

ARMED FORCES COVENANT --- FUND TRUST

New ways to tackle Serious Stress in Veterans, Carers and Families Programme

Overall programme aims



This document accompanies the consultation on the new ways to tackle Serious Stress in Veterans, Carers and Families Programme. It provides a more in depth briefing on the overall aims of the programme. The consultation will shape the types of projects funded and the assessment framework for this programme which sets out the criteria that projects will need to meet.

Introduction

The Covenant Fund makes grants in support of the Armed Forces Covenant. There are four overall themes that the Covenant Fund must take into account now and in future years when making decisions.

1. Non-core healthcare services for veterans;
2. Removing barriers to family life;
3. Extra support after service for those that need help; and
4. Measures to integrate military and civilian communities and allow the Armed Forces community to participate as citizens

The Covenant Fund is run by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust. It was previously run from within the MOD. This programme is the first dedicated strategic programme by the Covenant Fund to meet the theme of providing non-core healthcare services to veterans.

Aims of the Serious Stress in Veterans, Carers and Families Programme

This £4 million programme will provide funding for innovative and new ways of working to reduce serious stress in veterans, their carers and families by providing space for cross sector partnerships and consortia to try unique ways of working that are on top of existing services. This programme fill gaps in statutory provision, making a genuine and lasting difference to those in significant need, while not overlapping with any of the existing veterans' mental health services.

To register for updates on this programme please email enquiries@covenantfund.org.uk

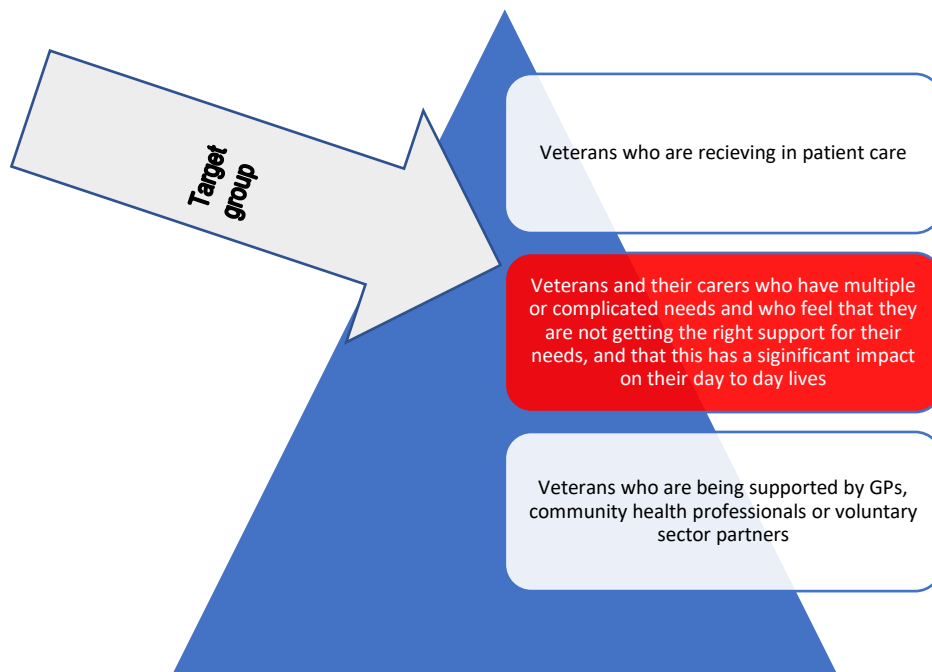
This programme will target veterans with severe mental health needs who do not meet the usual criteria for hospitalisation and inpatient treatment; and are encountering severe or substantial stress.

Veterans with lower level needs can receive support from General Practitioners, general mental health (e.g. IAPT) services and bespoke community and voluntary

sector services. It is however likely that there are some veterans who have complex and challenging needs that are too complex for community-based services, but not severe enough to meet the inpatient criteria for crisis care. These needs could include those with addiction, complex PTSD type disorders, and possibly with chronic poor mental health that has a significant impact on the veteran being able to carry out day to day activities.

The intention of this programme is to fund a small number of projects that will enable charities and health professionals to work together to develop and try new ideas that they have developed with veterans and their carers and families, where there is good evidence to suggest that this project might produce outcomes that are better than current sources of support on offer.

This programme will seek to drive for longer term sustainability of projects that are proven to offer value to veterans; through having a unified approach to impact and evaluation.



Target group of veterans receiving support through projects funded under this programme

Bids will be invited for regional applications from across the UK for grants from consortia of providers that want to work to evaluate new models of veteran's mental healthcare over up to 2 years. We anticipate that this programme will open for applications in September 2018. Grants will be awarded in February 2019. Projects will be expected to complete their work by April 2021. Advanced programme guidance will be released prior to the opening of the application window.

Types of projects that could be supported

This programme will trial differing ways of providing support to veterans with complex mental health needs who do not meet the criteria for crisis or inpatient care but who have needs that are not being met from other services and may include the need for residential support. The programme will also specifically consider the needs of the carers and families of these veterans.

This has the dual role of removing barriers to family life; and supporting the carer to be better able to provide support to the veteran that they are caring for.

Veterans within this cohort have pre-existing complex needs. It is therefore likely that the overall number of beneficiaries on this programme will be relatively low; but this should be balanced by the potential to make life changing interventions for veterans who are currently too unwell to play an active and engaged part in society. The programme has the potential to make changes to how help could be provided to veterans with similar needs in future.

It is likely that the programme will make a small number of grants with a value of £300k-£700K to be spent over a 2-year period to different geographic areas across the UK. The funded projects will try new ways of supporting veterans with complex but non-critical mental health needs and their carers and families. The funding will be one off, and applicants will have to show their exit planning as part of the application process. Grant holders must ensure that veterans receiving support will be signposted or referred into appropriate support at the end of the project. A project could include a sub project where local need can evidence that this could be a model for providing the most effective support.

The types of projects funded could include

- New ways of providing respite care locally that supports the veteran to remain connected to their community while supporting their carer
- Pathways of care for addiction treatment
- Trialling the Recovery (“transition”) college model
- Supporting families and carers and peers to maintain good mental health and prevent crises
- Enabling more cost effective and reliable recovery from addiction and dependency
- Supporting planned short term residential services that enhance resilience, prevent relapse/crisis, and enable sustainable long term purposeful living

The primary focus of these projects will be offering new ways of support for veterans with serious stress; and projects should have a strong focus around health. The consultation will explore views on the types of projects that could be supported.

These models are expected to be for the relatively small numbers of service users, for whom current models of care do not appear to meet the needs of some user groups. These new models will be compared against current practice for efficacy, efficiency and user satisfaction with measurable outcomes towards long term independent purposeful living with a minimum of unplanned episodes of care.

All models should support the concepts of:

- Supporting recovery
- Inclusion of carers and peer support
- Service user participation

Projects that provide standard IAPT (Improving Access to Psychological Therapies), EMDR (Eye movement desensitization and reprocessing), Trauma focused psychotherapies, or Crisis services will not be eligible for funding, but projects can refer project beneficiaries to any local, appropriate source of support.

The programme will not offer any capital funding, and bids should not duplicate existing pilots or provision.

Research and outcomes

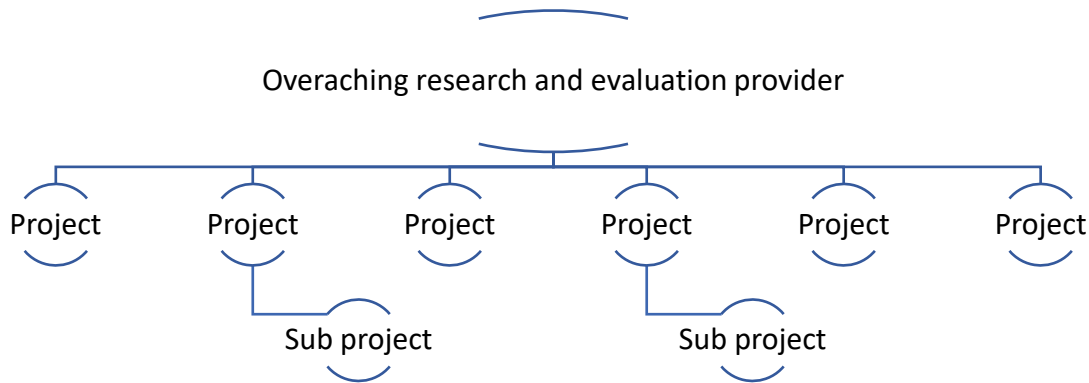
This programme will be giving charities and health care professionals who work with veterans the opportunity to trial or develop new ideas developed with veterans and their carers. All projects will need to be evaluated to explore the difference that these projects have made, and what might be learnt that can help other veterans and carers with similar needs.

Having a single model for evaluation will enable the outcomes from different projects to be compared. An overarching research and evaluation provider will evaluate all projects within the programme to give a robust base for which models provide cost effective and measurable benefit for veterans, and are therefore more likely to be sustainable in the longer term; and provide an economy of scale by evaluating all projects collectively.

The research and evaluation provider will be appointed through an openly procured contract. The provider will be in place before any grants are awarded. Projects will need to agree to work with the provider.

Structure of the programme

Projects can apply directly for a single project, working in partnership with others, or for a project that might have a sub project linked to it.



Sustainability and additionality

This programme will develop a robust evidence base, through evaluation, of the benefit to veterans and the economic benefit to society of providing this support. The evaluation will prioritise future spending and assess any new services against existing delivery models and so will work with NHS bodies to share the learning so that it can inform future commissioning and support decisions on the ending or replacement of services. The programme could fund a number of models of providing additional care to this cohort of veterans and their carers and families, with overarching research and evaluation activities to determine the impact and efficacy of the work; and using a Social Return on Investment model, calculate the financial benefit of providing this additional support to veterans in similar circumstances. The programme will deliver an improved understanding of need for a specific cohort of veterans, and give an improved understanding of the benefits to veterans of different service models.

Funding could be provided for up to 2 years, for projects delivered by health service providers or voluntary sector providers, or partnerships between them.

About us

The Covenant Fund was previously administered by an in-house MOD team and the funding has moved to the new independent trust as from 1 April 2018. The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust manages the grant programmes funded by the Covenant Fund. You can find out more about our work at www.covenantfund.org.uk.

The Covenant Fund is an annual grant of £10 million which is paid to the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust to fund grant programmes that support the armed forces community.

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About the Armed Forces Covenant

The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise from the nation that those who serve or have served, and their families, are treated fairly.

You can find out more at <https://www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk/>



Contact details

www.covenantfund.org.uk

enquiries@covenantfund.org.uk

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