

**ARMED FORCES
COVENANT
FUND TRUST**

**Armed Forces Covenant
Local Grants Programme**

The first three years



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Director of Policy; Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust

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 from LIBOR funds which is paid to the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust to fund grant programmes that support the armed forces community.

There are four overall themes that the Covenant Fund must take into account now and in future years when making decisions.

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

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

**ARMED FORCES
COVENANT
FUND TRUST**

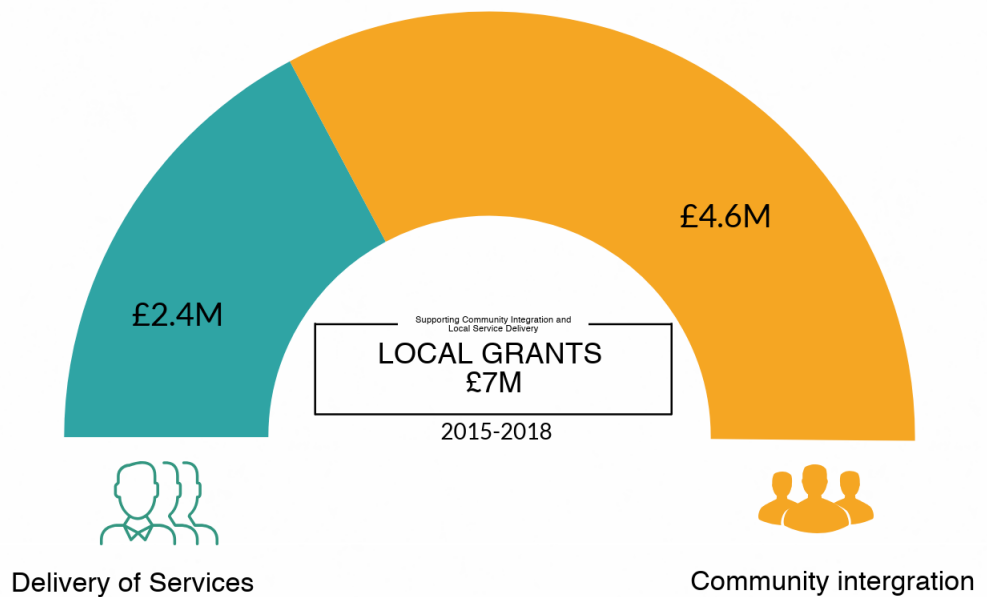
What is the Armed Forces Covenant Local Grant programme?

Grants of up to £20,000 are made to local projects responding to local needs within the Armed Forces Community

So far... **430**
GRANTS;
worth **£7 MILLION**
have been awarded



In the first three years of the Armed Forces Covenant Local Grants Programme 430 grants worth £7 million have been made to charities, schools and Army bases for local projects that promote community integration or offer direct support to the Armed Forces Community

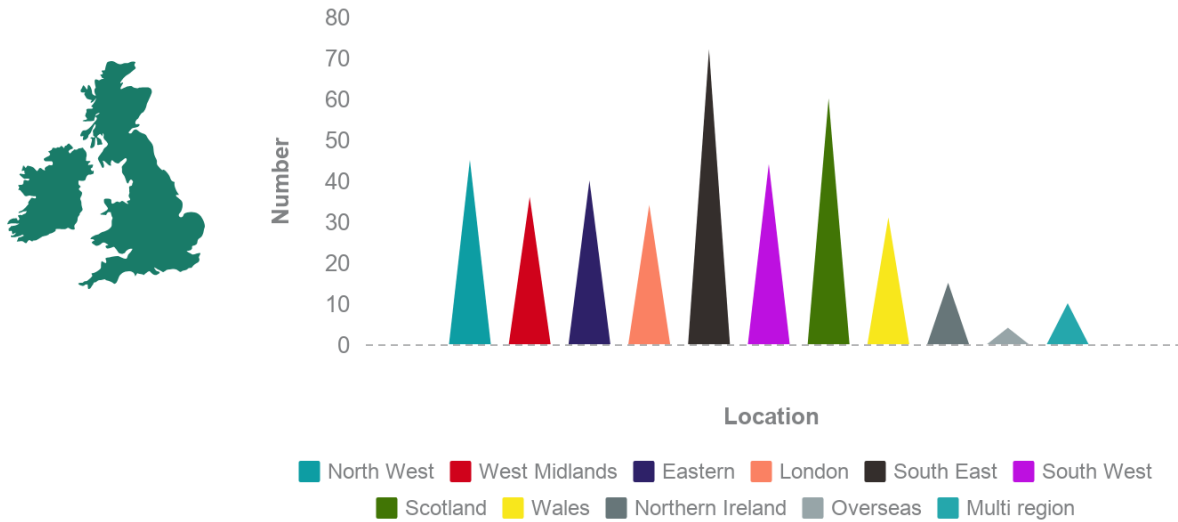


Community Integration projects aim to create strong local links between the Armed Forces community, who are current and former members of their armed forces and their families) and civilian communities; and be able to clearly demonstrate how they will have impact in overcoming barriers to better integration; and improving perceptions, attitudes and understanding. For the project to be truly effective in achieving community integration there should be shared development, delivery and benefits for both communities.

Delivery of Local Services projects are local projects which offer direct support in some way to members of the Armed Forces Community. This could be financial advice, housing, mental and physical health, employability or social support for serving armed forces personnel, veterans, and their families. Projects must be well connected, both to their beneficiaries and to other relevant organisations, and be able to demonstrate how the services they provide will be well-publicised, accessible and joined up.

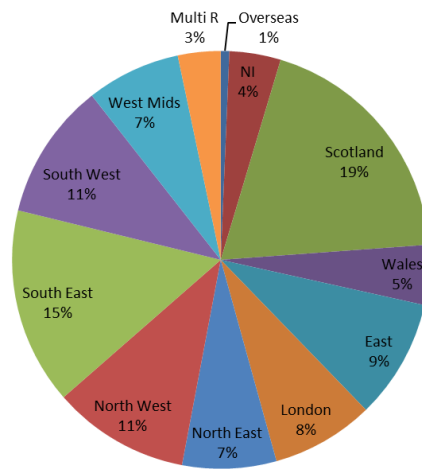
Geographic spread of grants

Geographic distribution of funded projects

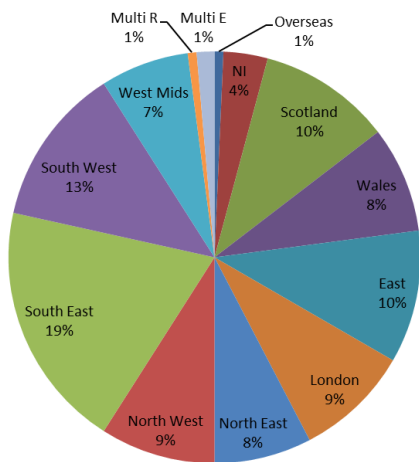


Projects have been funded across the United Kingdom, with a small number of projects overseas, which take place on Armed Forces Bases

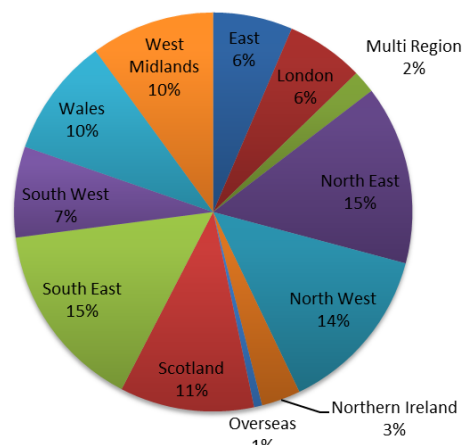
Spread of Local Grants awarded 2015-16



Spread of Local Grants awarded 2016-17



Spread of Local Grants awarded 2017-18



Northern Ireland

The Hockey Education Reaching Out to Society (HEROS) was able to encourage interaction between young people from Armed Forces and civilian families using ice hockey as a way to engage the interest of a diverse group of young people, whilst promoting healthy eating, confidence, self-esteem, team working skills and physical activity.

Scotland

The B.A.S.I.C. Cornerhouse Crèche is a vital facility for the local community, both military and civilian, whilst also functioning as a space within which both communities can interact and engage with each other. With a small grant of £5,900 they were able to improve the premises and obtain much needed equipment.

England

Veterans Outreach Support received £10,000 for a one year pilot project to create a peer mentor scheme in Veterans Outreach Support, delivering activity-based group peer mentoring to enhance veterans' wellbeing and one-to-one peer mentoring to provide veterans with practical day-to-day support. The impacts from the project are being measured to gain a better understanding of what works.

Wales

Denbighshire Citizens Advice received a grant of £19,746 for a project to ensure that veterans over 70 will have the greatest opportunity to have the best quality of life by providing access to the advice they need, delivered directly to their door.

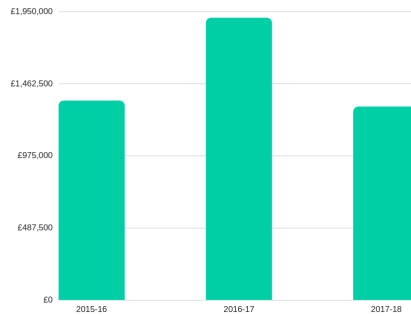


Community Integration

2015 - 2018

£4.6M

**ON PROJECTS TO
SUPPORT COMMUNITY
INTEGRATION**



Community integration is one of two core themes of the Armed Forces Covenant Local Grants Programme. Projects must show that they will help integrate Armed Forces and civilian communities across the UK. Community integration projects can cover a number of themes, from supporting children from service families to be able to make friendships when moving to a local area to helping communities form lasting bonds with local bases. More broadly, these grants contribute to awareness among the wider community of the role of serving members of the Armed Forces, their families and veterans

A project to make the St George's Garrison Church a space within which both civilian and service personnel could interact and engage with each other was able to bring the local community together in a unique setting.

The Heritage of London Trust Operations working in partnership with Woolwich Barracks and organisations such as Greenwich Islamic Centre, Volunteer Centre Greenwich and the University of Greenwich, facilitated a series of events and an



education programme to open up the space for use by both communities. With their grant of £20,000 they were able to have an engagement officer work with volunteers to develop events for the local community including an 'Armed Forces Day' event. The project also developed an educational resource pack on the history of the Garrison church and the Royal Artillery, leading to visits from schools.

Royal Caledonian Education Trust received £19,480 for Forces Kids Live, a drama programme produced in association with Hopscotch Theatre Company to increase awareness of the challenges many armed forces children could face, in particular dealing with separation and moving schools. It is also intended to improve teachers' knowledge and confidence to develop and implement strategies to support armed forces children.



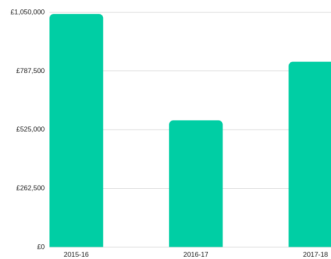
5 Soldiers- The Body is the Frontline: a community integration grant

Local Service Delivery

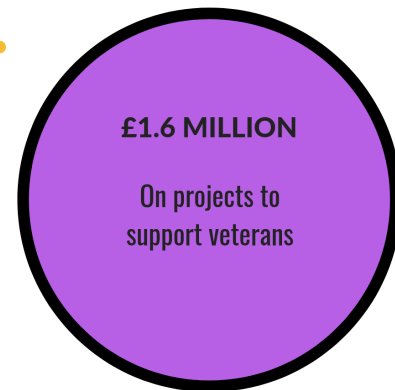
2015 - 2018

£2.4M

ON PROJECTS TO
SUPPORT DELIVERY OF
SERVICES TO THE
ARMED FORCES
COMMUNITY



Of this:



Local delivery of services is the second of two core themes of the Armed Forces Covenant Local Grants Programme. Funding is awarded to projects that show evidence of a clear local need, with a planned activity or service to meet this need. Projects are encouraged to form connections with other local services to ensure that serving personnel, families or veterans can be signposted onto other activities that might help address wider needs that they have. Projects are also encouraged through the application process to consider the needs and issues identified in their area by Local Covenant Partnerships.

The Ripple Pond received £16674 to enable them to better engage with the military & veteran community in Hampshire. They offer support to adult family members of physically or emotionally injured Service Personnel and Veterans. The funding allows The Ripple Pond to achieve greater engagement locally by employing an additional staff member. This in turn allows the organisation to engage strategically through more events, social media and marketing with the immediate military community around Aldershot Garrison, working with Hampshire County Council, Aldershot Garrison and Veterans Outreach.

I SAW JOINING AS THAT OPPORTUNITY TO DO SOMETHING AND TO WORK HARD. I WENT TO MY INTERVIEW IN MY SCHOOL UNIFORM WHEN I WAS 15.

Veterans shared their personal experiences of military life in a series of workshops in a project run by FACT working with ex service personnel in the criminal justice system

Focus on Veterans

162
GRANTS;
worth **£2.8**
MILLION

162 grants worth £2.8 million have been made to projects that focus on supporting veterans or where veterans are a significant beneficiary group of the grant

have been awarded to projects that support veterans



Rosmini Centre Wisbech: Community- New Friends, New Places and New Challenges

This established community centre based in Wisbech already provided a variety of services and activities for the local community, many of which are ex-service personnel., but a steering group of ex-personnel approached centre with ideas to create a new support system for the service community, which would allow them to build a social network amongst themselves, but also allow a greater integration with civilian members of the community. Using the money from their grant, they appointed a project co-ordinator, and developed volunteers. Weekly drop in sessions were run.

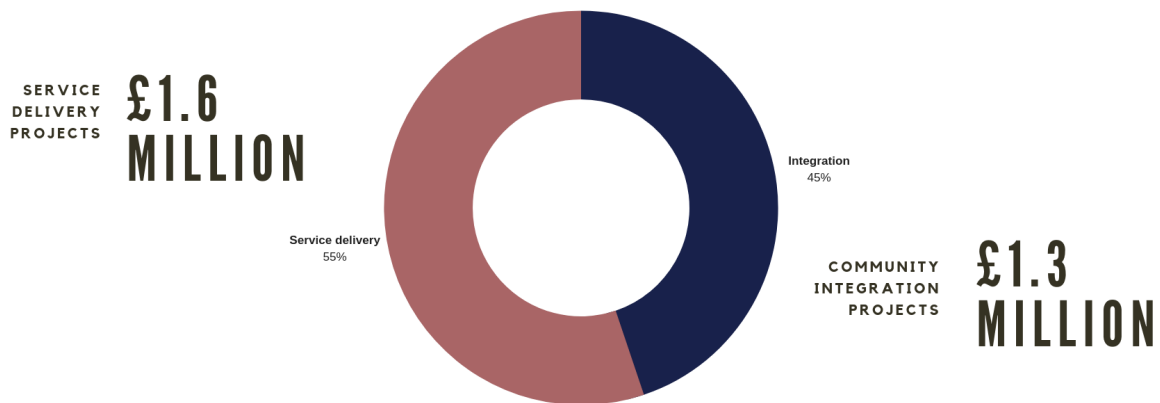
Activity and meeting opportunity which allowed members of all groups to come together. The activities varied, but included a monthly model making session which met on the first Monday of each month, where most of the members were ex-service personnel. Woodwork and chess sessions were also popular, and open to all .

The centre was also able to use funding to provide a series of skills workshops, with the aim of upgrading CVs and skillsets to aid employability. There have been a number of positive impacts felt by this project in the local community. The majority of users were British, middle aged to elderly males, but several other groups were also reached. This included Polish and Latvian individuals, some of whom had served in the Russian Army and found the company of other veterans to be reassuring. Activities held at the centre have allowed greater integration, but have also allowed struggling service personnel and civilians to access key services. One user failed to find long term accommodation, resulting in homelessness. A social housing application was undertaken for him by volunteers at the centre.

Case Study ; SACRO Veterans Mentoring Service, Scotland

John is a military veteran who spent 14 years in the Army. Following a series of overseas tours, John settled with his family in Northern Scotland, where he unfortunately was the victim of a violent attack, one which left him with a traumatic brain injury. He experienced depression and anxiety, which had an adverse effect on his business and his family, eventually resulting in him losing both. John moved in to Veterans Housing in Glasgow, but he was unable to access professional support. He eventually developed a reliance on alcohol and drugs, and he ended up in Prison, charged with driving under the influence. Following his release, he referred himself to the VMS, where the mentor was able to work with John to refer him to Combat Stress, Community Addiction Teams and the Armed Services Advice Project (ASAP). These organisations supported him to form connections with the military and veterans community, allowing him to develop a strong network of support. He is now seeking to gain employment, and has displayed a significant amount of progress.

Projects supporting veterans were seeking to improve community integration as well as deliver locally needed services



A veteran engages with young people on a project exploring the history of soldiers in World War One

Focus on schools and young people

32
GRANTS;
worth **£509,000**

have been awarded to schools

32 grants worth £509,000 have been made to schools for projects that offer extra support where it is needed to children from Armed Forces Families



school



Projects within schools tend to be themed around two aims;



Encouraging interaction and building community engagement between Armed Forces Families and civilian families through targeted projects



Creating new spaces to enable better support to be given to children and young people from Armed Forces Families

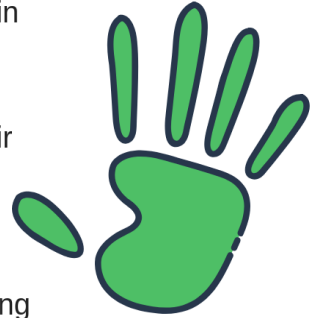
Llanwit Major School in South Wales received £18,600 for a project to enhance community integration by providing team building, leadership and educational support opportunities for pupils from serving families, giving opportunities for the children to develop skills and confidence. The project involves a number of local schools and has supported the development relationships between armed forces pupils and other pupils within the schools because it provided informal experiences to facilitate this socialisation, and removed barriers to integration through all age groups.





There are also many projects working with children and young people which are led by charities.

The Jon Egging Trust has received grants to work with young people in schools in North Wales, Yorkshire, Hampshire and Lincolnshire. The project will provide opportunities for young people often from underprivileged backgrounds, to participate in the Blue Skies Programme, encouraging young people to raise their aspirations, increase their confidence/self-belief in order for them to be the best they can be.



Shared Outcomes has received grants to build new links between the Army, young people and minority groups by providing challenging events and activities for youngsters to develop skills and acquire qualifications, it will break down barriers with the Armed Forces, and build mutual understanding and trust.



Team Building and problem solving with young people from Glasgow on a Shared Outcomes project part funded with an Armed Forces Covenant Local Grant



Cadet Groups received 9 grants totalling £150,800

Focus on Armed Forces Bases

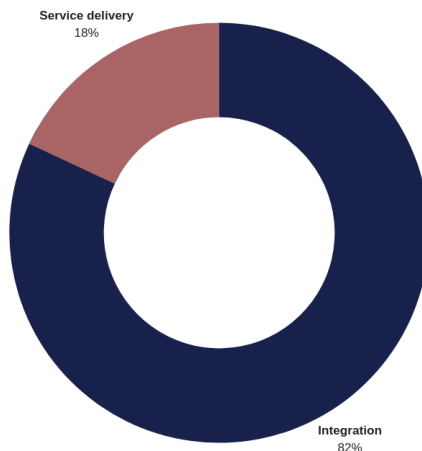
46
GRANTS;
worth **£643,103**

46 grants worth £643,103 have been made to Armed Forces Bases which includes Army Welfare Units for projects that provide support to Armed Forces Communities that are in addition to their core activities

have been awarded to Armed Forces Bases
across all three services

Most projects funded on Armed Forces Bases seek to improve integration between civilian and Armed Forces Communities

SERVICE
DELIVERY
7 PROJECTS
£117,811



COMMUNITY
INTEGRATION
39 PROJECTS
£535,313



The 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment received funding of £7,925 to construct an observatory. This innovative idea contributed greatly to encouraging community integration in the area. The location of the observatory was also strategically selected, in the community centre which is used by both civilian and service personnel groups. The observatory targeted a local, specialised need, and was able to meet this need effectively both on time and on budget.



The project was born out of a real local need felt by the Regiment. In particular, there was recognition that the Battalion would be stationed at Tern Hill for a long term period, and it was felt that greater integration amongst the local community was needed. A project of this nature was able to form links with local schools, proving an opportunity to interact over a shared facility and activity.

The final observatory measured 2.7m, and was delivered fully within the budget. Covenant Grant funding also allowed the purchase of a SCT telescope, a laptop, a solar filter, a Nikon camera and an eye piece. Organisers have planned outreach events to encourage greater interest in using the observatory. The local police have also indicated interest in using the facility as part of their educational induction programme, which offers at-risk youth the chance to re-integrate in to society through education. The impact of the observatory in the local area has been highly positive. A number of interest groups have benefitted from the facility. Local schools have expressed interest in using the observatory to help students completing science projects. In particular, there are nearby

schools which offer GCSE Astronomy, making this facility incredibly useful for them. The Shropshire Astronomical Society also runs a regular Stargazing event.

The level of interest across such a wide variety of organisations emphasises the real need that was felt for a facility of this nature. In particular, the organisers' aim of encouraging greater integration and raising the profile of the military in the local community can be seen to have been achieved. Looking to the future, there are plans in place to encourage greater involvement with the Royal British Astronomical Society, who would be able to provide informative and educational sessions to the local community. There is also a commitment to keep the usage of the space free of charge, thereby making it accessible for all.

The Future

OF THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT LOCAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

The programme will continue making grants over the next two years, to March 2020; and further announcements will be made regarding funding beyond that period. Applicants apply for a grant through an online portal.

To read the programme guidance; a full list of all projects funded or to or apply for a grant, please visit

WWW.COVENANTFUND.ORG.UK

Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust

The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust Limited (CRN11185188)
acting as the trustee of the Armed Forces Covenant Fund (CC1177627)
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www.covenantfund.org.uk

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