

Large Grants awarded by Afghanistan Veterans Fund

3 grants totalling £1,260,731

Organisation	Project Title	Awarded	Project Description
Samaritans	Veterans Support Hub	£600,000.00	Samaritans will use the grant to establish a veterans support hub, providing trained peer-to-peer emotional support to improve the wellbeing and resilience of the veterans community and reduce the incidence of deaths by suicide within this community.
The Royal British Legion	Veterans Gateway Digital Enhancement	£380,000.00	The Royal British Legion, on behalf of the Veterans' Gateway consortium, will develop and implement optimisations to the functionality of the Veterans Gateway website to ensure that the platform is up-to-date, accessible to all audiences and responsive to the current and emerging needs of the Armed Forces community.
King's Centre for Military Health Research, King's College London	Afghanistan: Voices of service	£280,731.00	King's Centre for Military Health Research and Imperial War Museums will interview 100-120 UK Armed Forces personnel and family members who deployed to Afghanistan during the 2001-2021 conflict and the subsequent withdrawal to record and recognise their experiences, increase public awareness of their service and make recommendations for support needs.

**Grants awarded by Afghanistan Veterans Fund Under Strand 1 -
Supporting Veteran's Community Mental Health**

8 grants totalling £798,487

Project Location	Organisation	Project Title	Awarded	Project Description
Northern Ireland	Brooke House Project	Increasing Capacity	£100,000	Brooke House will use the grant to increase capacity in the face of increasing demand and increasing complexity of cases. They aim to give Veterans the best possible service, reduce risk, increase resilience and maintain value for money.
Wales	Combat Stress	Welsh Afghanistan Veterans – Specialist Treatment	£113,583	With the grant, Combat Stress will deliver specialist mental health services to address currently unmet needs of Welsh veterans with complex mental health problems following service in Afghanistan, addressing gaps in existing service provision. Combat Stress will provide these services in close partnership with existing providers, to ensure seamless services to veterans.
UK-Wide	Help for Heroes	Hidden Wounds – Mental Health Support	£100,000	Help for Heroes will deliver mental health assessment and treatment for wounded veterans and the families adversely affected by the Afghanistan conflict and withdrawal as part of their Hidden Wounds and Project Solidarity programme.

Scotland	Icarus Online SCIO	Afghan Veterans' mental health & wellbeing	£100,000	Icarus will use the grant to increase their capacity enabling them to be able to offer more support and specialist mental health services to veterans from Afghanistan and other recent conflicts; following increased levels of demand.
UK-Wide	King Edward VII's Hospital	KEVII's Veteran Pain Management Programme	£89,000	The award-winning Pain Management Programme (PMP) delivered by the Centre for Veterans Health at King Edward VII's Hospital (KEVII), provides life-changing support for veterans living with chronic pain. This grant would fund two additional programmes starting in 2022; to support veterans from Afghanistan and other recent conflicts
UK-Wide	PTSD Resolution Ltd	Afghan Veterans mental health treatment	£95,904	PTSD Resolution has provided therapy for trauma and social support for veterans; with a significant proportion having served in Afghanistan. They will use their grant to increase capacity; following a rise in demand for their services.
England	Veterans Outreach Support	Reinforcing Success in Mind	£100,000	VOS will use the grant to enhance its current clinical team with additional psychological and psychiatric resources to meet the increased demand complexity of mental health support being requested by veterans and their families. The grant will enable improved support to those in need at the time when the help is needed.
UK-Wide	Walking With The Wounded	Head Start – mental health programme	£ 100,000	The grant will increase WWTW's capacity to deliver their existing Head Start programme to both veterans and their families. Over the last year demand for the programme has increased.

**Grants awarded by Afghanistan Veterans Fund Under Strand 2 –
Increasing Supportive Comradeship, Connectedness & Engagement to Improve Wellbeing, Resilience & Good Mental Health**

2 grants totalling £861,665

Organisation	Project Title	Grant Amount	Press Summary
RNRMC	Reaching Out – By Your Side	£430,833.00	The organisation will develop their own grant making programmes; which Service organisations within the Navy charity sectors will be able to apply directly for grants; for projects to enhance comradeship among younger veterans
The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund	Operation RAF UNITE	£430,832.00	The organisation will develop their own grant making programmes; which Service organisations within the RAF charity sectors will be able to apply directly for grants; for projects to enhance comradeship among younger veterans

**Grants awarded by Afghanistan Veterans Fund Under Strand 2A -
Supporting comradeship, connectiveness and engagement with veterans: Army Regimental, Corps, Headquarters & Associations**

13 grants totalling £380,000

Organisation	Project Title	Grant Amount	Project Description
1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards Regimental Trust	V QDG CONNECT	£35,000.00	The Queen's Dragoon Guards will create a virtual Hub (vHub) that will build connection and community in order to help address mental health needs from the Queen's Dragoon Guards serving and veteran community.
Army Air Corps Charity	Army Air Corps Association Website	£10,000.00	The grant will enable the organisation to enhance its fledgling website; enabling AAC veterans to freely interact and communicate with each other and serving personnel to unify and grow the community; using a range of digital tools to support engagement
THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS ASSOCIATION	COLDSTREAM GUARDS VETERAN OUTREACH	£10,000.00	The Coldstream Guards Association outreach project will establish contact with recent veterans who have lost touch with the Regiment and are in need of comradeship, to improve their mental and physical well-being, and provide a sign-posting opportunity to other veteran groups or charities that can help them.

The King's Royal Hussars Regimental Trust	Hussar	£35,000.00	The King's Royal Hussars will create a virtual Hub (vHussar) that will build connection and community in order to help address mental health needs from the King's Royal Hussars serving and veteran community.
The Light Dragoons Charitable Trust	Light Dragoon	£35,000.00	The Light Dragoons will create a virtual Hub (vHub) that will build connection and community in order to help address mental ill health from the Light Dragoons serving and veteran community.
The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment Benevolent Fund	SubSubscriberCRM - Supporting the PWRR Association	£10,000.00	The organisation will use the grant to make digital improvements; enabling veterans to have better access to support and comradeship within the Regimental Association
The Queen's Royal Hussars (The Queen's Own and Royal Irish) Regimental Charity	Q R Hussar	£35,000.00	The Queen's Royal Hussars will create a virtual Hub (VHub) that will build connection and community in order to help improve mental health from the Queen's Royal Hussars serving and veteran community.
The Regimental Charity of the Royal Dragoon Guards	Connect V Dragoon	£35,000.00	This project will provide a single digital focal point for contact and support. The project responds to needs with Regiments veteran community that include substantial mental health needs within veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan
Regimental Headquarters, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (RHQ)	Fusiliers Connected	£35,000.00	The Fusiliers Association seek to reach out to younger, disengaged veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan to reconnect them to the comradeship and esprit de corps provided by the 'Fusiliers Connected' Association

The REME Charity	REME Connect: Afghanistan	£35,000.00	To create digital communities of support for REME veterans of Afghanistan and similar recent operations to make a meaningful difference to the veterans' and their families' lives.
The Royal Anglian Benevolent Charity	Royal Anglian Veterans Reunited	£35,000.00	The Regiment will use this funding to make a real difference to the lives of our Afghanistan veterans. By providing a dedicated individual whose sole task is to engage with them, encourage them to connect with each other and the wider community and to organise events to enable this.
The Royal Lancers Charitable Trust	The Lancer Project	£35,000.00	The Royal Lancers have received a grant to help them to further develop their Virtual vHub. They will use their grant to further develop the app and to help engage with a wider group of younger veterans. The vHub project that they developed is now being taken forward by other Regimental Associations; to assist with building better connections and comradeship with younger veterans
The Royal Regiment of Scotland Regimental Trust	"Be the Standard for others to Follow"	£35,000.00	The project will provide the SCOTS Association with modern media platforms to extend its support and reach to their veteran community; assisting them to re-connect with a friend, the SCOTS Association or an existing informal networks. They will do this through a digital project, which will include an app.

**Grants awarded by Afghanistan Veterans Fund Under Strand 3 -
Enabling Veterans/Veteran Support Organisations to Support Afghanistan Refugees in the United Kingdom**

1 grant totalling £150,000

Organisation	Project Title	Awarded	Project Description
RFEA - The Forces Employment Charity	Afghan Employment Project	£150,000.00	RFEA will deliver a project to improve the wellbeing of UK Veterans, who will volunteer their time working alongside and helping Afghan people who have defence connections, and who supported the UK Armed Forces during the 20-year Afghanistan conflict.

**Grants awarded by Afghanistan Veterans Fund Under Strand 4 -
Regional and More Localised Projects That Increase Capacity in Services & Initiatives That Offer Support and Comradeship,
Engagement & Wellbeing Efforts**

24 grants totalling £704,117

Project Location	Organisation	Project Title	Awarded	Project Description
Scotland	Mindfulness Scotland	Outdoor Mindfulness & Recovery for Veterans	£7,790.00	Mindfulness Scotland's project 'Outdoor Mindfulness & Recovery for Veterans' will enable veterans to spend time in nature to help develop mindfulness, and aid mental wellbeing and recovery
Wales	Woody's Lodge	Welsh Afghan Heroes.	£35,000.00	The Welsh Afghan Heroes will use the grant continue to maintain the well established support team that provides much needed support, assistance, guidance and signposting for the Armed Forces Veterans community. They will be able to continue to offer extended home visits for veterans who might benefit from this.
England	Army Widows Association	Army Widows/ers Regional Resilience Activities	£11,755.00	With this funding, Army Widows Association will be able to offer more resilience and respite activities. These will support bereaved spouses, cohabitees or civil partners of those lost in conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, and those otherwise deceased in recent service. Activities will provide support through special understanding and shared experience, developing confidence and strength to re-build shattered lives.

England	Bowra Foundation	Bowra: Engage to Recover	£35,000.00	The 'Bowra: Engage to Recover' project will provide support and comradeship to veterans and families who do not routinely access the services of other support on offer. The project will be lead by Mark Bowra, former UKSF commander, Invictus Gold medallist and stroke survivor. Mark will lead sporting activities, bringing together veterans and brain injury survivors of all backgrounds.
England	CDARS	The Herrick Project	£32,890.00	The Herrick Project will provide joined up wellbeing and resilience activities to disadvantaged family members or carers of veterans from the Afghanistan conflict.
England	Everton in the Community	Laughing away the Blues' (LATB)	£34,500.00	The 'Laughing away the Blues' project will engage with veterans and families across Merseyside; and will build on existing projects with veterans that have been run by the organisation
England	Gloucester Rugby Foundation	One Community	£18,825.00	The 'One Community' project will engage Gloucestershire based forces and veteran personnel who have been affected by recent conflicts. The project will use sporting activities to help improve mental wellbeing and physical health whilst supporting comradeship between participants.
England	Groundwork GM / Operation Re-Org	Afghanistan Veterans' Operation Re-Org	£35,000.00	Groundwork GM's project will offer a structured health and wellbeing programme involving group based activities and opportunities for personal development for veterans, that have served in Afghanistan, and their families. The project will run at three locations across Greater Manchester, whilst also expanding the existing programme of 1-2-1 support for veterans from the Operation Re-Org Team.

England	Hull FC Community Foundation	Positive Futures	£19,840.00	'Positive Futures' is a new programme for veterans who have served in recent conflicts comprising bespoke activities inspired by the 'Five Ways to Wellbeing'. Led by veterans with lived experience of Afghanistan, the project will offer individual support, group-based, and inter-family activities which will empower improved wellbeing and social connections for veterans.
England	On Course Foundation	Veterans Golf Programme – South-East	£20,760.00	The project will deliver an enhanced programme of confidence building golf events - increasing peer-to-peer support for veterans in the South East of England, in particularly throughout Kent and Sussex. This includes working more closely with the Ghurkha community and other local veterans' organisations.
England	Operation Veteran CIC	Together we served	£26,817.00	'Together we served' is a project to be run by Operation Veteran. The aim of the project is to create opportunities for service men and women to connect to other veterans, for comradeship and to reduce isolation. The project will host informal activities and create uplifting discussions, in a space to support each other in their shared experiences and challenging life events.
England	Remembering Our Roots CIC	NINE SHIPS Veterans Support Project	£34,723.00	Remembering Our Roots CIC 'NINE SHIPS Veterans Support Project' will support serving personnel, veterans and their families in the South-West. The project offers camaraderie in fortnightly fireside get togethers, weekend accredited bushcraft qualifications and weekly therapeutic group support.
England	Rochdale Hornets Sporting Foundation	Hornets Supporting Vets	£19,860.00	With this funding, the Rochdale Hornets Sporting Foundation will expand existing services by introducing new activities to appeal to disengaged veterans. The Foundation will introduce a range of activities to appeal to younger veterans and use the power of sport and physical activity to increase self-esteem, ease mental health difficulties and develop a sense of belonging.

England	Service Dogs UK	Canines and Comradeship after Conflict	£35,000.00	The demand for the charity's services has increased from those affected by recent conflicts. This grant will enable an increase in capacity to help more Veterans and their families, providing them with a challenging but rewarding programme, camaraderie and a specially trained and accredited PTSD assistance dog.
England	Sharks Community Trust	Sharks Forces Together	£28,750.00	'Sharks Forces Together' will offer a new programme of holistic wellbeing activities for veteran carers, forces families, and those who directly served in recent conflicts. Delivered in partnership with Walking with the Wounded, the project's focus is on empowering comradeship, improving wellbeing, and ultimately supporting better life outcomes for participants.
England	The Veterans Contact Point	Operation Free Speech.	£30,000.00	This project will create a support group specifically for veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq. The group will be facilitated by a veteran who served on operations in Afghanistan, supported by a member of the VCP staff acting as a link with NHS veterans mental health services.
England	Veterans Outdoors (formerly Veterans Farm-able)	Turning Point	£35,000.00	This project will responding to the needs of veterans from recent conflicts who have helped to shape the activities. The project will deliver weekend and evening programmes. Within this project there will be well-being activities to improve confidence and activities to reduce anxiety, and the project will aim to enable veterans to build friendships and camaraderie.
England	Veterans Woodcraft	"The Art of Wellbeing"	£35,000.00	With this funding, Veterans Woodcraft will increase their capacity to help and support the increasing number of veterans and the wider Armed Forces Community being affected by events in Afghanistan. With the funding, the project will deliver a wider range of activities and initiatives than has previously been possible.

UK-wide	British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association	Activities for Recent-Conflict Limbless Veterans	£35,000.00	With this funding, Blesma will deliver a one-year programme of regional and bespoke activities to support limbless/injured veterans from recent conflicts. It will help veterans and their families build resilience, benefit from comradeship and mutual support and increase their engagement with Blesma and the wider Armed Forces community.
UK-wide	Climb 2 Recovery	Regional climbing and peer support.	£33,690.00	The grant will enhance the organisations local and regional support and services Afghan veterans. Climb 2 Recovery will employ a regional member representatives, and a national member coordinator, to enable better support to be given to veterans. Climb 2 Recovery will also run regular indoor/outdoor climbing and social meets for veterans and their families.
UK-wide	Fighting With Pride	Tommy and Me	£33,917.00	Fighting With Pride will use the funding to bring more of the LGBT+ military family together, offering support and comradeship to veterans from recent conflicts
UK-wide	HORSEBACK UK	Veterans and Families Recovery Project	£35,000.00	With this funding, HorseBack UK will expand its military and service families mental health and wellbeing recovery programmes. It will include horsemanship, equine assisted learning, rural skills and use the outdoors to meet increased support needs from veterans who served in Afghanistan and their families and carers.
UK-wide	Scotty's Little Soldiers	Supporting Children of the Fallen	£35,000.00	With this funding, Scotty's Little Soldiers will increase their specialist bereavement support offered to all Forces children and young people who have experienced the death of a serving parent, addressing the extra needs of those who are impacted directly (killed in action) or indirectly (by suicide) from conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.
UK-wide	Turn to Starboard	The MERT Club	£35,000.00	Turn to Starboard will use the funding to set up 'The MERT Club'. It will be an project set up to bring together and support those who undertook roles on the Medical Emergency Response Team in Afghanistan.