



The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust

Making grants for local projects: our consultation on a future local grants programme

January 2020



Making grants for local projects

With the Armed Forces Covenant: Local Grants programme now in its fifth successful year, we are running an open consultation to shape a new programme going forward.

This is a great opportunity for us to gather information from applicants, grant holders and stakeholders, about how to deliver an even better programme in future.

Our consultation, while directly relating to our Local Grants programme, will also inform our overall priority for 2020 of Integration and Engagement, including other programmes we may develop in the coming year. Your views are vital in helping us deliver effective grant making.



HOW WE SUPPORT THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY

Our current Local Grants programme supports projects that help integrate Armed Forces and civilian communities, and deliver projects that meet the needs of veterans, Armed Forces families and serving personnel.

Many of the grants we make have strong themes about reducing isolation, and in joining up work locally, to reduce duplication and provide better help.

We plan to build on the programme's past themes of community integration and delivery of services, combining these into one overall theme of Improving Integration and Engagement. The new programme will take the following principles into account.

Funding projects that reduce isolation, particularly for veterans and Armed Forces families.

Funding projects that support local co-ordination and joining up of local projects and services.

Projects should be supported throughout the UK

Improving
integration
and
engagement



Thinking to the future:

making the best
possible grants

We know that isolation and loneliness are big challenges and that they can affect younger people as well as older people.

Research into social isolation suggests it is a significant challenge within the UK population.

Research by the British Red Cross and Co-Op states that over 9 million people in the UK (almost a fifth of the population) say they are always or often lonely, but almost two thirds feel uncomfortable admitting to it.

Age UK reports that two fifths of all older people (about 3.9 million) say the TV is their main company.

People aged 50 and over are more likely to be lonely if they do not have someone to open up to, are widowed, are in poor health, are unable to do the things they want, feel that they do not belong in their neighbourhood or live alone.

For veterans, there is increasing evidence that isolation and loneliness is a problem.

Research is suggesting that there is a need to help link veterans to existing community and civilian services.



We know from projects that we have supported, both through the Armed Forces Covenant: Local Grants programme and the larger grants that we made under the Families in Stress programme, that isolation can be an issue within Armed Forces families, particularly where a member of the family has been deployed, or when the family moves to a new area.



PROJECTS WE'VE SUPPORTED

Wigan Warriors Community Foundation: Rugby Memories £8,000

The Rugby Memories Project provides a regular group session in bringing members of both the Armed Forces family, primarily veterans and their families, and civilians within the community together; our focus is on preventing loneliness and depression and to help support those living with dementia.



How you can help

There are four sections to our online consultation.

1

We'll ask you about who this funding should support and what types of projects this might be through.

3

We'll ask you some questions on how we make grants at the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust. Your views here, and in the other sections of the consultation, will help to shape our programme guidance.

2

We'll ask you about the size of grants that we should award. We currently fund projects with a value of up to £20,000 through the Local Grants programme. Most of the grants we make are for £18,000 to £20,000 as this is the amount of funding that projects ask for.

4

Finally, we ask some questions about you - or the organisation that you are completing the consultation on behalf of. This helps us to see if we have a range of views from different people. You don't have to answer any of these questions and we will only use your information for our consultation.

We will publish a report containing the consultation findings.



PROJECTS WE'VE SUPPORTED

**Warminster Town Council: Lake
Pleasure Grounds Community
Skatepark £20,000**

This project is providing a local youth-designed skatepark. This will benefit the local community and promote cohesion between current and former Service families and the wider community; attracting people from outside Warminster, including the Service families from nearby Garrison towns, including Larkhill, and those who live in villages around Warminster.



HOW TO TAKE PART IN OUR CONSULTATION

You'll take part through an online questionnaire. We think it will take about 15 minutes to complete.

In some of the questions, you can select choices that are important to you. For others, you'll rank ideas in order of importance or tell us through free text boxes about information or views that you would like us to consider.

We've put a number of ideas in the questionnaire. Not all of these may be taken forward. When we publish the consultation findings, this will show a summary of what people felt was important for us to consider.

We will use the consultation findings to shape the Armed Forces Covenant: Local Grants programme moving forward. The current programme is in its fifth year and when the new programme launches in Summer 2020, this will run for at least two years - though we anticipate that it will run for longer.

Have your
say...

Take part in our consultation

To share your views and take part in our
consultation, go to:

www.covenantfund.org.uk

**Consultation closes at midnight on
Friday 6 March**

Information that we used in shaping this consultation document.

All the Lonely People; Age UK:

https://www.ageuk.org.uk/globalassets/age-uk/documents/reports-and-publications/reports-and-briefings/loneliness/loneliness-report_final_2409.pdf

[1]Wilson, G., 2018. Loneliness and social isolation of military veterans: systematic narrative review:

<https://academic.oup.com/occmed/article/68/9/600/5239881#.XBe0Sw6FrZA.twitter>

FiMT/Shared Intelligence Our Community Our Covenant:

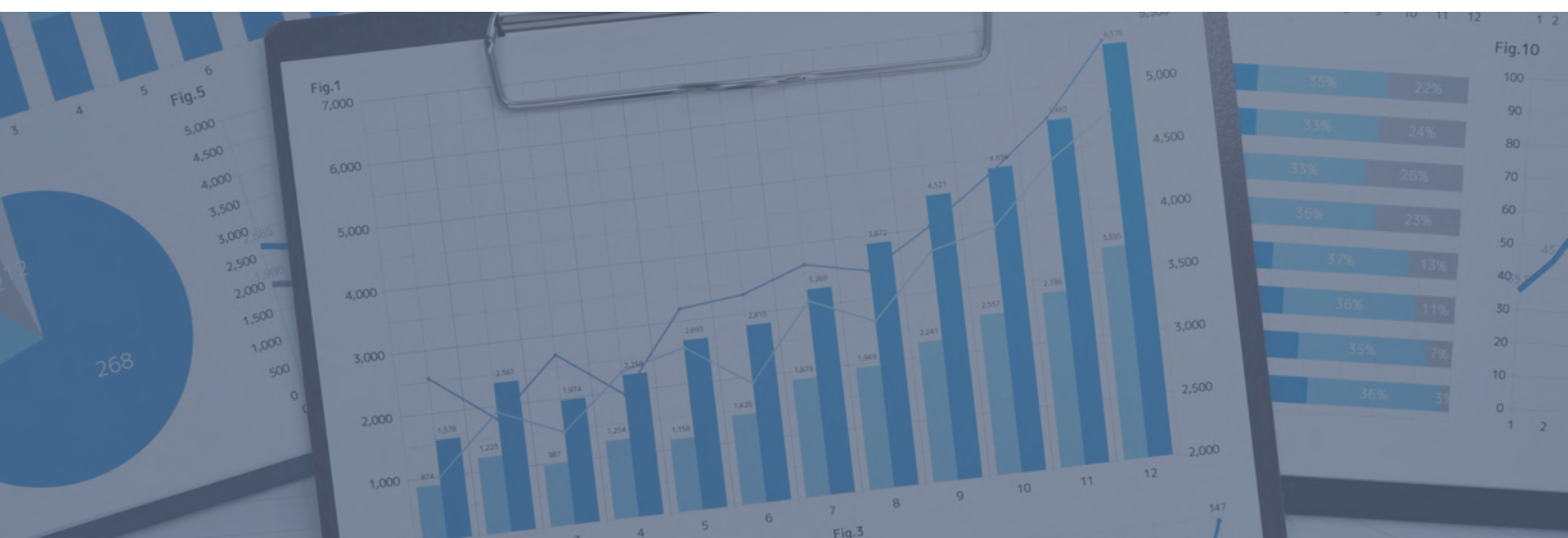
<https://www.fim-trust.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Covenant-Report-2nd-Ed.pdf>

LGA/ Shared Intelligence: Delivering the Armed Forces Covenant Locally:

https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/LGA%20Covenant%20report%20final%20May_0.pdf

HM Government: The Strategy For Our Veterans:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/756417/20181112-Strategy_for_our_Veterans_FINAL_Print_crop_marks.pdf

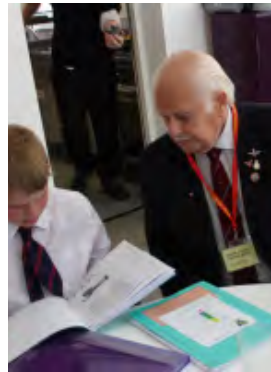


About us

The Armed Forces Covenant Trust manages the grant programmes funded by the Covenant Fund.

We also run wider funding programmes that support the Armed Forces community.

You can find out more about our work at www.covenantfund.org.uk



ARMED FORCES COVENANT FUND TRUST

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