

Grants awarded under the Reaching and Supporting Armed Forces Communities programme 2023/24 – February 2024

32 grants totalling £2,856,636

Organisation	Project Title	Grant Amount (£)	Project Description
Scotland			
39 Engineer Regiment	Single Soldiers Welfare Respite Pod	£50,000	Four off-grid Respite Pods will be available for use by soldiers when off duty for socialising and relaxing, addressing issues of social isolation and loneliness. The pods will be situated in nature, next to the beach.
Erskine	One-Stop-Shop for Veterans	£ 59,681	The Erskine One-Stop-Shop service helps tackle the compelling need of financial difficulties within the ex-Service community, providing vulnerable Veterans with support and guidance during the cost-of-living crisis.
Lothians Veterans Centre	Lothians Female Veterans' Gateway	£97,700	This project will support female Veterans and their families in Edinburgh and the Lothians to overcome barriers in accessing help and support for issues including health and wellbeing, peer support and comradeship. Advice on employment, training, housing and benefits will be provided in a safe, protected and welcoming environment.
Rangers Charity Foundation	Veterans at Ease	£50,788	This project will engage with Veterans who are struggling to adapt back into civilian life. Delivering a yearly 14-week programme to build resilience, confidence and life skills, the project delivered through Rangers Football Club will look to re-engage participants back into society.

Stirling District Citizens Advice Bureau Ltd	Veterans Housing Advice Service (VHAS)	£ 99,795	The Veterans Housing Advice Service aims to prevent homelessness. The service will provide advice, advocacy, casework support and representation, across Stirling & Clackmannanshire exclusively to the Veteran community.
Wild Things - Environmental Education in Action	Wilderness Explorers Club for Youth	£ 25,830	This project will engage the youth of military families with exciting outdoor adventure and ecological activities supporting community connection, conservation, volunteering and gaining qualifications. Club members will make new friends, receive mentorship and support and have the opportunity to attend overnight expeditions.
Wales			
Age Cymru Powys	Rural Veterans MOT	£ 98,076	Rural Veterans MOT is an innovative concept developed by Age Cymru Powys to revolutionise future planning in response to Veterans' needs. The project will target vulnerable, disabled, isolated Veterans aged 65+, who may be hidden from support services in rural Powys. Veterans will be helped to maximise income, health and wellbeing, making the most of later life.
Cwm Taf Morgannwg Mind	Knowing Me; Knowing Mind	£150,000	Knowing Me; Knowing Mind will deliver trauma-informed counselling to Veterans living in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region. The project will create an accessible pathway into counselling, targeting those with hidden mental health needs who are unable to use NHS counselling services due to a range of needs.
Race Council Cymru	Ethnic Minority Veterans Support Network	£99,851	Race Council Cymru are establishing a support network for ethnic minority Veterans and their families which will facilitate access to crucial support and resources. An annual community event will honour and celebrate their invaluable contributions. A publicly accessible archive of stories will also be created to raise awareness of their service.

Northern Ireland			
Beyond the Battlefield	Pace	£100,000	This project will develop a sustainable support structure for LGBT+ Veterans by building a sustainable partnership between the LGBT+ Veterans and Veterans organisations. A strong LGBT+ Veterans group will be developed, helping to promote inclusion and recognition.
Brooke House Project	Relax, Restore, Revitalise	£100,000	Relax, Restore, Revitalise will introduce music therapy to a group of Veterans, including those suffering from dementia and PTSD. Through the medium of music, these sessions will provide relaxation and inner peace to Veterans who are struggling with the pressures of modern life.
England			
Accrington Stanley Community Trust	STANLEY VETERANS SUPPORT HUB	£100,000	The Accrington Stanley Community Trust Veterans Support Hub will provide a much-needed, Veterans-led support for Veterans aged 30-40 affected by addiction issues in the Hyndburn area. The hub will offer a holistic mix of sport, physical activity, mental health and wellbeing support mixed with fun, family-friendly activities and development opportunities.
Age UK Northumberland	Connections for Veterans	£75,800	This project aims to connect Veterans with services and activities to improve their quality of life. Whether connecting people with groups, classes and friendship, or helping with claiming the benefits or support they're entitled to, the project will take a holistic approach to support, building long-term trust and relationships.
Armed Forces Community HQ CIC	Forces Hospital Home Check	£99,968	Forces Hospital Home Check will provide a targeted service for the most vulnerable members of the Armed Forces community in the North West, offering coordinated support to ensure efficient hospital discharge. The bespoke service will put in place measures to support individuals to maintain their independence and quality of life, reducing reliance on services, and lower the potential of readmission.

Broughton House - Veteran Care Village	Navigator: Veterans with Complex Needs	£ 93,648	The project will support working age Veterans with multiple, complex needs in Greater Manchester, addressing issues including mental health, poverty, addictions, unemployment, isolation and/or homelessness. The Navigator will provide advocacy and support to help Veterans and partners access the support they need from multiple sources.
Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire	Citizens Advice for RAF Brize Norton	£ 66,100	A local Citizens Advice service dedicated to serving the advice needs of RAF Brize Norton personnel and their families. Holistic advice will be provided to help navigate family breakdown, housing issues, money and debt issues. Support will be provided to challenge decisions and uphold the rights of serving military personnel and their families.
Citizens Advice York	Advisor Training and Community Advice	£50,088	Citizens Advice York will train four Service leavers and family members to become qualified advisors, with options for specialist training, increasing chances of employability. Advisors with lived experience will then advise Forces communities one day per week in selected military settings.
Combat Stress	Suicide Prevention; Supporting High-Risk Veterans	£100,000	Combat Stress will share their specialist expertise with national networks and learning communities to reduce the chance of high-risk Veterans committing suicide. Specialised suicide prevention toolkits will be developed that will be accessible 24/7 to upskill people living with, working with and / or caring for Veterans at high-risk of suicide.
Derbyshire Alcohol Advice Service	RECONNECT	£134,521	RECONNECT will reach out to Veterans who are more difficult to engage, whose needs may be hidden and/or complex. The Veteran-to-Veteran programme will facilitate early-stage engagement, offering regular contact and supported access to established Derbyshire MESS groups, peer support and buddying.

Home-Start in Suffolk	Military Family Support Navigation Project	£ 94,398	The Military Family Support Project will help families thrive by providing bespoke, home-based 1-1 support for Suffolk Armed Forces families. Specially trained volunteers will give practical and emotional support, encouraging community integration and friendships, and reducing isolation. The project will also help build resilience and parenthood skillsets within families.
Poppy Factory	Families Employment Service	£ 100,000	Working in collaboration with The Ripple Pond, the project will expand The Poppy Factory's Families Employment Service for adult family members who support Veterans with health conditions. Building on a successful pilot and high demand to date, the project will help family members overcome barriers to secure and sustain employment.
RAF Association	The Veterans' Resilience Programme	£ 88,584	The RAF Association, in partnership with Loughborough University, will deliver an intensive resilience programme for 72 Veterans with complex mental health needs. The programme will help Veterans develop a positive social identity and alleviate the stressors associated with the cost-of-living crisis by strengthening their social, physical and psychological resilience.
The Ripple Pond	Veteran Family Engagement Programme	£ 100,000	The Veteran Family Engagement Programme will support families within the Veteran community living with the day-to-day challenges of caring for someone with injuries sustained during military Service. The project will focus on reaching 'hidden' families who are not currently accessing the support they need.
The Sir Oswald Stoll Foundation	Community Connections Project for Armed Forces Veterans	£91,342	The Community Connections project will provide outreach support to Armed Forces Veterans as they leave supported housing centres and integrate into local communities across London. The project will also enable up to 130 Veterans to co-design and lead activities and events that will improve their health and wellbeing.

Defence Medical Welfare Service	Armed Forces National Response Helpline	£ 99,657	The Armed Forces National Response Helpline provides support and advice to the Armed Forces community across the UK. The helpline provides direct emotional and practical support that is person centred and improves physical and mental wellbeing in the short and long term.
Step Together Volunteering	Step ToGetHer Women's Peer Support	£ 97,029	Step ToGetHer provides gender-specific support with transition from the Armed Forces to civilian life for female Veterans and PRD (Personnel on Recovery Duty). Through intensive 1-1 coaching and peer support, these women will improve confidence and self-belief to help them build a fulfilling life after military Service.
Suffolk Mind	Front Line Families	£ 95,860	Front Line Families will meet the hidden needs of families supporting serving/Veteran personnel affected by trauma and PTSD. The project will: teach spouses/children to recognise and look after their own mental health needs, equip families to support their peers/loved ones, and build a supportive mental health/wellbeing culture for future generations within the Armed Forces.
Oxfordshire Play Association	RAF Benson Family Support Worker (Additional Needs)	£75,761	Oxfordshire Play Association will employ a Family Support Worker to work with the Families at RAF Benson for those families who have a child with additional needs. This service will cover a wide range of additional needs including children on the Autism Spectrum, those with behavioural needs, allergies etc
Royal Star and Garter	Supporting the Bereavement Journey	£ 100,000	Royal Star & Garter will work with bereaved partners and close family members of the Veterans who live with them or access their outreach services, to create a supportive journey at a time of significant loss.
Veterans' Growth	Veterans' Growth Managing Addictions Programme (VGMAP)	£ 65,500	The Veterans' Growth Managing Addictions Programme supports Veterans of the UK Armed Forces who are living with addiction issues. The programme provides support and guidance to help participants understand their behaviours, reflect on the impact these behaviours have on their lives and devise strategies to overcome them.

Veterans in Communities	Reach, Support, Belong and Prosper	£ 97,142	Veterans in Communities will utilise this funding to identify, reach and support those from the Armed Forces communities, supporting them to overcome individual barriers to lead fulfilling lives. The project will help to cultivate a sense of belonging and help those supported to prosper within their own localities.
Walking With the Wounded	Support Pathways for Neurodiverse Veterans	£ 25,830	This project will develop comprehensive information and support pathways for diagnosed or suspected neurodiverse Veterans who are struggling to access assessment and mental health support. Working with partners like the NHS, the project will explore barriers, whether they be a diagnosis or lack thereof, and empower Veterans to access support.
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