

VALOUR RECOGNISED CENTRES Q+A

- **If an organisation is unsuccessful in round 1, can they apply again in round 2?**
 - Yes, but please be aware that there may be changes to the programme guidance for round 2 compared to that for round 1.
- **Can organisations apply as a consortium if they cover more than one geographic area / region? For example, could an organisation in Cumbria apply as part of consortium even though the other organisations are in the North East? Can a group of hubs in multi-regions form their own consortium?**
 - Yes. However, consideration will be given during the assessment of geographic coverage/need in order to ensure a range of organisations are supported within this programme across the UK.
- **The guidance states that funds can't be spent on the usual things like repeat or regular projects, or activities that have already begun, but this seems counterintuitive to the Development Fund aims?**
 - As set out in the programme guidance, it is recognised that a number of organisations will already be operating programmes which have several of the components VRC's require. Government funding can be used to increase capacity of existing activities and / or enhance organisations' ability to deliver support in line with requirements detailed in the programme guidance.
- **Has there been any discussion as to what "equitable coverage" is quantified as?**
 - There is no definition. Applications should clearly show the area (footprint) they will be able to support from their centre, and Consideration will be given during the assessment of geographic coverage/need in order to ensure a range of organisations are supported within this programme across the UK.
- **What is the expected start date range for funding/projects?**
 - Applications are invited in round 1 by experienced organisations or consortiums who can move at pace and potentially already have a veteran centre in operation. Successful applicants will need to work with the AFCFT to determine how quickly they can become an operational

VALOUR Recognised Centre. We will also require a high-level operational plan with your application form, which should detail this.

- **Have there been discussions on expected interactions/overlap of VRCs and Thrive Together?**
 - Applicants are encouraged to use existing networks and evidence good existing practice when applying for VALOUR funding, including successful examples under the Thrive Together programme.
- **Do you have to name all proposed delivery partners in the application, or can this be confirmed after application (e.g. like we have done with TT)? (Noting that there isn't much time to do a comprehensive procurement process by the application deadline).**
 - All members of a consortium must be listed when applying for funding. Non-consortium delivery partners can be confirmed, if the application is successful, at a later date, but we would encourage you to list as many delivery partners as possible in your application.
- **Do you have to detail exact budget lines in the application? (e.g. Could you state “£50k for provision in X locality”). Does a full and detailed budget need to be submitted for all individual partners in a consortium at time of application?**
 - You will need to provide a clear breakdown of what your costs will be for each year of the project. The breakdown should include specific information regarding any of the associated costs involved. Proportionate costs for areas such as a Transport Fund or Capital costs are permitted, however, please read the guidance fully when considering these budget lines. You should ensure that you only include costs that are relevant to the delivery of your VALOUR Recognised Centre work. If you are leading a consortium, or working with funded partners, you will need to give an overview of how much funding will be apportioned to each organisation. We will ask you for more detailed budgeting, staffing and operational delivery information if your application is successful.
- **Is there any further information on the OVA Assurance mentioned in the guidance?**
 - Further information on assurance will be made clear to successful applicants in due course.

- **Charity commission / Income – temporary large increase in income may prevent hubs from applying for other income-restricted grants – has this been considered?**
 - Applicants will need to consider the potential impact of this before applying.
- **Are there any examples of what the OVA’s perfect model of delivery looks like?**
 - We would encourage applicants to pay close attention to requirements set out in the programme guidance.
- **Are there assurances that the decision-making board will be a wide selection of individuals and not politically led?**
 - As this is a Government-run programme, members of the assessment board will all be expected to follow the Seven Principles of Public Life. Please note that, as set out in the programme guidance, final decisions on awarded funds will be made by the Minister for Veterans and People.
- **Who will be on the decision-making board? Will this be made public.**
 - Final decisions will be made by the Minister for Veterans and People.
- **Can “small” be defined in terms of a small transport fund to support financially vulnerable veterans?**
 - The definition of “small” would depend on how much funding applicants are bidding for. It is up to applicants to make a judgement.
- **Can wellbeing activities be included in the budget E.g. Woodland activities or cooking?**
 - Yes, however we would encourage applicants to note that it is crucial that applicants demonstrate how they will deliver the range of services mandated (including health, housing and employment guidance and support); collaboration with statutory and non-statutory organisations in their area; ensuring their centre is available to other parts of the VALOUR system and OVA teams as required; and complying with data requirements.
- **What plans do the OVA have to provide a standardised digital platform / single point of access as part of Valour?**
 - We are aiming for a Beta launch (private launch for stakeholders in the pilot areas) of the platform in Summer next year. There will be

engagements with the pilot areas prior to the Beta launch to support prototype testing and improvement as required.

- **Would a portable centre be allowed? Or are VALOUR just after fixed-location centres?**
 - Successful organisations must provide a physical centre for veterans to attend. There must be a main physical VRC for their designated location, they can also partner with and deliver local hub sites as part of the programme in order to provide better geographical reach for veterans.
- **What measures will be in place to ensure that no Veteran is left behind or unable to access a physical centre due to where they live?**
 - Applications that also explain how they will undertake outreach activities via digital / online means are strongly encouraged, although these cannot take the place of a physical VRC. Reasonable provision can be made in the application budget for a small transport fund to support financially vulnerable veterans who may need assistance to attend set appointments.
- **What geographic region or critical mass of veterans are a VRC expected to cover?**
 - It is up to applicants to clearly show the area (footprint) they will be able to support from their centre.
- **If applying as a Consortium does the lead need to have a physical centre or can it be that the consortium has a member with a physical centre?**
 - Whilst a consortium must identify a main physical VRC for their designated location, they can also partner with and deliver local hub sites as part of the programme in order to provide better geographical reach for veterans.
- **Is there a minimum veteran population threshold for a centre to cover?**
 - No.
- **Is there a percentage split of funds for all the nations per veteran & AFC population? Eg will Scotland receive say 10%?**
 - No. Consideration will be given during the assessment of geographic coverage/need.

- **Are NHS organisations eligible to submit a bid?**
 - In order to apply, you must be:
 - A registered charity which can demonstrate relevant experience and engagement in the provision of services to veterans
 - A CIC that has been established for more than three years so that evidence of governance, financial and operational management can be provided, and that can demonstrate relevant experience and engagement in the provision of services to veterans
 - A local government body

- **Could you provide some further information about what facilities will need to be provided for VALOUR staff within the Centre?**
 - There are no mandated facilities, but we would expect centres to be able to offer a space to work from on occasion and / or interact with staff and veterans.

- **How firm is the '4 days a week' criteria?**
 - This is mandatory.

- **Are you looking to mainly fund already established large Veteran charities?**
 - We welcome applications from a range of organisations and consortiums.

- **Will you be publishing the data standards? (formats, definitions, etc) and an outline of the data sharing agreement?**
 - We will engage with the sector to determine what data is required and in what format.

- **As an existing centre, will a visit be part of the application evaluation process?**
 - No.

- **What checks and balances will you employ regarding financial reg and prop, particularly double funding for programmes?**
 - Please refer to the programme guidance. There may be checks on whether financial information on your application form matches that held by your regulatory body.

- **What is the likely Round 2 timetable and will funding criteria be similar but just covering a smaller geographic area?**
 - Subject to confirmation, we expect to launch round 2 in Spring 2026. In Round 2, we will also look to support community/locality focussed organisations with a good track record in collaborative and multi-partner working, however, some changes may be made to the programme guidance.
- **What is the expected start date for centres?**
 - When applying for funding, organisations will need to show how they can start their activity at pace and provide a timeline for key deliverables.
- **Will applicants be able to use AI to make their bids?**
 - Please refer to page 29 of the programme guidance.
- **Guidance doesn't say explicitly if there's a cap on capital costs within the funding envelope. If renovations etc are needed to an existing premises, is there an upper limit?**
 - No. But it is highly unlikely that we will fund projects with budgets that are dominated by capital costs.
- **Who is eligible to apply?**
 - Please refer to page 8 of the programme guidance.
- **In terms of veteran demographic data - what about cases where veterans are not comfortable disclosing such information e.g. how long / where they served?**
 - Organisations should collect information from veterans, but this would of course be subject to what they are comfortable with sharing.
- **Will the OVA provide a platform to record year 1 data?**
 - Yes.
- **Is there a split within Capital and revenue funding required?**
 - There is no mandated split, but applicants will need to provide information on their proposed funding use when applying.

- **What about consent for personal data sharing - if veterans don't want to have their personal identifiable data shared after year 1 can they still receive services?**
 - We will review needs for collecting personal identifiable data from year 2 onwards and this should not affect the support available for veterans.

- **Can organisations make joint applications?**
 - We welcome consortium applications. Please refer to the programme guidance for more information.

- **Our organisation's main focus is wellbeing with secondary support around housing, debt etc. Would we still be able to put in an application?**
 - We would encourage you to note that it is crucial that applicants demonstrate how they will deliver the range of services mandated (including health, housing and employment guidance and support).

- **Our current annual turnover is £500,000. Given our size and reach, would we be considered too small to apply as a lead organisation?**
 - No.

- **When are applicants likely to learn what the panel's round one decision is?**
 - We expect applicants will be notified in late March / April, but dates may change.

- **How will funding be released to successful applicants? Block payment or in tranches?**
 - In tranches, subject to centres meeting requirements.

- **Are Merchant Navy Veterans eligible to be supported under the Valour Programme?**
 - Valour-Recognised Centres would be expected to be able to provide appropriate support to anyone who meets the government's definition of a veteran, and in due course the wider Armed Forces Community.

- **If applying for Round 1, with partners, can our application deliver more than one hub or are you looking for each application to only deliver one hub?**
 - Whilst a consortium must identify a main physical VRC for their designated location, they can also partner with and deliver local hub sites

as part of the programme in order to provide better geographical reach for veterans.

- **If applying for Round 1, do we have to be a consortium or can we apply on our own?**
 - Applications are invited by experienced organisations or consortiums. If you are applying as an organisation you will need to demonstrate how you will operate collaboratively with other statutory and non-statutory support services within their region

- **With regard to the sharing of data, this raises substantial GDPR issues around the privacy and confidentiality of our clients and our organisational policies - please could you give more clarification on this? In particular, what will the data be used for? If we cannot share data, does that mean we cannot apply? I presume this will affect all organisations as they adhere to their own GDPR policies.**
 - Data collection will be paramount within this programme, more details on the scope and purpose can be found in the programme guidance (pg13).