

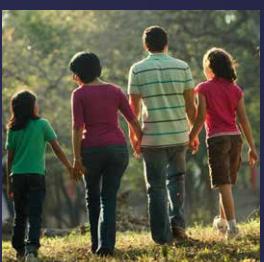


VETERANS'  
FOUNDATION

# Our impact

2024-25

CHANGING THE LIVES OF VETERANS IN NEED



DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025



# OUR PURPOSE

Our purpose at the **Veterans' Foundation** is to improve the lives of all within the armed forces community who are in need.

We do this by raising funds that we can then award to organisations that have a real impact on those currently serving, veterans, and their families – organisations that support a range of needs, including **mental health, physical therapy** and **rehabilitation, homelessness** and **education and training**, and more.

Charities and other organisations find it increasingly difficult to raise the funds they need to continue their vital and often life-changing work and rely on us for grants to support them. That was why the **Veterans' Foundation** came into being in 2016 and why it has grown to be one of the UK's leading military charities.

**Thanks to all our supporters** who have donated online, made a regular donation via our website, or played the **Veterans' Lottery** (the largest single-cause lottery in the UK).

Through your tireless support we have been able to award **over £30m in grant funding** to causes that help the armed forces community.



# We are dedicated to supporting our armed forces family



Jane Gurney, CEO, (left) and Stella Atherstone, COO, Veterans' Foundation

Since its inception in 2016, the **Veterans' Foundation** has grown from an idea about how to get more funding and support into veterans' services, into a mid-sized UK charity. In this, its ninth year, the **Veterans' Foundation** passed a major milestone, awarding £30 million in grants funding support to over 500 UK charities and community interest companies. The **Veterans' Foundation** has established itself as a vital source of support for those who serve and have served.

This heritage and track record drew us to the **Veterans' Foundation**. Taking up the roles of COO and CEO respectively is an honour and a

responsibility, to build on what has been achieved while unlocking the charity's full potential. Joining as co-leaders at this important moment, as the **Veterans' Foundation** enters its second decade, gives us the opportunity to accelerate impact for the armed forces community when they need it most.

Stella comes to the **Veterans' Foundation** having been the Strategic Financial Advisor to Clare College, Cambridge and before that CFO of CILEX and the co-MD of the Peter Jones Foundation. Her expertise includes operations, finance, HR and organisational development, skills

honed through supporting charitable organisations during periods of transformation and growth. She joined the **Veterans' Foundation** with a clear remit: to prepare it for expansion. With friends who have served in and supported the armed forces, the cause is deeply personal to Stella.

Jane joins from Essex & Herts Air Ambulance, where she served as CEO for 21 years, transforming it from a small start-up into one of Europe's leading air ambulances. She recognises many parallels between the air ambulance and armed forces communities – both have highly skilled individuals with a clear sense of mission, operating in challenging environments where camaraderie and support are essential. Having experienced the privilege of serving one such community, Jane is now bringing that same dedication to supporting veterans and their families.

As CEO of Essex & Herts Air Ambulance, Jane's role was to ensure the pilots and doctors had everything they needed including funding, resources, and as few obstacles as possible, in order to focus on saving lives. With operational costs of £1 million per month, that meant building an exceptional fundraising team.

**Veterans' Foundation** benefits from a similar advantage: the unwavering support of **Veterans' Lottery**. Since 2016, hundreds of thousands of people across the UK have played the lottery, enabling us to distribute funds to where they're needed most. We remain

deeply grateful for their commitment and loyalty.

This year's Impact Report tells the story of how those funds have been deployed. You'll find details of our grant funding, not just headline statistics, but the specifics behind them. **We are proud that our funding has grown by 54% this year**, with the number of grants increasing by 12%.

Within our five key areas of support – Health and Wellbeing; Housing and Homelessness; Employment, Education and Skills; Tackling Disadvantage; and Community and Relationships, we have ensured that our funds have reached some outstanding UK charities. The stories from our grant holders within this report really highlights why our support is so needed and why we are so determined to expand the **Veterans' Foundation's** reach.

Leaving the Services and transitioning to civilian life can present significant challenges. The **Veterans' Foundation's** grants enable charities and charitable organisations to help veterans overcome these hurdles and rebuild their lives. We also recognise that service doesn't only affect those

who serve, as their families and dependants face difficulties too, which is why our support also extends to them.

Our funding reaches people dealing with the lasting impact of service such as ill-health, mental health struggles, homelessness, poverty, bereavement, age-related issues, addiction, family breakdown, and educational barriers. This Impact Report shows the real difference our funding makes to people's lives.

This edition also highlights our valued corporate partners. We're particularly grateful to the **Defence Infrastructure Organisation**, the civilian body supporting the Ministry of Defence, for their continued partnership in getting funding to frontline services, reaching veterans in communities nationwide. Throughout these pages, you'll find inspiring stories and photographs of groups and individuals who have pushed themselves to support our cause. We salute their efforts.

Our major grants programme, which ran this year, is also highlighted. Historically, the **Veterans' Foundation** has focused on small, salary, and standard grants. including the vital but

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often overlooked back-office work that keeps charities running. While this approach remains central to our work, we recognised an opportunity to support larger, multi-year projects as well. As you'll see, major grants have funded a diverse range of important initiatives, and this expanded approach will continue.

As we embark on the **Veterans' Foundation's** 10th year, we reflect on the world around us. As charity leaders, our hope is that our services become redundant. That the causes we champion no longer need us. Sadly, it does not feel as if veterans issues will diminish. With that in mind, we begin our tenure with a pledge to carry on the great work of our predecessor, Major General David Shaw CBE, and endeavour to maintain the growth of the charity so that we can continue to support veterans, members of the armed forces communities, merchant seamen, and the families of all who are serving or have served. We thank them for their service and we promise ours.



Scotty's Little Soldiers

# How we've helped



## Grants for the financial year ended 30 June 2025

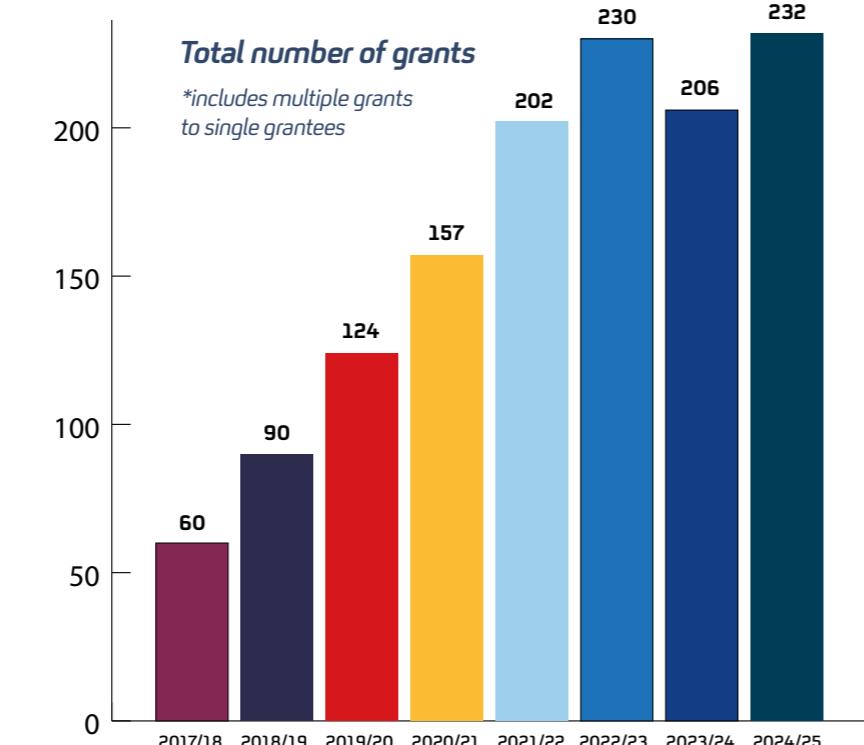
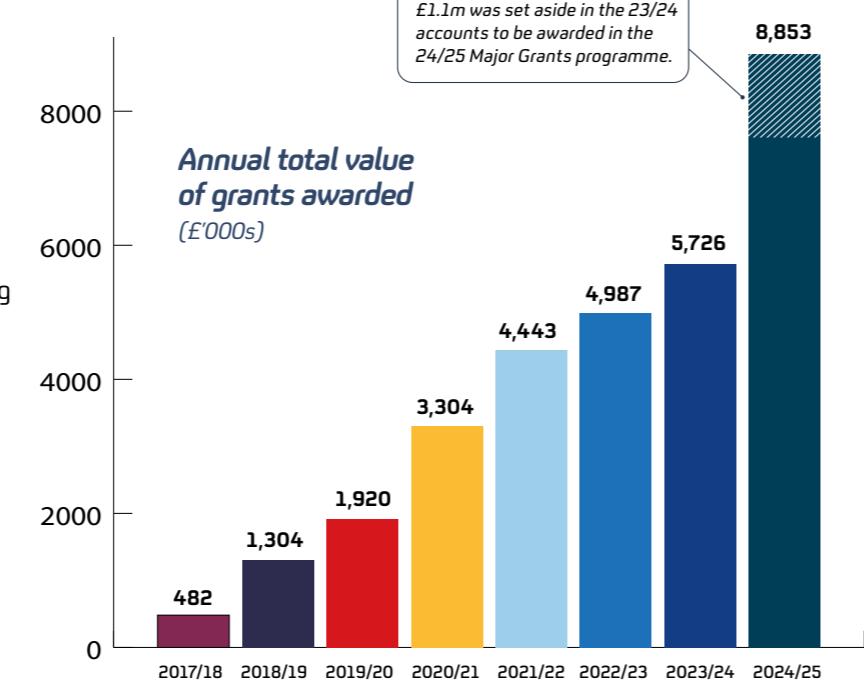
The Veterans' Foundation has enjoyed another year of remarkable growth, allowing us to support more charities and qualifying organisations to continue with their life-changing work helping the armed forces community.

Here are some of the key highlights demonstrating the impact the Veterans' Foundation has made. We extend our sincere thanks to all who have recently joined our community of supporters, as well as those who continue to donate and play the Veterans' Lottery - our work is only possible because of your generosity.

We have awarded £8.85m in grants in the year July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

214 charities and other charitable organisations received a grant in 2024/25 bringing the total to over 500 since we were established in 2016.

As of June 2025, £31 million has been awarded through grants to charities and organisations in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.



## Growth in our grants to good causes

Our grants grew to more than £8.8 million last year. As a result, we've awarded over £31 million in grants to good causes since our launch in 2016.



**£31m**

given to good causes since our inception in July 2016

**54.6%**

rate at which funding has grown in the year 2024/25

**500**

charities and other organisations supported since inception

The Veterans' Foundation continues to offer support to the armed forces community through a wide range of organisations and charities (grant support also includes projects for qualifying seafarers). Our focus is on providing assistance to small-to-medium-sized charities that offer vital support but may have limited infrastructure to extensively fundraise themselves. Key areas of support are:

### Health and Wellbeing

Supporting projects that help tackle PTSD, depression, addiction and other mental health issues is our priority. Ongoing initiatives we've supported include Combat Stress and Bromley FC Community Sports Trust.

### Housing and Homelessness

We are committed to supporting projects that provide safe shelter for ex-servicemen and women, and their families. Among those to receive grants were Housing Options Scotland and Tom Harrison House.

### Employment, Education and Skills

Supporting the armed forces community in making a successful transition to civilian life through retraining, skills development, and confidence building. One example of this in 2024/25 is our support for The VC Gallery.

### Tackling Disadvantage

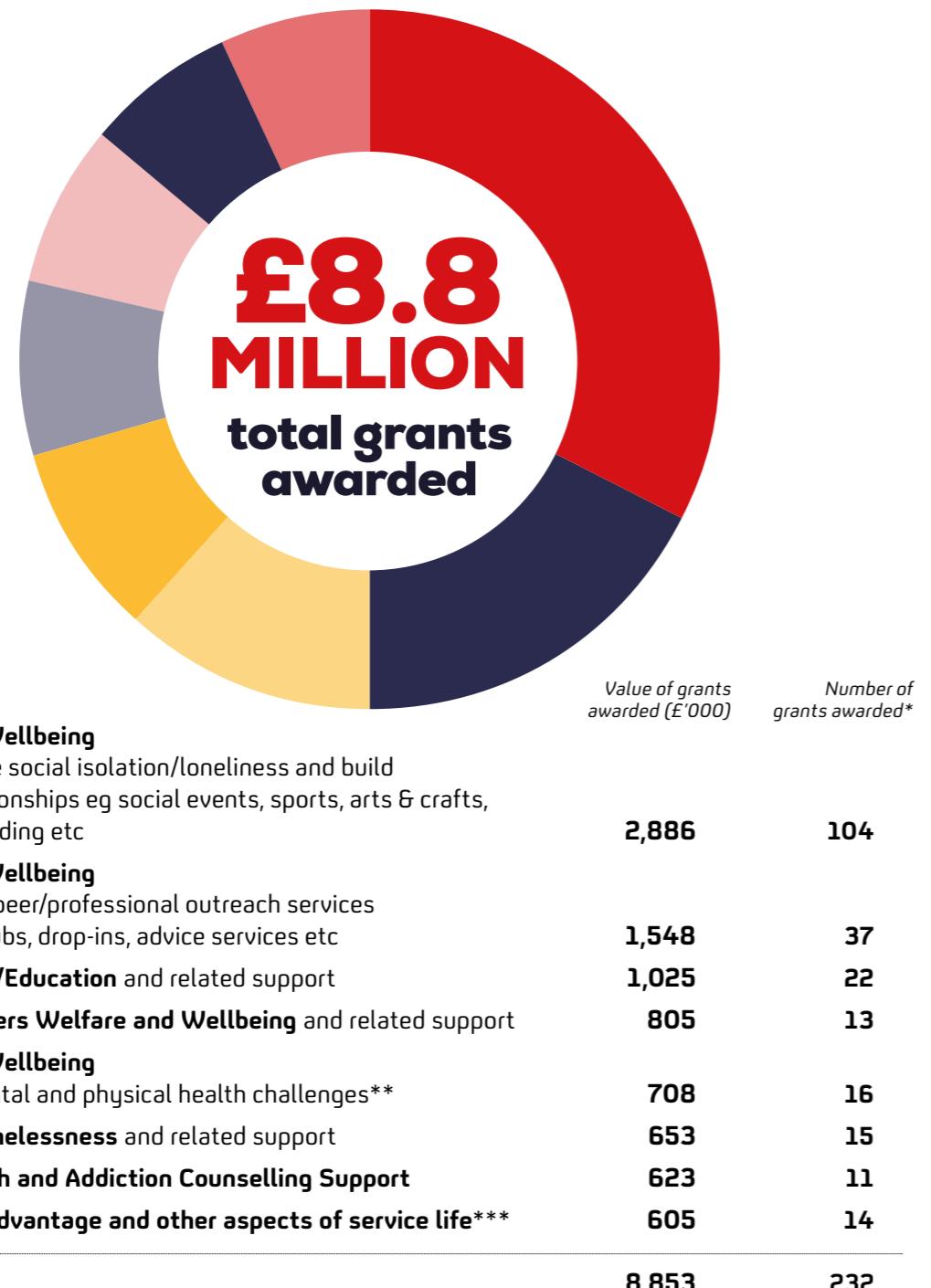
Includes supporting work for the families of those who have served, as well as projects that give veterans greater accessibility, such as Army Widows Association.

### Community and Relationships

Community and relationships are vital for veterans to help them overcome the loss of the strong bonds from military service. These connections provide emotional support and a sense of belonging, which are crucial for successfully transitioning to civilian life. An example in 2024/25 included Age UK North Yorkshire Coast and Moors.

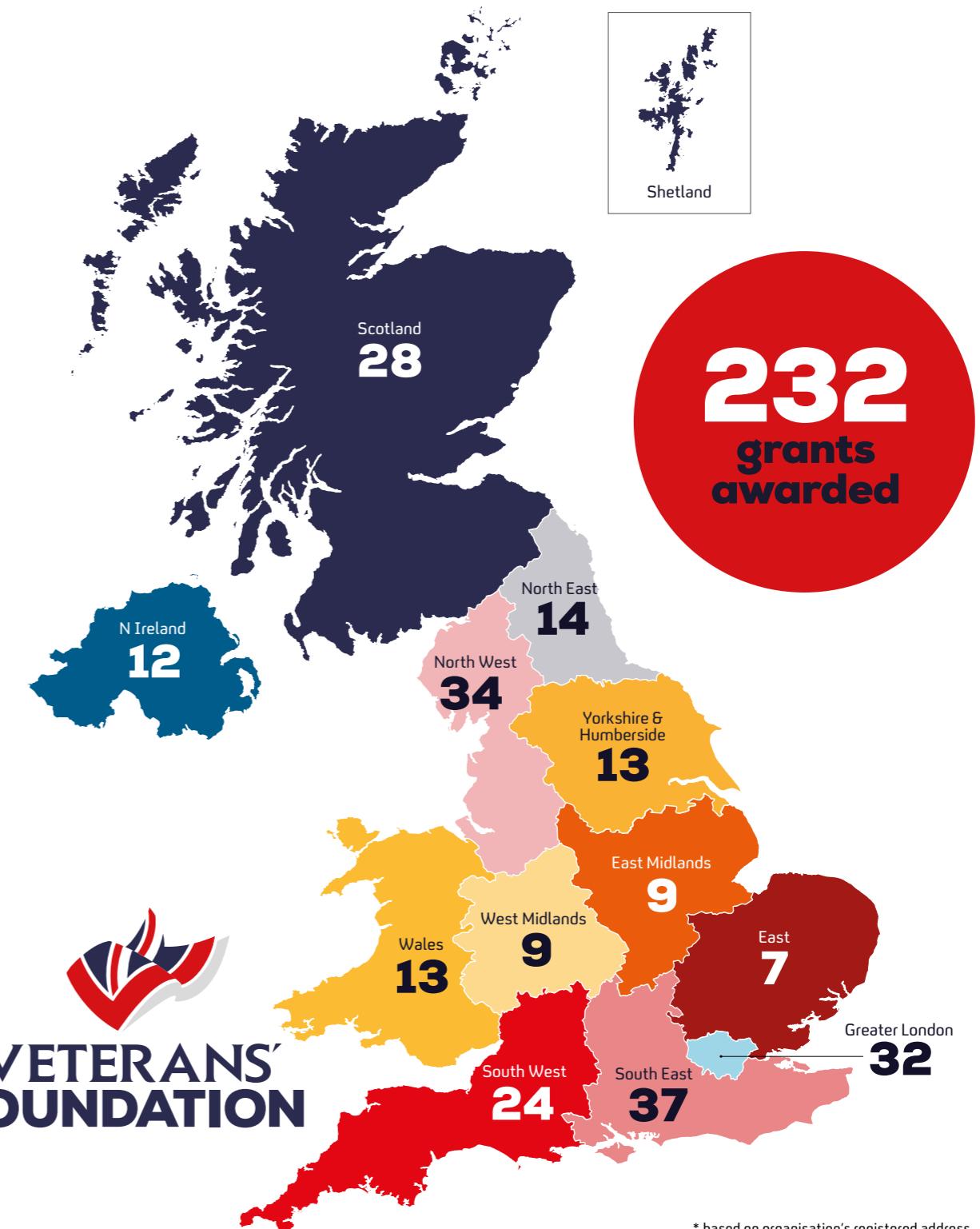
# How we spent our money

in the financial year ended 30 June 2025



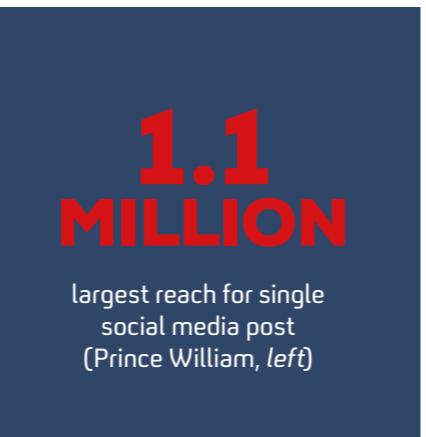
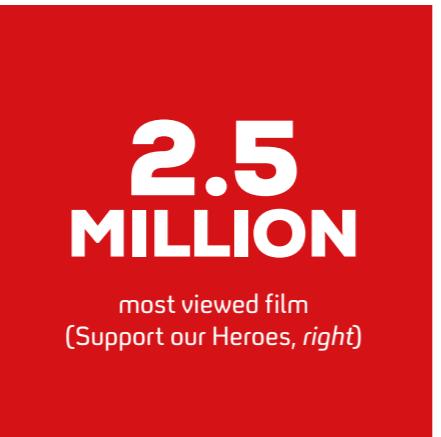
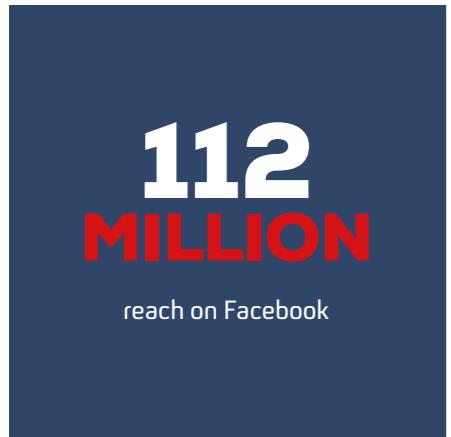
# Number of grants by region

in the financial year ended 30 June 2025

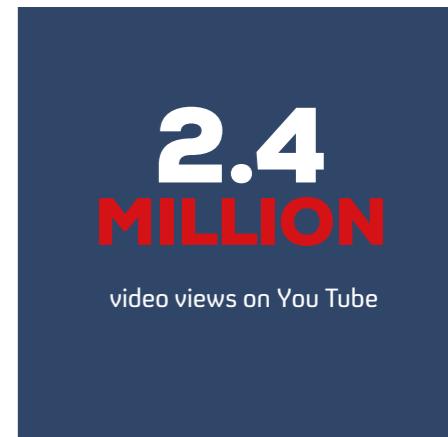
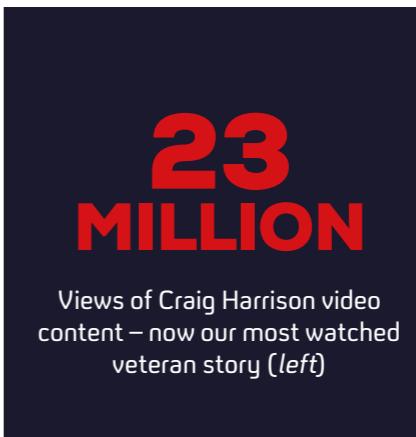
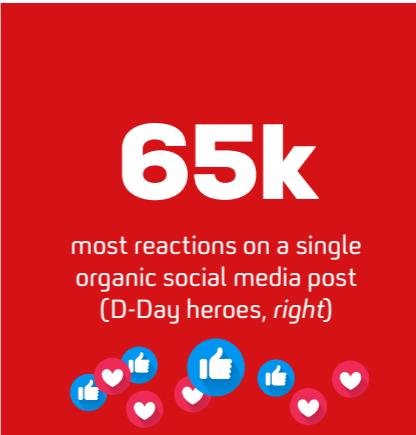
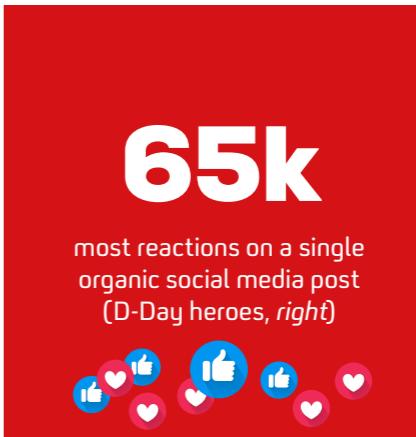
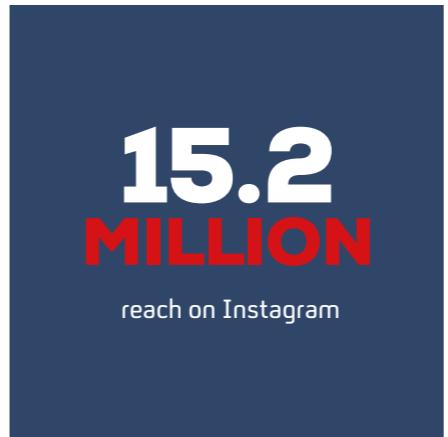


# Reaching out to our supporters

The Veterans' Foundation is committed to supporting and celebrating all those who have served in the British Armed Forces. One way we reach out to tell our armed forces community's story is through social media channels where posts and videos are some of the most popular in the whole charitable sector. It's been a year of record-breaking broadcasts.



**8.7**  
**MILLION**  
Facebook reactions



## Funding a bespoke service to aid wellbeing

Immersing yourself in an enjoyable and challenging project can help to maintain your mental health and well-being. This is why we awarded £30,000 to the **Viking Boat Company** to support a unique veteran-led initiative to build a replica Viking boat.

The charity's purpose is to help ex-military personnel develop mental resilience and coping strategies to counter the effects of PTSD, anxiety, stress, loneliness and isolation, to help them lead active and fulfilling lives in their community.

We have now awarded The Viking Boat Company £50,000 in grants and the latest initiative has seen over



100 veterans play their part in building 'Stormbird' which measures 30 feet in length and was constructed under the supervision of boatwrights and Viking experts, giving their time on a voluntary basis.

The vessel was showcased at the iconic annual Jorvik Viking Festival in York in February 2025.

The founder of The Viking Boat Company is Bob Marshall, and he said the time and concentration required from veterans who have joined with the build has helped with their mental health.

"The boat is a wonderful thing and it's a beautiful piece of woodwork," he said.

"This project is about more than just building a boat. It's about giving veterans a place to rebuild, connect, and thrive.

"The £30,000 Veterans' Foundation grant is a significant part of all the funding we have received, so we are very grateful for this support."

This is a unique initiative that enables veterans to acquire new skills and a purpose that helps them build resilience and cope with often complex mental health issues following their valued service in the UK Armed Forces. The Veterans' Foundation were delighted to be able to support this work.

[www.thevikingboat.co](http://www.thevikingboat.co)



THE  
**VIKING**  
BOAT C°



The **Stormbird** project is to complete the build of a 30-foot Viking longboat, using a mixture of traditional heritage skills and modern techniques, which on completion will showcase veterans' skills and abilities.



## A focus on mental health through research into PTSD and suicide among veterans

More than half of our British Armed Forces veterans face serious mental and physical health challenges after leaving service. For some, the trauma is so overwhelming that they tragically take their own lives.

Empowering projects that focus on mental health is a key priority for the **Veterans' Foundation** and **PTSD Resolution** benefitted from a grant to help fund therapy and research into post-traumatic stress and suicide in armed forces veterans.

The £20,000 grant will help fund therapy and research into the recovery from PTSD and thereby prevent suicide, which is a growing issue among former servicemen and women, and their families.

"We aim to see people within 10 days, whether in person or online, and they see significant progress after about six to eight sessions, so this funding is crucial in ensuring we can continue to help former and current

servicemen and women and their families," said Campaign Director, Patrick Rea.

**PTSD Resolution** assist servicemen, women, and family members over the age of 12, who experience mental health issues following service in the UK Armed Forces.

The programme is community-based, with treatment and support provided locally through a nationwide network of 200 therapists who are accredited by the Professional Standards Authority.

Since the charity launched in 2009, it's proud to reveal that it's had more than 4,000 referrals.

[www.ptsdresolution.org](http://www.ptsdresolution.org)



## MAJOR GRANTS PROGRAMME

This year, we awarded over £1.7 million in grants to help fund life-changing projects which impact the lives of veterans in need. The programme was launched in 2024 to provide larger grants of up to £200,000 to charities undertaking projects that assist with mental health, wellbeing and other issues, among the armed forces community.

This year, ten charities shared funds totalling £1,731,169 thanks to the Veterans' Foundation Major Grants programme. They are: **Walking With The Wounded**, **St John Red Cross Defence Medical Welfare Service**, **Veterans' Growth**, **Sacro**, **Tom Harrison House**, **BRAVEHOUND**, **Launchpad**, **Everton in the Community**, **Armed Forces Equine Charity**, and **Defence Gardens Scheme**.



## Supporting military veterans every step of the way



**Walking With The Wounded** is a national charity based in Manchester that supports those who have served in the armed forces and their families to regain their independence and contribute to their communities.

The organisation supports ex-service personnel with both visible and invisible injuries who are struggling to adjust to life outside the military.

The charity operates a *Head Start* mental health programme, providing rapid one-to-one private therapy for ex-service personnel with mild to severe mental health difficulties.

This major grant of £180,000 over two years, will allow for 100 additional community *Head Start* places, specifically supporting the cost of therapy sessions and a

contribution towards core running costs of the organisation.

We know that early intervention and ongoing support is essential to support veterans' mental health and wellbeing. This is due to the unique challenges they face, the prevalence of mental health issues within the community, and the need for comprehensive support systems to facilitate their successful transition to civilian life and overall wellbeing.

As more pressure is placed on NHS mental health services and Op Courage waiting lists, this award will continue to support individuals from the armed forces community access rapid one-to-one support.

[www.walkingwiththewounded.org.uk](http://www.walkingwiththewounded.org.uk)

## Veterans' Foundation awards Launchpad £170,000 grant to help homeless veterans

**Launchpad** – a charity which manages three supported housing schemes in Newcastle, Durham and Liverpool providing self-contained apartments for homeless veterans – is another of the recipients of a Major Grant this year.

The Veterans' Foundation has supported **Launchpad** before and this grant will support the next phase of development for its *Agenda for Change*. It will also enable the charity to continue to improve the outcomes for armed forces veterans.

**Launchpad** will use the funding to cover salary costs for four staff as it embarks on its most significant period of transformational change to date, with the delivery of a new strategy and business plan.

Jill Murray, Chief Executive at **Launchpad**, said: “On behalf of our Trustees and staff, I would like to thank the **Veterans' Foundation** and those who play the **Veterans' Lottery**, for their continued support and this very kind grant.

“This funding will make a big difference to supporting homeless veterans around the UK and help us to deliver our ambitious *Agenda for Change* programme.

“The business transformation program has and will continue to make **Launchpad** stronger and most importantly, it will ensure that our residents are truly at the heart of our strategy and the key objectives which we strive to achieve as a homeless veterans charity.”

Since August 2024, the charity under the leadership of Chief Executive Jill Murray, has developed an *Agenda for Change*, which has put in place an independent governance review and a new good governance framework.



Four new Trustees were appointed to the Board in January along with good governance training for the Board and senior staff.

A new risk management and assurance framework was put in place and a comprehensive business plan has been developed.

The co-creation of a new five-year strategy with past and present **Launchpad** residents and staff, is currently under development which will ensure that the voice of our veterans lived experience is at the centre of it.

Demand for specialist veteran's accommodation and services is increasing, with 361 homeless veterans approaching, or being referred to **Launchpad** in 2024 alone.

**Launchpad** was recently awarded £295,324 of government funding to continue to deliver the *Reducing Veterans Homelessness Programme* and will work alongside Op FORTITUDE, a government-backed UK wide referral pathway supporting homeless veterans or veterans at risk of homelessness into housing and will accommodate referrals.

It is expected that the charity will provide sustained support to a further 135 homeless veterans across all three of its houses until March 2026.

Support will include combined addiction/mental health psychotherapy, intensive training/employment support, greater access to wellbeing enhancing community activities, and support to transition into and retain independent accommodation.

[www.veteranslaunchpad.org.uk](http://www.veteranslaunchpad.org.uk)





## Expert advice helps veterans seeking homes

The Veterans' Foundation is proud to be a long-term supporter of **Housing Options Scotland** and the vital service it provides.

Our most recent grant of £25,000 is being used to take the charity's **Military Matters** service to the next level.

**Housing Options Scotland** help disabled people, older adults and members of the armed forces community find their right home in the right place and the team has over 25 years of experience, supporting people across all 32 council areas in Scotland.

The latest **Veterans' Foundation** grant has allowed the charity to continue to operate the life-changing **Military Matters** service which provides unique person-centred housing options advice and support to members of the armed forces community.

During the period of the grant the team has helped 200 **Military Matters** clients to find suitable housing including Gina and her family (pictured above). Gina is a REME veteran and had been sofa-surfing in the Scottish Borders but now has a family home in Edinburgh.

It also carried out a number of online and in-person events at RAF Lossiemouth, HMNB Clyde and the Lothian Veterans Centre.

"We feel so fortunate that we've had the support of the **Veterans' Foundation** for many years and the funding through grants has been crucial for our work in securing the right housing for veterans as part of our **Military Matters** service," said Moira Bayne, CEO of **Housing Options Scotland**.

"This latest grant has been particularly helpful in enabling **Housing Options Scotland** offer face-to-face visits with clients and crucially accompanying them to view properties.



[www.housingoptionsscotland.org.uk](http://www.housingoptionsscotland.org.uk)



## Veterans and their families benefit from tailored support and home visits

We awarded a grant to the **Citizens Advice Portsmouth** to support its Armed Forces Project which continues to go from strength to strength.

With support from the **Veterans' Foundation**, **Citizens Advice Portsmouth** has delivered a transformative advice service tailored to veterans and their families.

The project tackles key barriers to early intervention, stigma, bureaucracy, and health challenges by offering personalised legal, welfare, housing, and debt support.

Over 200 beneficiaries in Hampshire received one-to-one guidance, including home visits and trauma-informed outreach at community hubs like the Fratton Spark Centre and the Veterans Outreach Service.

The **Veterans' Foundation** funding enables **Citizens Advice Portsmouth** to offer a dedicated advisor to the armed forces with the capacity and time to carry out home visits, which are essential to some veterans.

The continuity and attention provided by dedicated advisor resources has helped veterans understand their rights and recognise when to seek advice before problems escalate.

The impact has been profound with 37 housing cases resolved, 42 veterans supported with complex debt, and nearly £372,000 in financial gains through benefits, grants, and debt relief.

One standout case saw a veteran avoid eviction thanks to strategic legal advocacy and emergency funding, resulting in stable housing and improved health.

Promotional efforts included local radio interviews, Armed Forces Day outreach, and expanded drop-in services across Portsmouth, Havant, and Gosport, which are areas with high veteran populations.

As one transgender veteran shared: "This project has, for the first time, made me feel comfortable discussing what happened in my service years and its ongoing impact."

This initiative exemplifies how targeted, empathetic advice can restore autonomy, prevent crisis, and foster resilience in the armed forces community.

"This generous grant from the **Veterans' Foundation** means that we can continue providing a much-needed advice service to one of our region's most vulnerable

42  
veterans supported with complex debt and 37 housing cases resolved

communities and which hopefully goes some way towards repaying the debt we all owe them," said Charlie Palmer, Advice Services Manager at **Citizens Advice Portsmouth**.

"The grant means that we can extend our outreach service to further locations around the Portsmouth area."

[www.caportsmouth.org.uk](http://www.caportsmouth.org.uk)

**citizens advice** Portsmouth



# IMPACT

## Employment, Education and Skills



## Transforming prisoners' lives through learning

The Veterans' Foundation and **Prisoners' Education Trust** are working together to help veterans in prison access life-changing education and earn accredited qualifications.

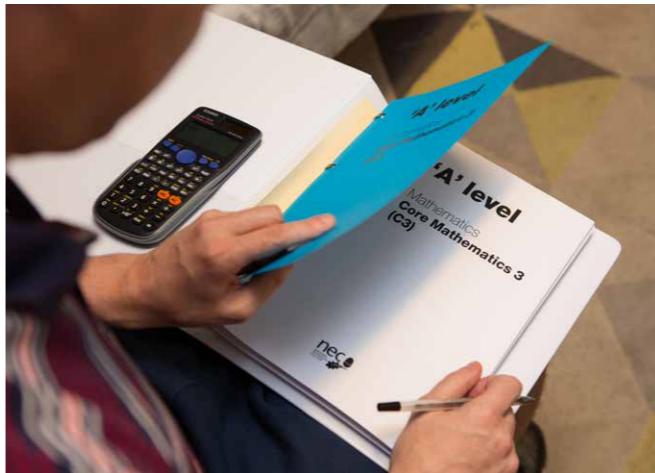
A Ministry of Justice report published in 2024 estimated that 3.6% of the prison population were veterans – that's over 3,000 people.

The £20,000 Veterans' Foundation grant enables **Prisoners' Education Trust** to provide distance learning courses and educational advice and guidance to around 30 veterans rebuilding their lives and careers.

In 2024, **Prisoners' Education Trust** funded 1,540 courses in 120 prisons, including 95 for veterans.

The courses **Prisoners' Education Trust** offer cover subjects and levels not offered through standard prison education – including GCSEs and A-levels, Open University Access modules and a wide range of professional and personal development courses.

The trust also offers tailored support before, during and after study, helping veterans make the most of each course and improve their employment prospects upon release.



One veteran learner, Andy, shared the impact of studying Agile Project Management with **Prisoners' Education Trust** while in prison:

"Prison put every one of my triggers in front of me like boredom, low self-worth, lack of purpose and lack of drive."

"But when those course books landed and I knew I had a purpose the next day... honestly, it changed the whole outlook."

Since completing his course, Andy has rebuilt his life:

"I now work for Beacon Counselling Trust on their Armed Forces Gambling Support Network Programme – delivering awareness and prevention training to serving personnel, veterans, families and the wider armed forces community."

[www.prisonerseducation.org.uk](http://www.prisonerseducation.org.uk)



## Career Compass: helping service leavers navigate their next chapter

Making the move from service to civilian employment can be a very challenging time. Many struggle to translate their military expertise into civilian terms, while families too often face uncertainty about the future.

It was with this challenge in mind that the **White Ensign Association** embarked on developing **Career Compass**, to transform career support. With the help of a £30,000 grant from the Veterans' Foundation, the platform has become a pioneering AI-powered service designed specifically for the Naval community, created through collaboration with dedicated developers – veterans themselves.

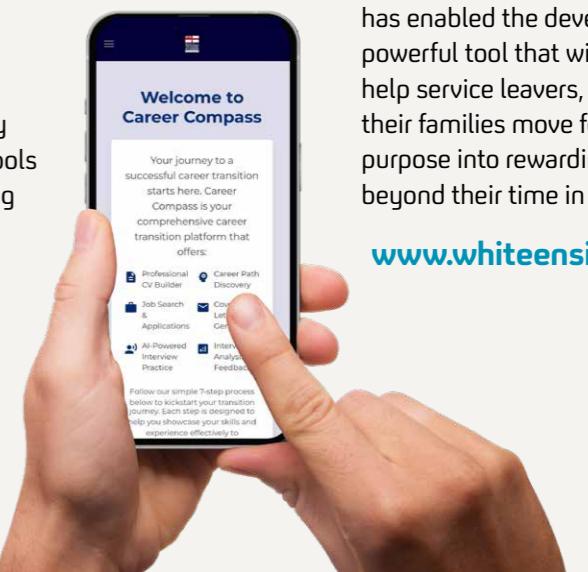
"Career Compass gives confidence at a time of huge change," said Adam Marchant-Wincott, Director of Employment at the **White Ensign Association**. "Its interactive career discovery function helps users identify where their skills best fit in civilian life, while practical tools support applications by generating tailored CVs, covering letters and interview practice. All of this is backed up by personal support from our employment consultants and mentors, who provide trusted guidance and connections to employers."

The **Career Compass** platform has already been piloted with hundreds of users, receiving strong feedback for its accessibility and impact. This grant



has enabled the development of a powerful tool that will continue to help service leavers, veterans and their families move forward with purpose into rewarding futures beyond their time in uniform.

[www.whiteensign.co.uk](http://www.whiteensign.co.uk)



# IMPACT

## Tackling Disadvantage

### Dedicating unwavering support to veterans and their families in the justice system

The Veterans' Foundation has awarded a grant of £67,000 to help **Care after Combat** provide vital assistance to veterans in the justice system.

It's a three-year grant that will fund the delivery of the charity's core programme 'Project Phoenix' to veterans in the justice system across Wales.

It will provide funds for a Regional Coordinator for Wales, who is responsible for supporting veterans across six prisons (five in the South, and one in the North), where the number of veterans is higher than the UK average.

The funding allows **Care after Combat** to deliver monthly veteran forums in each prison and the Regional Coordinator to attend each prison regularly every month.

Approximately 150 veterans have attended **Care after Combat** forums, and although not all opt in to Project

Phoenix support immediately, some do so closer to their release.

Sixty-four veterans were signed up to Project Phoenix across the sites and actively engaged with the Regional Coordinator. Additionally, 10 veterans were supported in the community.

The charity says **Veterans' Foundation** funding is critical in ensuring no veteran is left behind in Wales, and **Care after Combat**'s impact is clear – their mentorship programme has reduced the reoffending rate of veterans to one-fifth of the national average.

A crucial element in the delivery of Project Phoenix is the use of Volunteer Mentors (*pictured below*), who are either veterans themselves or have a close affiliation with the military.



There are currently two in South Wales, with a further two to be recruited, and they work closely with the Regional Coordinator in delivering one-to-one mentorship to veterans in prison.

Mentorship continues post-release for up to 12 months, although the charity has previously worked with veterans for well over that.

Dr Jane Jones, CEO and Clinical Lead for **Care after Combat** said: "Mentorship helps veterans make good choices for their future, improving their general wellbeing, and reducing the reoffending rate dramatically."

"Project Phoenix works and of those who have received one-to-one mentorship, less than 10% reoffend within the first 12 months post-release, compared to the national adult average of 48%.

"The mentorship scheme provides a source of practical and emotional support and acts as a handrail for veterans to call upon at any time. "That support is backed up with a 24/7 helpline should any veteran find themselves in crisis."

"Without the help of the **Veterans' Foundation**, we would be unable to fund and support a Regional Coordinator in Wales. We would simply be unable to extend our vital work and Project Phoenix into Wales and improve the wellbeing of veterans involved in the justice system."

£1,500

Average annual cost of providing **Care after Combat** support to a veteran in the justice system

One veteran admitted that the support they've received from **Care after Combat** has saved their life and said: "Through the charity my mentor saved my life which sounds dramatic, but if it wasn't for the services of this charity, and the above and beyond support I got from my mentor, I don't know if I'd be here today."

[www.careaftercombat.org](http://www.careaftercombat.org)



# IMPACT

## Community and Relationships

### Ensuring that family carers are visible, valued, supported and connected



Family is such an important word in the veteran's community and this is why we've continued our support of the work of **Suffolk Family Carers**.

The **Veterans' Foundation** has awarded a grant of £43,321 towards the salary cost of a Veterans Families Adviser.

The funding will help the charity to continue to offer for the next two years an information, advice, guidance and emotional support service to UK veterans and ex-service men and women, who are in caring situations in Suffolk.

This latest grant brings the total awarded to **Suffolk Family Carers** from the **Veterans' Foundation** to £135,000 and Sarah Potter, Mental Health & Wellbeing Service Manager at **Suffolk Family Carers**, said: "This grant award will allow us to continue to deliver our project working with UK veterans and ex-service personnel in caring roles.

"Our project is unique in that it supports both those caring for and those being cared for by a UK veteran or

entitlements and services that are available, including information about The Armed Forces Covenant.

The charity acknowledges that family carers who are from the armed forces are often reluctant to seek help and many, especially those who completed their national service, do not realise they are considered a veteran.

The **Veterans' Foundation** are delighted to support this worthy cause, whose work helps improve the lives and well-being of veterans and their families.

**Suffolk Family Carers**  
Living Fuller Lives

[www.suffolkfamilycarers.org](http://www.suffolkfamilycarers.org)

ex-armed forces member, but it also offers support to UK veterans who may have a caring role themselves, many people assume that they will always require the care, but often they are the caregivers."

Much of the project's work focusses on raising awareness and helping people become informed about the rights,

### Veterans' Foundation funds programme for veterans with hearing challenges

Our grant of more than £20,000 to **Erskine Veterans Charity** is funding the services and salary of a part-time audiology specialist at the Erskine Veterans Activity Centre West in Bishopton (pictured right).

We've given £21,700 to fund the charity's EARS 2 Hear programme run by hearing support specialist Caroline McDonald to help provide hearing-related advice and care to veterans with individual hearing challenges.

It is the latest in a series of grants totalling £78,000 we've awarded to Erskine since 2018.

The charity's audiology programme was devised and is delivered by Caroline, who is herself hearing impaired.

Her services have helped dozens of veterans around the country with their individual hearing problems, including diagnosis, hearing aid care and access to a variety of other services available to them.

Many of the veterans experience total or partial hearing loss as a result of their service, including from loud weapons and bomb blasts, as well as wounds and injury.

Erskine's Philanthropy Manager, Victoria McEwan, said: "The **Veterans' Foundation** has been helping us for some



time and we really appreciate how they understand the vital work we are doing with veterans and what we are about. Their generous funding allows us to continue our work of reaching out to veterans in the community to improve their lives by providing help such as the EARS 2 Hear service."

**Erskine Veterans Charity** was launched in Bishopton, Scotland, in 1916, as a care home for servicemen who lost limbs during the Great War. It has since evolved to provide care homes, care in the community, and drop-in centres offering financial, craft, sports and social activities to help veterans tackle isolation, as well as other mental and physical health issues.

  
**ERSKINE**

[www.erskine.org.uk](http://www.erskine.org.uk)

# FUNDRAISING



## Changing lives together

### A growing bond: Our charity partnership with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO)

18 months ago we were delighted when the Veterans' Foundation was chosen as a charity partner by the DIO. The DIO is the estate expert for defence, supporting the armed forces to enable military capability by planning, building, maintaining, and servicing infrastructure. With 5,000 employees based across the UK, the DIO make sure that our armed forces community have the necessary facilities to live, work, train and deploy effectively. [We are extremely grateful for their dedication and commitment to the Veterans' Foundation.](#)

DIO's continued support for the Veterans' Foundation is consistent and powerful.

Together we are changing lives by supporting the breadth of difficulties suffered by our armed forces community through small and medium-sized UK military charities.

**A fantastic achievement.**  
Thank you.

#### #DIOGivingBack raised almost £60,000

The depth and value of the Veterans' Foundation's reach has been recognised by DIO who have continued our fundraising partnership through the employee initiative #DIOGivingBack. With a Normandy battlefield charity cycle ride in September 2024, and Katie Pell (right) who ran the London Marathon, the DIO have raised nearly £60,000 for our armed forces community. The pedal power and fundraising prowess of DIO employees and their suppliers is outstanding.



A staggering  
**£230k**  
was raised by our  
volunteer fundraisers  
this year



## Graeme reaches Mera Peak summit

Former Lance Corporal in the Royal Signals, **Graeme Antrobus** from NTT Data, successfully trekked Nepal's highest peak at 6,476 meters, reaching the summit of the Himalayan mountain on the 15th May, 2025.

This amazing feat was a personal achievement for Graeme; two and a half years in the making after his first attempt.

The size and reach of the Veterans' Foundation enables individuals and organisations to make a difference to grassroots charities all over the country. Companies like **Busch Vacuum Solutions** who raised £3,000 in a daring skydive and **NTT Data**, whose employee **Graeme Antrobus** (left) climbed Mera Peak in Nepal, raising an amazing **£9,000** in the process. **Sarah Biles** who wanted to do something special to remember her husband from the British Intelligence Corps donated **£1,767** after daring to skydive on our behalf. Incredible!

We would like to send a huge thank you to every one of our fundraisers that make a difference to the lives of our armed forces community who are struggling and need our help.

With dedication from volunteer fundraisers, sports groups, corporate partners, trusts and legacy gifts, our fundraising income has doubled in the last year enabling us to help more beneficiaries with their mental health, emergency housing and many more vital support services.

We are always thrilled when individuals volunteer to help us by raising funds on our behalf. They come up with all sorts of fun and inventive initiatives from **dog walking to mud runs, marathons** to mammoth **cycle tours, abseiling to cake sales**.

Here we've highlighted some of the things our supporters did to raise much-needed funds.

If you would like to set yourself a challenge, please get in touch with us at [fundraising@veteransfoundation.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@veteransfoundation.org.uk)

**Rachel McNeil** gathered her local community together to host a 1940s themed VE Day celebration, featuring a jazz orchestra and wonderful costumes, to raise a super **£1,385** for us.



## Katie's skydiving challenge in honour of Lewis



**Katie Wood** raised over £3,000 in memory of her close friend and ex-army soldier, Lewis Feeley (inset). Lewis sadly passed away in April this year, having struggled with his mental health in the period leading up to his death.

Katie took on various challenges including an incredibly brave skydive, and hosted a comedy night in honour of Lewis, who she described as 'having a heart of gold'.



# VETERANS' LOTTERY

## NOW THE BIGGEST SINGLE-CAUSE CHARITY LOTTERY

The Veterans' Lottery continues to go from strength to strength. It is helping to fund a broad range of charitable causes that ensure the armed forces community can access the help and support needed.

**July 2024 - June 2025**

(Figures in brackets from previous year)

 Online sign-ups  
**38,080** (38,334)

 Face-to-face sign-ups  
**32,771** (24,319)

 Monthly players  
**148,814** (122,614)

That's **26,200** more players than the previous year – a growth of **21%**.



### THE VETERANS' LOTTERY CHANGES AND SAVES THE LIVES OF BRITISH HEROES IN NEED

The rollover jackpot increased from £50,000 to a whopping £75,000 last June, and we've seen five players scoop that jackpot in the year 1 July, 2024 - 30 June, 2025.

One of these was [Sarah Mullenger](#) (left), from Essex, whose win in January came not long after she was made redundant. The win gave Sarah and her young family a much-needed financial boost after a difficult time. It's players like Sarah who have benefitted from a total of £652,000 in prizes from 1 July, 2024 - 30 June, 2025.



A staggering  
**£652k**  
was won by our  
Veterans' Lottery  
players

1 July, 2024 - 30 June, 2025

### £75,000 surprise for ex-submariner

Former submariner [Steven Leech](#) (above), got an early birthday surprise when we called to say he'd scooped the **£75,000 jackpot** in our July draw. Steven was in the Royal Navy Submarine Service, Polaris Programme, from 1983 to 1991 and then spent more than 30 years in the prison service. He has been doing the lottery since before the COVID pandemic and says he signed up as a way to support his 'fellow brothers in arms'.

# You can transform the life of a veteran with a gift in your will



CROWN COPYRIGHT 2026

## Have our armed forces played a role in your life?

Maybe a member of your family, or a friend, served their country or you are thankful for the amazing work of the British Armed Forces.

One way you can show your thanks, and respect, is to pledge to support veterans in need through a gift in your will.

Your pledge will ensure your passion for the armed forces lives on by helping veterans to rebuild their shattered worlds.

Wills are important to all of us who want our wishes to be followed: they are important for our children and family, our pets and for causes we are passionate about.

Your gift to the Veterans' Foundation will support mental health projects to give hope to those battling combat trauma and provide homeless heroes safe shelter and a better life. It can be life-changing and life-saving.

We have teamed up with award-winning provider, Farewill, to provide a limited number of wills to our supporters. Whether to help you write your first ever will, or alter an existing will, Farewill makes the process simple and quick.

Find out more about this trusted service at [www.veteransfoundation.org.uk/free-will-service](http://www.veteransfoundation.org.uk/free-will-service)

Thank you very much for supporting our armed forces.

Farewill

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



# A look at the Veterans' Foundation's impact and future

As Chairman of the Veterans' Foundation since it began, I have watched with such pride as its highly skilled team have taken an ambition and grown it into a reality. As with all start ups, the time comes to evaluate progress and scale up. As a businessman with a history of scaling ventures and a passion for supporting the armed forces, I am thankful to be working with a board with a multiplicity of business, venture capital and growth experience.

This year has seen the organisation transition to its next period of expansion. With that comes new staff. Despite the relative youth of the charity, the success of the Veterans' Foundation in its early years was clear in the high calibre of candidates looking to succeed Major General David Shaw CBE, our founding CEO. We are delighted to welcome Jane Gurney and Stella Atherstone. These two leaders will work together to ensure the success of the Veterans' Foundation through this exciting period of expansion and growth.

Their understanding of the charity sector, in particular financial resilience, communication and technological infrastructure, will guarantee that the organisation continues to thrive. The Veterans' Foundation has consistently demonstrated its unwavering commitment to supporting the armed forces community. As you will have seen in our earlier Impact Reports, the charity has made a tangible difference to the lives of so many service people, serving and veteran, and their families. This year's report is no different.

The Veterans' Foundation is more than a charity. It is a lifeline for countless individuals who have given much for our country and a community for those who look to support them. With your support, we continue to expand our reach and deepen our impact. This report highlights the outstanding contributions of individuals and businesses who have chosen to partner the Veterans' Foundation. These fundraising initiatives and individual donations make a profound contribution. We thank all our supporters.

Our progress would not have been possible without the collaborative efforts of our external contractors. Our heartfelt thanks go to Bee Ethical, Bee Ethical Media, and Bee Ethical Active for their tireless dedication to our mission. These organisations run the Veterans' Lottery and sell tickets at events across the UK. They also manage our online community which we are very proud of. The armed forces is a community and our online community includes veterans, their

families and supporters around the country. We believe that we owe a debt of gratitude to these people and we are pleased that they have found a home with us.

Since the Veterans' Foundation started, I am pleased to say that we have increased the number and value of grants awarded year on year. As we look ahead, our mission remains clear: to provide even more funds as grants to charities working within the armed forces community. The demand for funding is growing and we are determined to meet it by forging new partnerships and exploring innovative funding opportunities. Our new leadership team has the expertise, drive and ambition to make sure we achieve this. We're excited about this next stage of our journey and hope you can continue on it with us.



**Peter Mountford**  
Chairman, Veterans' Foundation

*P. Mountford*

# Grants awarded

in the year ended 30 June 2025

Grants were awarded to the following institutions or individuals in the reporting year.

1944 Alliance Normandy-Market Garden  
AA Veterans Support  
Acts Trust  
ACVC Hub  
AF&V Launchpad Ltd (known as Launchpad)  
AFC Fylde Community Foundation  
Age UK North Yorkshire Coast and Moors  
Age UK Waltham Forest  
Alabaré  
Archaeology Scotland  
Argyll & Bute Citizens Advice Bureau  
ARK at Egwood CIC  
Armed Forces' Christian Union (AFCU)  
Armed Forces Equine Charity  
Army Widows Association  
Barry Veterans Group  
Bay Veteran's Association  
Beyond the Wire  
BRAVEHOUND  
Brixham Future CIC  
Bromley FC Community Sports Trust  
Brooke House Health And Wellbeing Centre  
Broughton House Veteran Care Village  
BuildForce Group CIC  
Burma Star Memorial Fund  
Caerphilly Veterans Support Hub  
Care After Combat  
Care for Veterans  
Carers Plus Yorkshire  
Carlisle United FC Community Sports Trust  
Castle Community Trust  
CatZero Ltd  
Centre for Military Justice  
Change Mental Health  
Children First  
Church Homeless Charity  
Citizens Advice Portsmouth

Citizens Advice Wakefield District  
Clarets in the Community Limited  
Clayton Amateur Boxing Club  
Climb 2 Recovery  
Combat Stress  
Community Drug and Alcohol Recovery Services  
Cyrenians  
Deafblind UK  
Defence Gardens Scheme  
Disability Stockport  
Dundee Therapy Garden  
e50K CIC  
East Durham Veterans Trust  
East Renfrewshire Citizens Advice Bureau  
Elite Community Hub CIC  
Elysium Memorial Foundation  
Erskine Veterans Charity  
Everton in the Community  
Every-One (Cares)  
FAB- Families' Activity Breaks  
Fares4Free  
Female Veterans Alliance  
Fife Alcohol Support Service  
Fighting With Pride  
Food is Fun SW CIC  
Forces Pension Society  
Forward Assist  
Friends of St James, Charfield  
Garelochhead Support Trust  
Give Us Time  
GL Communities  
Gloucester Rugby Foundation  
Green Synergy  
Haig Housing Trust  
Help 4 Homeless Veterans  
Heropreneurs  
HighGround Projects Limited  
Home Start Berkshire East

Hounds for Heroes  
Housing Options Scotland  
Hull FC Rugby Community Sports and Education Foundation  
Hull Kingston Rovers Community Trust  
Improving Lives Plymouth  
KeepAbility  
Larkhill Primary School (The White Horse Federation)  
Lurgan and Brownlow Royal British Legion  
Lynx Workshop (Links)  
M.A.S.H CIO  
Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice Bureau  
Mid Ulster Victims Empowerment  
Military and Police Support of West Tyrone (MAPS)  
Military Grave Restorer CIC  
Milspo Network CIC  
Milton Keynes Hospital Charity  
Mind in Bexley and East Kent  
Mind in West Essex  
Mission Motorsport  
Mole Valley Veterans' Hub  
Morecambe FC Community Sports  
Motherwell & Wishaw Citizens Advice Bureau  
Music in Hospitals & Care  
National Army Museum  
National Day Nurseries Association  
Newark Patriotic Fund  
Newcastle United Armed Forces Supporters Club CIC  
Norland Crew CIO  
North West Veterans Corps of Drums  
Nottingham Forest Community Trust (NFCT)  
On Course Foundation  
Operation Cairngorms CIC  
Pain Association Scotland  
PAPYRUS Prevention of Young Suicide  
Plymouth Sports Charity  
Plymouth Youth Sailing Club  
Power of Polo  
Prisoners' Education Trust  
Project RECCE CIO  
PTSD Resolution  
Quilts for the Longest Day  
Rangers Charity Foundation SCIO  
Raw Performance CIC  
Reading Force  
Rees Foundation

Re-Live  
REORG  
Roots to Branches Forest School CIC  
Rowans Hospice  
Royal British Legion Industries  
Royal Marines Association - The Royal Marines Charity  
Sacro  
Saviours Simul CIC  
Scotty's Little Soldiers  
Small Woods Association  
Smart Savings South West CIC  
SMARTT Veterans CIC  
Soldiers' Arts Academy  
Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership  
Somerset NHS Charity (in partnership with DMWS)  
South West Scotland RnR  
Spinal Injuries Association  
St John and Red Cross Defence Medical Welfare Service  
Stand Easy Military Support  
Standing Tall Foundation  
Step Together Volunteering  
Stepway CIO  
Stockport County Community Trust  
Style for Soldiers Ltd  
Suffolk Family Carers Limited  
Suffolk Mind  
Supporting Wounded Veterans  
Taxi Charity For Military Veterans  
Team Endeavour Racing 2023 (UK) CIC  
Team Endeavour Wheelchair Rugby Club  
The Billy Project CIC  
The Block Armed Forces Foundation  
The Bolton Guild of Help  
The Bridge for Heroes  
The British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association (Blesma)  
The Comedy School Ltd  
The David Ellis Charity  
The Earl Haig Fund Scotland  
The Ely Centre  
The Gwennili Trust  
The Icarus Charity  
The M M National Gulf Veterans & Families Association Benevolent Association  
The Mary How Trust For Cancer Prevention  
The Matthew Project  
The Maverick Survival School  
The Military Wives Choirs Foundation

The Old Bank Wellbeing Trust  
The Open University  
The Orchestra of the Swan  
The Ripple Pond  
The Royal British Legion Poppy Factory Ltd  
The Royal College of Psychiatrists  
The Scar Free Foundation  
The Somme Nursing Home  
The Stoll Foundation (formerly The Sir Oswald Stoll Foundation)  
The VC Gallery  
The Veterans Community and Enterprise Centre (Newton Aycliffe) CIC  
The Warrior Programme  
The White Ensign Association  
Theatre Royal Plymouth  
Think Forward CIC  
Tigers Trust  
Tom Harrison House  
Trafford Veterans CIC  
Tross Gynall Plant (TGP Cymru)  
Turn to Starboard  
Ulysses Trust  
University Hospitals Birmingham Charity  
University of Winchester (SCiP Alliance/ Service Children's Progression Alliance)

UNTOLD: The Museum Ltd  
Valley Veterans  
Vernon Place Community Hub  
Veterans at Ease  
Veterans Chaplaincy Scotland  
Veterans Community Network  
Veterans Community Support (VCS)  
Veterans Contact Point  
Veterans' Growth  
Veterans Hub Londonderry CIC  
Veterans In Action  
Veterans In Crisis Community Interest Company  
Veterans in Sefton  
Veterans into Logistics  
Veterans Living History Museum CIC  
Veterans Tribe Scotland CIC  
Veterans Volunteer Service  
Walking With The Wounded  
War Widows Association  
Waterloo Uncovered  
Wee County Veterans & Supporters Group  
Wigan Athletic FC Community Trust  
Woodland Xperiences  
WRAC Association/FVTP  
YourNorth Veteran Support CIC



The VC Gallery



## VETERANS' FOUNDATION

[enquiries@veteransfoundation.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@veteransfoundation.org.uk)

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Charity Commission Charity No. 1166953, OSCR Charity No. SC046571



Our impact **A**