



Ministry
of Defence



COVENANT FUND REPORT ON THE FIRST YEAR OF FUNDING BY THE COVENANT FUND

March 2016

A.1 BACKGROUND

1.1 The Covenant Fund was required by the Covenant Reference Group (CRG) to distribute £10M to three priorities by the end of March 2016. These were (i) **community integration** (with the direction that at least £2M was distributed to this priority); (ii) the **coordination and delivery of support** to the Armed Forces community; and (iii) **ex-service personnel in the criminal justice system**.

1.2. The Covenant Fund Panel (the Panel) has now awarded the following grants:

1. 59 Round 1-small grants
2. 91 Round 2-small grants
3. 24 large grants

A.2 NUMERICAL OVERVIEW

2. Round 1-small grants

2.1 The Panel awarded fifty nine small grants across all RDA's (Regional or Devolved Administration boards) in November 2015. The total amount of funding awarded amounted to £909,136 of which forty five small grants totalling £674,276 supported community integration; eleven small grants totalling £174,860 supported the coordination and delivery of support priority; and three small grants totalling £60,000 supported the ex-service personnel in the criminal justice system priority. The number of grant applications awarded in each RDA is shown in Figure 1 and the priority distribution is shown proportionately in Figure 2.

No of small grant applications awarded by RDA

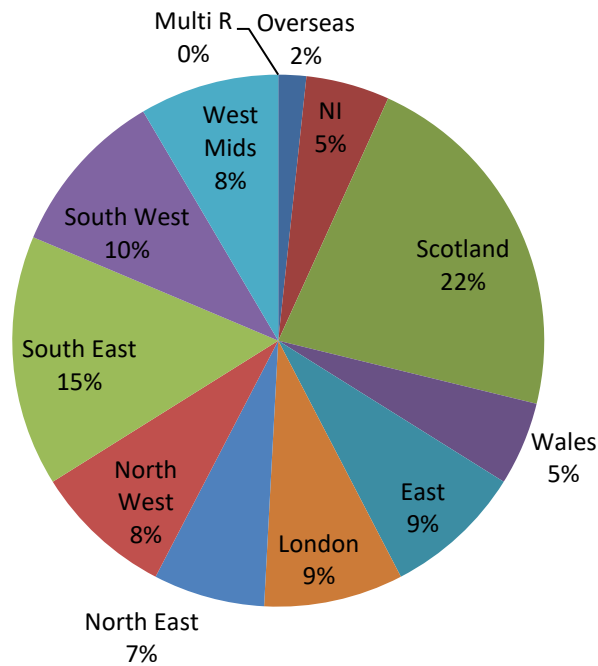


FIGURE 1
PLEASE NOTE: all numbers are automatically rounded for all pie charts

No of small grants awarded by priority

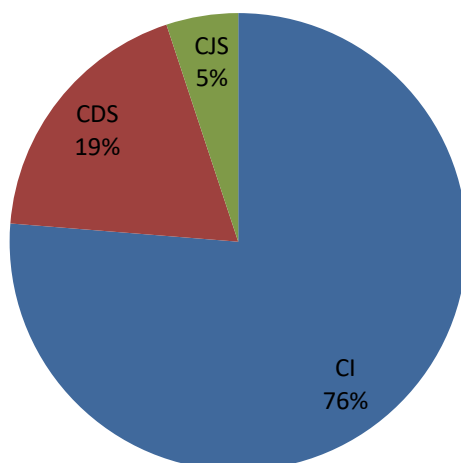


FIGURE 2

3. Round 2 - small grants

3.1 The Covenant Fund received two hundred and twenty eligible applications under Round 2-small grants from across all RDAs compared to the one hundred and twenty applications received under Round 1- small grants.

3.2 The Panel awarded 93 small grants across all RDA's (Regional or Devolved Administration boards) in March 2016. The total amount of funding awarded amounted to £1,480,562 of which 57 small grants totalling £903,428 supported community integration; 32 small grants totalling £509,891 supported the coordination and delivery of support priority; and 4 small grants totalling £67,243 supported the ex-service personnel in the criminal justice system priority. The number of grant applications awarded in each RDA is shown in Figure 3 and the priority distribution is shown proportionately in Figure 4.

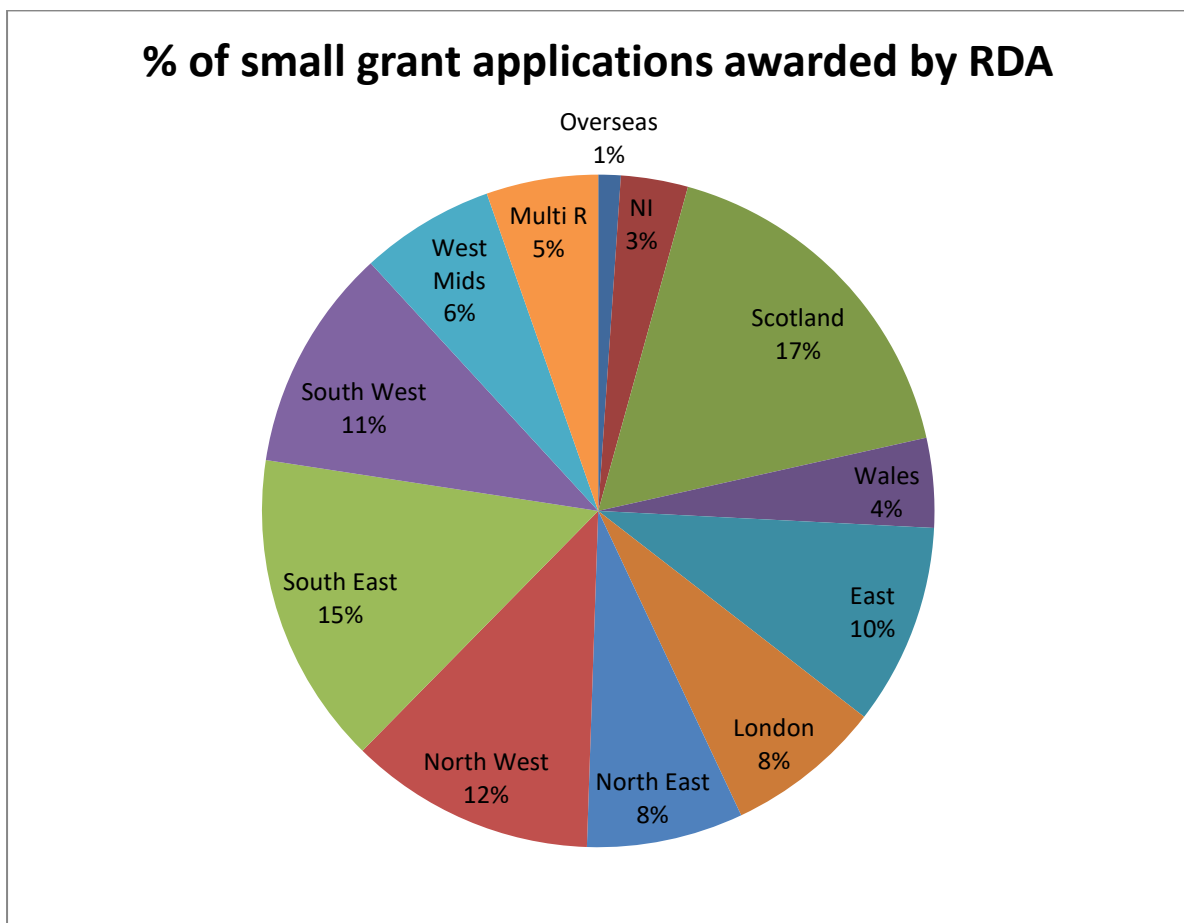


FIGURE 3

% of small grant funding awarded by priority

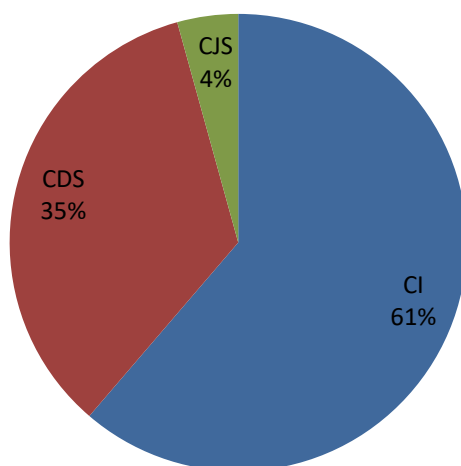


FIGURE 4

4. Total of Round 1 and Round 2- small grants awarded

4.1 The combined national portfolio of Round 1 and Round 2 small grants is shown in the table below.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
RDA	No of CI	No of CDS	No of CJS	Rd 1 Total awarded	No of CI	No of CDS	No of CJS	Rd 2 Total awarded	Rd1 + Rd 2 Total awards
N. I	1	2		3	1	2		3	6
Scot	10	2	1	13	10	6		16	32
Wales	3			3	2	2		4	7
East	4		1	5	7	1	1	9	14
London	2	3		5	7			7	12
North East	3	1		4	2	3	2	7	11
North West	4	1		5	6	4	1	11	16
South East	8		1	9	10	4		14	23
South West	5	1		6	7	3		10	16
W Mids	5			5	5	1		6	11
Multi Region						5		5	5
O'seas		1		1		1		1	2
Totals									
Gts	45	11	3	59 of 119	57	32	4	91 of 220	152 of 340
Amts	£674,276	£174,860	£60,000	£909,126	£903,428	£509,891	£67,243	£1,446,210	£2,389,698

NOTE:

Columns 2, 3, 4 and 5 relate to Round 1-small grants

Columns 6, 7, 8 and 9 relate to Round 2- small grants

Column 10 relates to the final total of Round1 and Round 2- small grants

4.2 Figure 5 below shows the final distribution of Round 1 and Round 2 small grants across the RDAs.

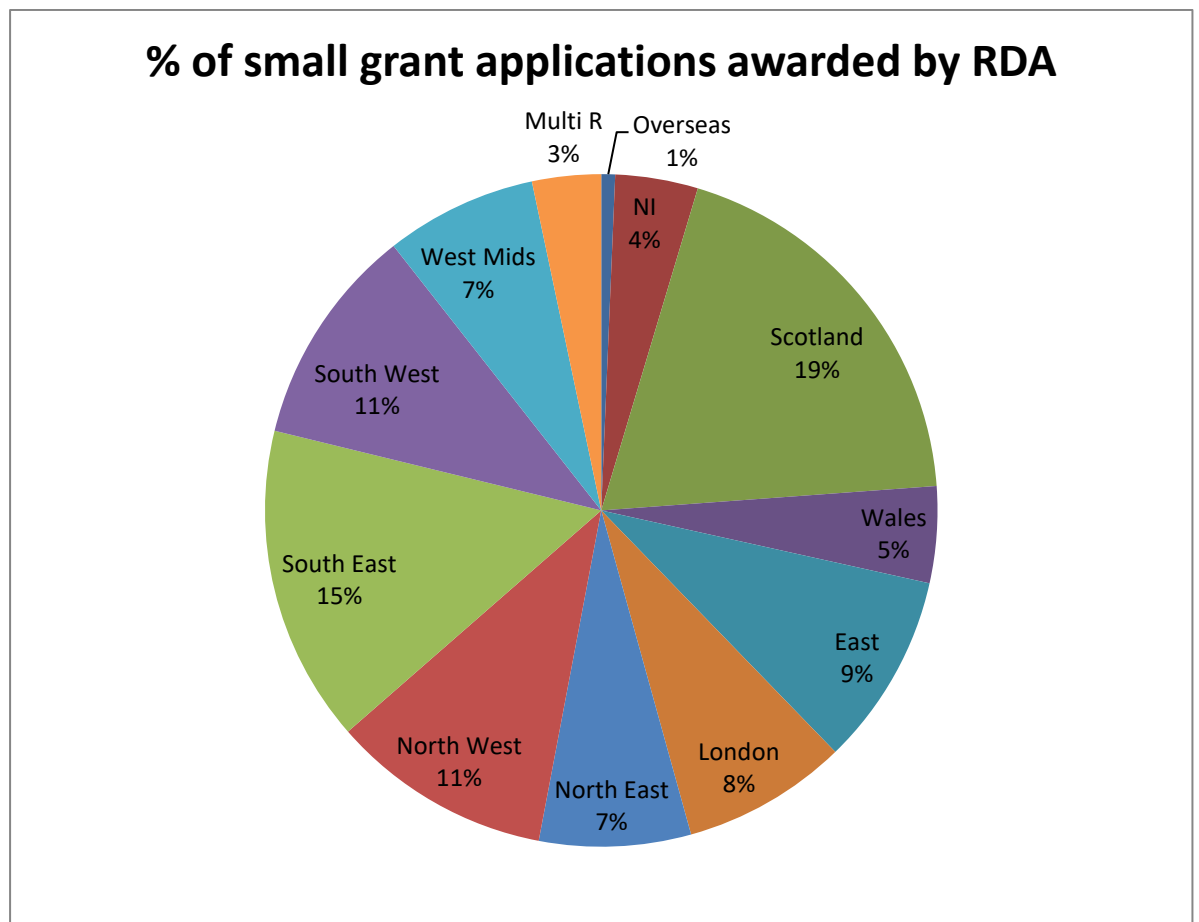


FIGURE 5

4.3 Figure 6 below shows the percentage breakdown by priority across the Round 1 and Round 2- small grants portfolio.

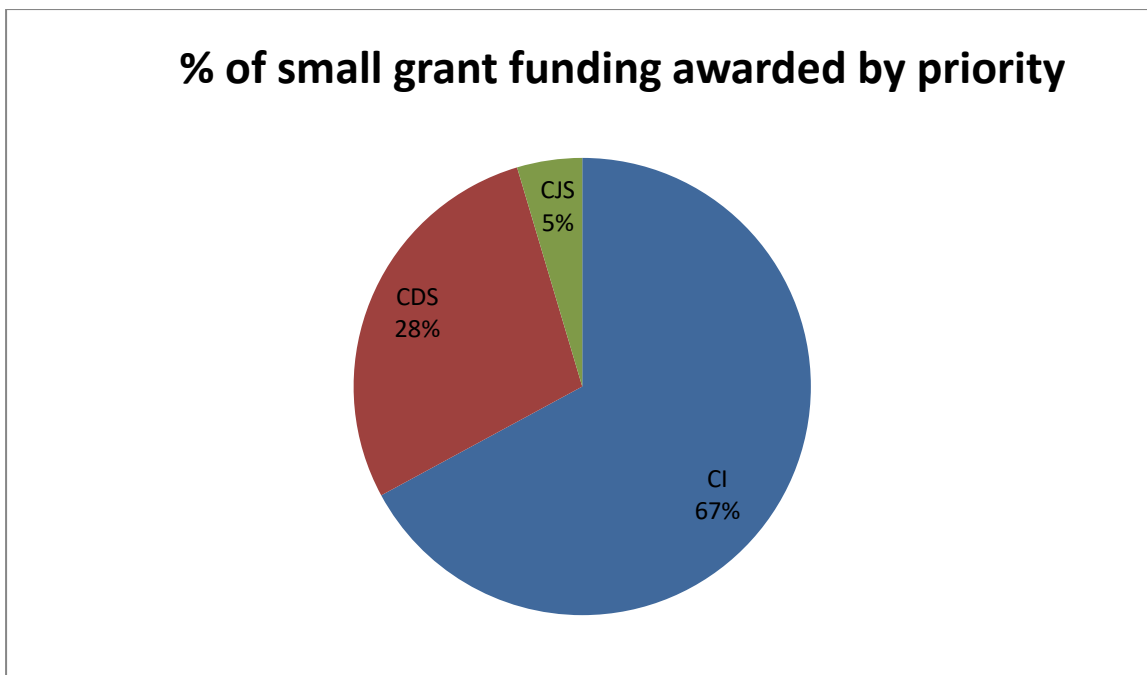


FIGURE 6

5. Large grants

5.1 The Panel received thirty three applications for large grants and awarded 24 grants comprising 5 grants amounting to £1,065,007 to support the community integration priority; 5 grants amounting to £1,756,520 to support the coordination and delivery of support priority and 14 grants amounting to £4,623,002 to support the ex-service personnel in the criminal justice system priority –as shown in Figure 5.

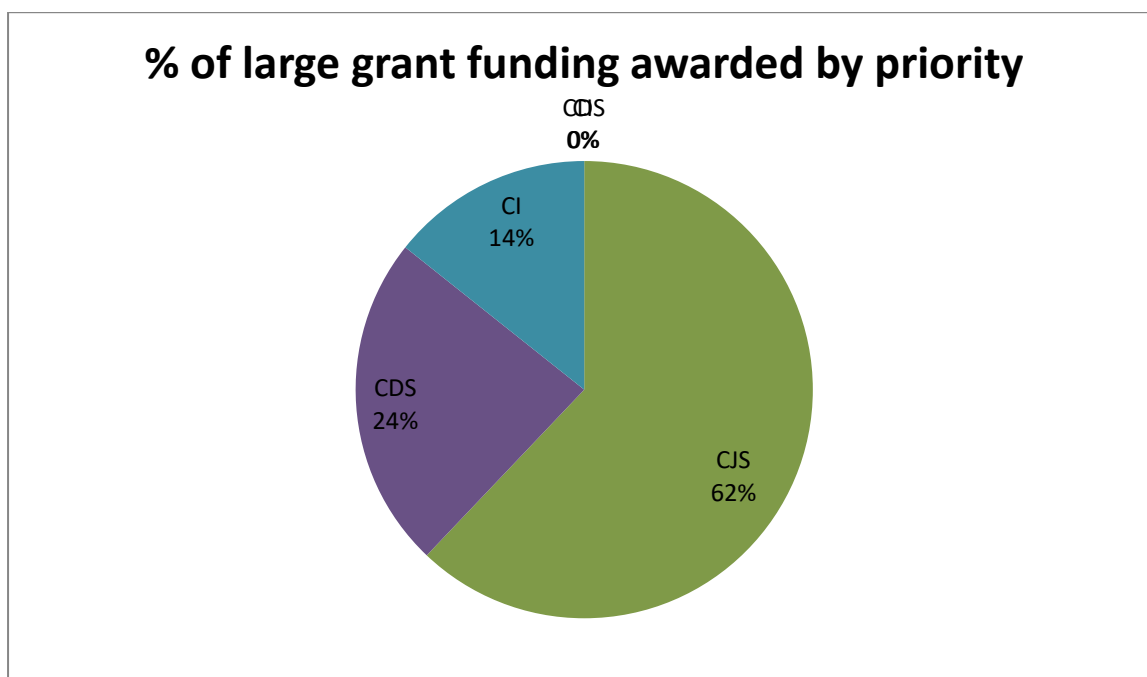


FIGURE 7

6. Information about funded projects

6.1 All Round 1 and Round 2- small grants will be required to use the Armed Forces Covenant logo on their publicity materials and all will be required to submit at the end of their one year grants, a report of up to 2,000 words describing their project in full, including pictures, news reports and other evidence of social media engagement which will start to build up a national picture of what the Covenant Fund small grants cumulatively can achieve in terms of supporting the delivery and recognition of the Armed Forces Covenant.

6.2 In addition, all 24 of the large grants have 1 or 2 year delivery profiles and will be monitored in detail to ensure that following grant closure the outcomes arising from grant funded work can be demonstrated across each priority. Each large grant holder will be required to produce an End of Grant Report of up to 10,000 words describing their project and its outcomes.

6.3 In particular all grant funded research regardless of priority will have to be widely disseminated and if appropriate lodged at the Veterans Research Hub at Anglia Ruskin University. The grants made under the ex-serving personnel in the criminal justice system strand will also be required to report in considerable detail as to the outcomes achieved and it is hoped that by then end of 2 years that these grant holders working closely with the Covenant Fund Executive and with the COBSEO's criminal justice cluster will have developed a nationally accepted continuum of robust outcome measures which can be used to demonstrate impact.

7. Budget

7.1 The Covenant Fund was directed to distribute £10M under the three priorities for 2015/2016 with no specific direction other than to ensure at least £2M is awarded to support community integration projects. The final national portfolio shows an annual total community integration spend of **£2,642,711**.

The final breakdown of the annual spend is as follows:

Spend on Round 1-small grants (CI £675,000;CDS £175,000;CJS £60,000)	£909,136
Round 2-small grants (CI at £903,428; CDS £509,891; CJS at £67,243)	£1,480,562
CI large grants	£1,065,077
CDS large grants	£1,756,520
CJS large grants	£4,623,002
Grant underspend	£3,182
Administration costs	£162,521
TOTAL:	£10,000,000

8. The priorities for the Covenant Fund for next year

8.1 Following consultation with the CRG, the Covenant Fund has been directed to start the grant making processes required to deliver four new priorities for the funding years 2016/2017 and 2017/2018- namely:

1. to fund in 2016/2017 a pilot project to set up a 24/7 single point of contact Veterans **Gateway service**;
2. to fund projects in 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 that, **strengthen the delivery by Local Authorities of their Community Covenant commitments**;
3. to fund projects in 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 that make life better for those **families of serving personnel in stress** and who need some specific or localised support and
4. to fund projects in 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 that support the **integration and/or delivery of services to the Armed Forces Community**.

Further details of these programmes and the timelines for applying are on the Covenant Fund website on direct.gov. and from the Covenant Fund Executive who can be contacted on COVENANT-GrantTeamMailbox@mod.uk

Melloney Poole
Head of the Covenant Fund Executive
06 March 2016

Attached: Spread sheet of National Portfolio 2015/2016

ANNEX 1

Selection of Round 1 –small grants

Organisation: Army Sailing Association
Area: **Northern Ireland**
Project name: Inshore Fleet Replacement
Amount: £20,000
Summary: This project will fund a fleet of new dinghies so the ASANI can run Sailing courses for the service community including wounded and sick personnel), families and civilians in partnership with Carrickfergus Sailing Club, Sea Cadets NI and Belfast Lough Sailability.

Organisation: Llangwm Community Centre
Area: **Wales**
Project name: WWI – A village at war

Amount: £9,659

Summary: The Community Centre will work in partnership the local history society and Village Voices to commemorate the Battle of the Somme through a concert at St David's Cathedral, Pembrokeshire. Three local choirs featuring military wives and young soldiers, and an Army Brass Quintet. The project will raise awareness of the role of the armed forces in times of need, and the personnel sacrifice made by many.

Organisation: SACRO

Area: **Scotland**

Project name: The Veterans' Mentoring Service

Amount: £20,000

Summary: The Veterans' Mentoring Service is an intensive mentoring and one to one support service that helps veterans with their life skills, education, employment training, housing and confidence building as well as addressing offending behaviour.

Organisation: Kinloch Historical Society

Area: **Scotland**

Project name: Our Military Connection: An Island Legacy

Amount: £11,700

Summary: This project commemorates the 261 from their four villages that served in WWI and includes an exhibition and schools education programme, enabling school children to share experiences and learn through interaction with those from the island who have served their country.

Organisation: Make Some Noise

Area: **West Midlands**

Project name: Connect Create

Amount: £20,000

Summary: This music based project will help integrate armed forces and civilian communities in Staffordshire. It will bring together young people aged 13-18 to make music, and to engage in discussion aimed at removing stereotypes, and promoting feelings of appreciation and support between children from civilian and armed forces backgrounds.

Organisation: The Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum

Area: **South West**

Project name: A digital future- engaging with communities

Amount: £9,873

Summary: This project aims to create an interest in the Armed Services in Gloucestershire County and to provide research facilities along with supporting recruitment. The Museum also sees the project as a way of engaging with veterans, and aims to be a catalyst for archival research as part of family history research.

Rosmini Community Centre Wisbech

Area: **East**

Project name: Community - New friends, new places & new challenges.

Amount: £19,630

Summary: The project is to support the community centre in Wisbech to provide a wide variety of services activities and events including a Saturday morning drop-in supported by volunteers to offer Information, Advice & Guidance, identify services available, and put individual support plans together with the service user. The project would also offer a monthly activity/meeting opportunity and a weekly Woodwork session in the community workshop to bring together the two communities.

RAF Benson

Area: **South East**

Project name: Road Safety Campaign

Amount: £2,926

Summary: Every year, RAF Benson wishes to deliver a road safety initiative both on the Station and in the local community. The applicant is looking to build on previous success of its 'Road Safety Ambassadors' from Mechanical Transport Flight and to continue to actively promote road safety to a much wider audience.

Around 6000 people will benefit from a road safety initiative both on the Station and in the local community. It will build on previous success of its 'Road Safety Ambassadors' from Mechanical Transport Flight and to continue to actively promote road safety to a much wider audience.

1st Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment

Area: **North West**

Project name: Tern Hill Astro Observatory

Amount: £7,295.00

Summary: The grant is to purchase astro-equipment including 10" Telescope, Astro Mount, Astro-Photography Equipment and various Software items. This will equip an Astronomical Observatory, which will be co-located within the grounds of the Tern Hill Community Centre and which is adjacent two local education establishments in order to build even stronger relationships by encouraging further integration between the Forces Community and Local Community especially with the local school children, through facilitation of planned interest events and shared use.

Area: North West

The Regimental Charity of the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment (King's, Lancashire and Border)

Area: **North West**

Project Name: The Lions of England: Commemorating the Past; Celebrating the Future!

Amount: £12,000

Summary: The Regiment is working with the local councils and the Lancashire Infantry Museum to organise events in local schools, prior to holding a commemoration service of the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. A service to be held in the Cathedral, and normally restricted to the Regiment only will be open to all. This will be followed by a public picnic and Regimental Band concert. This event along with various stands and attractions on the day aims to raise awareness of the regiment and provide the opportunity for both current serving soldiers, their families, veterans and the wider community to integrate through commemorating this important part of history.

Area: North West

Organisation: Wigan Athletic FC Community Trust

Area: **North West**

Project Name: Football 4 Forces

Amount: £19,970

Summary: Wigan Athletic will work to improve the health, well-being and employability of working age veterans. Consisting of various Community Trust led activities that aim to coach, improve health and wellbeing and provide opportunities to both play matches and watch Wigan Athletic. They will also run workshops on improving lifestyles through healthy eating, alcohol and smoking awareness. At the end of the programme the veterans will be given the opportunity to complete a FA Level One coaching badge or other sporting qualification such as refereeing, as well as the opportunity to volunteer with the Community Trust potentially leading to paid work and the ability to help future veterans that participate.

Organisation: First Light Trust

Area: **North East**

Project Name: Scarborough Service Coordinator

Amount: £20,000

Summary: First Light is a charity that takes to the streets in order to provide one on one support to homeless veterans. They provide therapy, advice, and assist with arranging appointments, transport and support workers to ensure they gain the support they need. They seek to employ a full time coordinator who by working closely with other various other charities/organisations, will seek to improve the valuable service provided to veterans in this area.

Stoll – formerly Sir Oswald Stoll Foundation

Area: **London**

Project Name: Stoll in the Community

Amount: £19,600

Summary: This charity has provided support through assisted living to vulnerable and disabled veterans for 100 years. To mark this they will be holding a series of events to raise awareness of the charity and its work, and increase integration of veterans into the wider community. They plan to work with local schools on WW1/WW2 projects, arrange tours of their locations, meet the support workers and

veterans, share archives of the history of the organisation, hold seminars for local businesses to get involved, and run activities including a Christmas concert and commemorations open to the whole community.