraordinary Volunteers	£19,240	The organisation will extend their existing outdoor facilities, upskill volunteers and deliver workshops

			- delivered in person and shared via live streaming.
Reserve Forces and Cadets Association Northern Ireland	DGS Spoke Development & Volunteer Coordinator	£16,800	The organisation will recruit a volunteer co-ordinator to develop and deliver support to participants as they progress through the DGS Spoke Development programme, including workshops and family nature-based away days.
Scarva and district cultural CIC	ABC armed forces regional centre	£20,000	The organisation will construct a new regional hub as an extension to their existing building. The space will comprise a multi-use auditorium/open gym space that will facilitate a number of social activities including health and wellbeing/sporting activities, signposting to services and awareness of financial and social opportunities, and general use.
England East			
Rutland County Council District Council	Courses for Forces [Learning Life Enhancing Digital Skills]	£19,950	The organisation will provide 12, three-week courses for learners to develop and improve their technical and creative skills in digital media.
The Bridge for Heroes	Project Link	£20,000	The organisation will deliver weekly social activities at the Bridge Centre, such as tea parties, garden parties and reminiscing about common topics. There will also be basic workshops in digital support, growing vegetables, painting and more.
England London			
Age UK East London	Digital buddies together	£19,870	The organisation will build on their digital buddying and befriending service. They will expand the service into Hackney and in

			Newham/Tower Hamlets, linking friendship volunteers with veterans for weekly phone calls.
Age UK Wandsworth	Veterans Together	£17,884	The organisation will offer outdoor activities to veterans and widows of veterans, aged over 50 in Wandsworth. Activities will include gardening, bowls, rambling, bird watching and visiting local attractions. Depending on Covid restrictions, indoor activities such as coffee mornings will also be offered.
The Fighting Chance in London Community Interest Company	PTSD Social Isolation Boxing Programme	£19,919	The organisation will offer boxing training for veterans who are socially isolated.
The Fighting Chance in London Community Interest Company	The Fighting Chance - Community Boxing Project	£19,865	The organisation will recruit and train veteran volunteers to deliver a 16-week boxing programme in the local community.
Mind in Haringey	Veterans in Mind	£20,000	The organisation will co-develop activities with veterans, focusing on changing negative thinking and improving loneliness and isolation. Those involved will take part in gardening activities as well as peer-to-peer discussion groups.
Shared Enterprise CIC	The Keep Shared Enterprise Club	£18,900	The organisation will empower the Forces community to become more engaged in activities, inspire and learn from each other. There will be group workshops and activities will be planned around the commitments, skills and talents of members.
Woolwich Garrison Church Trust	Garrison Church/Woolwich Barracks Revival	£15,000	The organisation will organise activities for soldiers and their families from Woolwich Barracks. There will be a carol service, talks and events to mark the shared history between the

			Army, garrison church and the local population, and children will also be encouraged to take part in activities and volunteering.
England North East			
Defence School of Transport	Ladysmith House – The Defence School of Transport Community and Welfare Hub.	£20,000	The organisation will provide a self-sufficient ecological outdoor experience to the Forces community. There will be opportunities to get involved in a sensory garden and sensory stimulation, planting hedgerows, making bird boxes and mud kitchens.
Hull 4 Heroes	Re-cycling Heroes	£18,896	The organisation will support veterans to learn to repair and refurbish bikes donated to the charity. These bikes are then returned to the community as part of a free bike library and will include adapted bikes for injured veterans.
Hull FC Community Foundation	'Game Plan'	£16,490	The organisation will offer one-to-one and group activities to veterans facing challenges with loneliness and reintegration. The 'Game to Play' project will engage veterans through a sport theme and educate and inspire participants to use the skills and qualifications gained to good use.
Operation Veteran CIC	Veterans Support and Volunteering Centre	£19,231	The organisation will recruit a volunteer and activities co-ordinator to co- design and deliver activities following consultation with veterans; which will help reduce isolation among veterans locally.
PATT Foundation	www.facebook.com/pg/pattfoundation	£20,000	The organisation will develop a tree nursery and deliver class-based training to veterans. Sessions will teach new skills and bring new purpose to

			those involved, culminating in a level 3 tree planting accreditation.
RMA - The Royal Marines Charity	Enabling RMA Branch Welfare Officer Programme	£20,000	The organisation will support veterans in need, and their families, to reduce isolation and offer comradeship and compassion.
The Soldiers' Arts Academy CIC	Soldiers' Arts Academy York hub arts workshops	£20,000	The organisation will launch online workshops delivering arts-based activities.
Veterans Woodcraft CIC	Vintage Veterans	£20,000	The organisation will hold two workshops a week for nine months, engaging with veterans and their families through woodwork and engineering work.
Wakefield Trinity Community Trust	'In Touch'	£15,740	The organisation will deliver the In Touch project to older veterans. Two-weekly sessions will be delivered with activities designed to boost physical health and promote positive wellbeing.
Walking With The Wounded	Growing Together - Veterans and Families	£20,000	The organisation will deliver a volunteer programme including activities such as fitness challenges, mindfulness and meditation, cooker groups, hobby groups, school activities and more.
England North West			
Cumbria CVS	Forward Step - Walking for Health	£18,800	The organisation will provide regular opportunities to get outside, form new friendships and access a support network. There will be health walks in Carlisle and Eden districts, as well as longer walks around Cumbria.
Liverpool Arabic Centre LAC	Aden Narratives Documentary Digital Inclusion	£19,225	The organisation will build on successful cross-cultural relationships built from their Aden Narratives documentaries. They will reach and engage with veterans who are isolated to have little/no access to provisions. 11 pod casts will be

			created and there will be a quarterly newsletter amongst other activities such as panel talks and ensuring access to digital technology.
Shared Enterprise CIC	Curzon's Mindfulness and Wellbeing Programme	£19,920	The organisation will host weekly mindfulness and wellbeing days for the Forces community. Activities include yoga, pilates, art therapy and cooking.
Sharks Community Trust	Social Sharks	£19,570	The organisation will launch three Social Sharks hubs to support veterans aged 55+ years living in Trafford, Salford and Stockport. Young people from the 'Advantage project will volunteer within the hubs to support participants to become digitally savvy.
Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council	Veteran's Survival Course	£14,630	The organisation will hold a veterans' lunch each month for isolated veterans. They will also run a 12-week basic cookery course and offer an introduction to hospitality.
England South East			
Age UK East Sussex	CERT-E For Change	£20,000	The organisation will engage volunteers to tackle barriers to older veterans becoming more active. This includes escorted shopping trips, face-to-face walks and escorting to local events and activities, following any Covid restrictions. Volunteers will receive training and support to fully understand their role.
Age UK East Sussex	CERT H For Change	£20,000	The organisation will engage volunteers to tackle barriers to older veterans becoming more active. This includes escorted shopping trips, face-to-face walks and escorting to local events and

			activities, following any Covid restrictions. Volunteers will receive training and support to fully understand their role.
Age UK East Sussex	CERT-LB For Change	£20,000	The organisation will engage volunteers to tackle barriers to older veterans becoming more active. This includes escorted shopping trips, face-to-face walks and escorting to local events and activities, following any Covid restrictions. Volunteers will receive training and support to fully understand their role.
Milton Keynes Council	Veterans Community Network	£19,450	The organisation will recruit a part time 'volunteer peer mentor' coordinator to help develop their services in response to increasing social isolation issues. This includes virtual coffee mornings, a book club and gaming/chess clubs.
Rushmoor Borough Council	Aldershot Repair Cafe	£15,000	The organisation will establish a café, encouraging veterans to take part and help repair local products that are brought in.
Veterans Outreach Support	Supporting Veterans Outreach	£20,000	The organisation will establish a dedicated team of 10 volunteers to assist them extend their reach, especially to those who are isolated and lonely.
The Vine Centre	GASP (Gambling, Alcohol & Substance Misuse Project)	£20,000	The organisation will establish a military-only group to support those feeling isolated in their work community. There will be Cooking with Confidence training, one-to-one support and building key skills such as literacy and numeracy - as well as help with employment needs.
England South West			

Armed Forces Community Support Hub	Exeter Veterans - Covid and Beyond	£20,000	The organisation will deliver a programme that covers nutrition, movement, therapeutic art and quizzes. Veterans from a wide area will be encouraged to get involved. The organisation will improve their outreach capacity to enable this, and will provide an IT suite enabling veterans to use email safely, receive training on internet safety and learn to use basic programmes such as Word - this will help clients with job search and writing CVs.
Battling On CIC	Building Brighter Futures	£20,000	The organisation will run twice weekly workshops undertaking a range of activities such as developing a community garden and providing fruit and vegetables to vulnerable people in the community. Volunteers will be trained to run the project post-funding.
Combat Surfers	Resilient Communities in the New Normal	£20,000	The organisation will run a series of six-week course for the Forces community in Cornwall. Those taking part will experience teamwork, resilience, inclusivity and will make new friendships. The focus will be on self-confidence as well as discovering the fun of surfing and the beach environment.
Same but Different cic	More than a National Service	£19,995	The organisation will engage National Service conscripts in Dorset, producing striking portraits, video interviews and written narratives to bring their experiences to life. They will also host living history events for young people.

SSAFA - North Somerset	SSAFA North Somerset - Capacity Building	£10,000	The organisation will provide goods and services to the Forces community including white goods, transport to medical appointments and funeral expenses.
England West Midlands			
The County of Herefordshire District Council	Veteran to Veteran Volunteering Scheme	£19,627	The organisation will use a volunteer coordinator to build upon their current volunteering opportunities and offer activities and courses for socially and rurally isolated veterans.
UK-Wide			
Blind Veterans UK	Stepping Forward (Volunteer Upskilling)	£20,000	The organisation will enhance their beneficiary experience through the use of volunteers. They will provide their volunteers with support from a Volunteer Coordinator, access to new peer-to-peer support volunteers and bespoke training sessions on what to expect post Covid-19. Once trained, the volunteers will help blind veterans to rebuild their social networks.
Reading Force	Reading Force Book Club Ambassador Scheme	£20,000	The organisation will build a network of shared-reading groups across the military community.
Total Awarded			£1,024,099