

**Grants awarded under the Armed Forces Covenant Fund: Hidden Voices programme 2025/26 – December 2025**

**26 grants totalling £594,334.00**

| Organisation                       | Project Title                                     | Grant Amount (£) | Project Description  |
|------------------------------------|---|------------------|--|
| <b>England</b>                     |   |                  |  |
| Accrington Stanley Community Trust | Stanley Strong: Women Who Served                  | £23,828          | Stanley Strong creates a space that is safe and supportive whilst engaging women veterans in weekly fitness and wellbeing sessions. Through peer mentoring, trauma-informed workshops, and social events, the project tackles stigma, improves mental health, and builds sustainable peer networks, empowering women to thrive beyond military life.   |
| Aurora New Dawn                    | Consulting forces children; co-designing support. | £25,000          | Aurora New Dawn will consult with and amplify the voices of children affected by domestic abuse, sexual violence, and stalking within armed forces families. By listening to their experiences, the project will deepen understanding of their needs and co-create tailored support models. These models aim to enhance mental and physical health, promote wellbeing, and ensure that children in forces communities receive compassionate, effective care. |
| Climb 2 Recovery                   | Scaling Recovery, Reaching Hidden Voices          | £24,000          | This project will deliver three trauma-informed courses for veterans from a largely forgotten community, funded to provide additional capacity in response to rapidly growing demand. Using climbing and peer-led community, the project offers evidence-based, relational support, creating opportunities for healing, belonging, and recovery where traditional systems are insufficient.  |
| Morecambe FC Community Foundation  | Stronger Together                                 | £24,042          | ‘Stronger Together’ represents an early intervention approach tackling severe loneliness in older veterans living alone in care settings, supported living accommodation, and in the community. Personalised one-to-one support and accessible group activity will   |

|                            |   |         |  |
|----------------------------|---|---------|--|
|                            |   |         | create trusted relationships, social connections, development of new skills, and improve access to specialist mental health services.  |
| Disability Stockport       | NeuroConnect: Veteran Wellbeing Support | £25,000 | NeuroConnect will support neurodivergent veterans to rebuild connection, confidence, and calm. Through sensory-aware nature-based activities and inclusive social meetups, it offers a lifeline to those silenced by overwhelm and isolation, creating trusted spaces where mental wellbeing is nurtured, voices are heard, and neurodivergent veterans feel understood, seen, safe, and supported.      |
| The Fighting Chance        | Strong Voices, Strong Women             | £25,000 | Strong Voices, Strong Women will provide weekly women-only sessions combining boxing, physical activity and facilitated wellbeing groups. The project supports veterans to build confidence, reduce isolation and strengthen connections. Learning from participants' experiences will be shared with health and veteran organisations to raise awareness and influence more inclusive future provision. |
| Green Synergy              | Seeds of Recovery                       | £22,764 | Seeds of Recovery will support military veterans living with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) through a gentle, nature-based gardening and social therapeutic horticulture programme. Rooted in green spaces, the project aims to improve mental health and wellbeing while providing creative opportunities for veterans to share their stories and reconnect with the natural world.              |
| Mind in Camden             | Veterans Voices: Empowering Women       | £24,000 | This co-designed project will create a tailored mental health support service for women veterans. Using a self-directed support model to offer equitable, needs-based support to improve their mental health and increase their access to wellbeing resources. The project will raise awareness with professionals of the specific challenges this group faces.  |
| Newcastle Rugby Foundation | The True Grit Project                   | £17,550 | The True Grit Project will unite LGBT+ veterans with specialist charities in the North East, combining inclusive fitness and emotional intelligence coaching to enhance wellbeing, resilience, and social connection, while raising awareness of their unique needs within the armed forces community and the broader support sector.  |

|   |  |         |  |
|---|--|---------|--|
| Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Service South Buckinghamshire | Hidden No More: Forces Survivors             | £25,000 | Providing specialist counselling and therapeutic support for veterans, reservists, and armed forces families affected by sexual abuse in Buckinghamshire. In partnership with a local forces' charity, the project will offer safe, confidential, trauma-informed care to improve wellbeing, reduce isolation, and ensure seldom-heard voices are listened to and supported.   |
| Defence Medical Welfare Service (DMWS)                      | Caring together: Uncovering Dorset voices    | £25,000 | DMWS will provide welfare support to elderly veterans and caregivers within the armed forces community who often slip through the net of existing services. Many do not reach out for help and face isolation and barriers to wellbeing, which can impact their ability to care for loved ones. This project aims to remove those barriers, offering compassionate, accessible support that strengthens resilience and improves quality of life. |
| Tuppenny Barn Education                                     | Veterans Bloom                               | £20,000 | Tuppenny Barn is an organic smallholding that provides a safe and inclusive place for people to take part in nature-based therapeutic activities. Veteran's Bloom, is a Social Therapeutic Horticulture flower farming programme, using gardening to improve the physical and mental wellbeing of female veterans, building skills, confidence and community.  |
| Veterans In Action  | RISE (Resilience, Inspire, Support, Empower) | £24,950 | This project will provide dedicated support for the partners of veterans living with trauma. Through peer-led groups, workshops, and well-being activities, it will give seldom-heard partners a safe space to be understood, improve their resilience, and influence wider awareness across the armed forces community.   |
| Birchwood   | Connected Support West Lancs                 | £25,000 | Connected Support is a community-driven project transforming the lives of overlooked veterans in West Lancashire. Providing counselling, housing, peer outreach, and practical coaching, it amplifies unheard voices, promotes equitable access, and embeds shared learning to strengthen local services, ensuring sustainable, trauma-informed support for those often missed by statutory systems.   |
| <b>Wales</b>  |  |         |  |

|                         |                                   |         |  |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|--|
| Age Cymru Gwynedd a Môn | Veterans Wellbeing Connections    | £25,000 | This project will deliver tailored wellbeing support for older veterans and their families across Gwynedd, Anglesey and Conwy who experience isolation or face barriers to help. Through outreach, peer groups and bilingual activities, it will strengthen connections, improve mental health and ensure seldom heard voices are recognised.  |
| V-Aid                   | Service. Sentence. Service.       | £21,000 | Many veterans in prison are invisible to traditional services—caught between stigma, trauma, and institutionalisation. This project supports them to mentor others, produce humanitarian aid, and share their lived experience. Their voices will shape future support and challenge perceptions of veterans who are too often excluded or unheard.  |
| Woody's Lodge           | Pathways to Support               | £25,000 | Pathways to Support will build strong partnerships between the veteran's community and specialist organisations to identify service gaps, deliver tailored interventions, and raise awareness of veterans' unique needs. Two Veterans Engagement Coordinators will lead inclusive outreach and collaboration, ensuring long-term integration and sustained support through co-designed, accessible services and shared learning. |
| <b>Scotland</b>         |                                   |         |  |
| ACVC HUB                | Beyond the Uniform: my identity   | £24,899 | A creative project that explores the lives, identities, and voices of veterans and their families beyond military service. Many in the community feel unseen or reduced to a label. This project aims to change that by giving space for seldom heard voices to be recognised and celebrated through art, storytelling, and exhibits.  |
| Home-Start Lomond       | Stronger Starts, Brighter Futures | £25,000 | This project will support the mental health of babies and infants within serving families by offering social and developmental opportunities, sessions to support positive parental attachment and individualised 'at home' support to families where infant mental health is at risk.   |

|   |  |         |   |
|---|--|---------|---|
| Scottish Action for Mental Health             | Veterans' Wellbeing at the Nook                    | £23,601 | A Peer Wellbeing Programme for veterans experiencing mental health challenges delivered from a new walk-in mental health hub in Glasgow. The programme will provide structured sessions designed to reduce isolation, build resilience, and promote wellbeing, together with seamless and immediate access to professional mental health services available within the hub.   |
| <b>Northern Ireland</b>                       |  |         |   |
| Castle Community Trust                        | Veterans' resilience project                       | £25,000 | Castle Community Trust supports Old Comrades Veterans Group through health and wellbeing activities, including physical exercise, environmental projects, capacity building, and social engagement. The project supports inclusion, resilience, and connection, helping veterans enhance quality of life while strengthening community bonds through meaningful shared action.  |
| Mid Ulster Victims Empowerment Project        | Dark Days to Light                                 | £25,000 | The MUVE project will deliver Cognitive Behavioural Therapy alongside educational support for literacy and numeracy, complemented by an arts therapy programme. It is designed to support MUVE community members aged 40–60, both men and women, helping them build resilience, improve wellbeing, and access tailored therapeutic and learning opportunities.  |
| Northern Ireland Music Therapy Trust          | Beats of Bravery                                   | £13,967 | The Beats of Bravery Project will provide access to mental health and well-being support for veterans in a care setting through the delivery of music therapy interventions and group-work.   |
| <b>UK Wide</b>                                |  |         |   |
| British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association | Supporting Limbless Veterans'/Carers' Health Needs | £24,973 | This one-year project will help beneficiaries (limbless/injured veterans and their partners/carers) with complex comorbidities to access bespoke fitness and mental health/wellbeing activities and support. Blesma will work with specialist providers/organisations to gain mutual learning, exchange knowledge and establish best practice to provide long-term support to at-risk disabled veterans and partners. |

|                                 |                                      |         |   |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|---|
| LABRATS                         | NTV Connections                      | £5,000  | This project aims to enhance support to Nuclear Test Veterans and their families through a dedicated health, wellbeing and bereavement service.   |
| SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity | Domestic Abuse Mental Health Support | £24,760 | SSAFA's project provides vital specialist, mental health counselling to highly vulnerable women and children from the Armed Forces community. The support is available to SSAFA's residential beneficiaries - women and children who have fled domestic abuse, and to those accessing SSAFA's growing domestic abuse outreach (remote) service. |
| <b>Total £594,334.00</b>        |                                      |         |   |