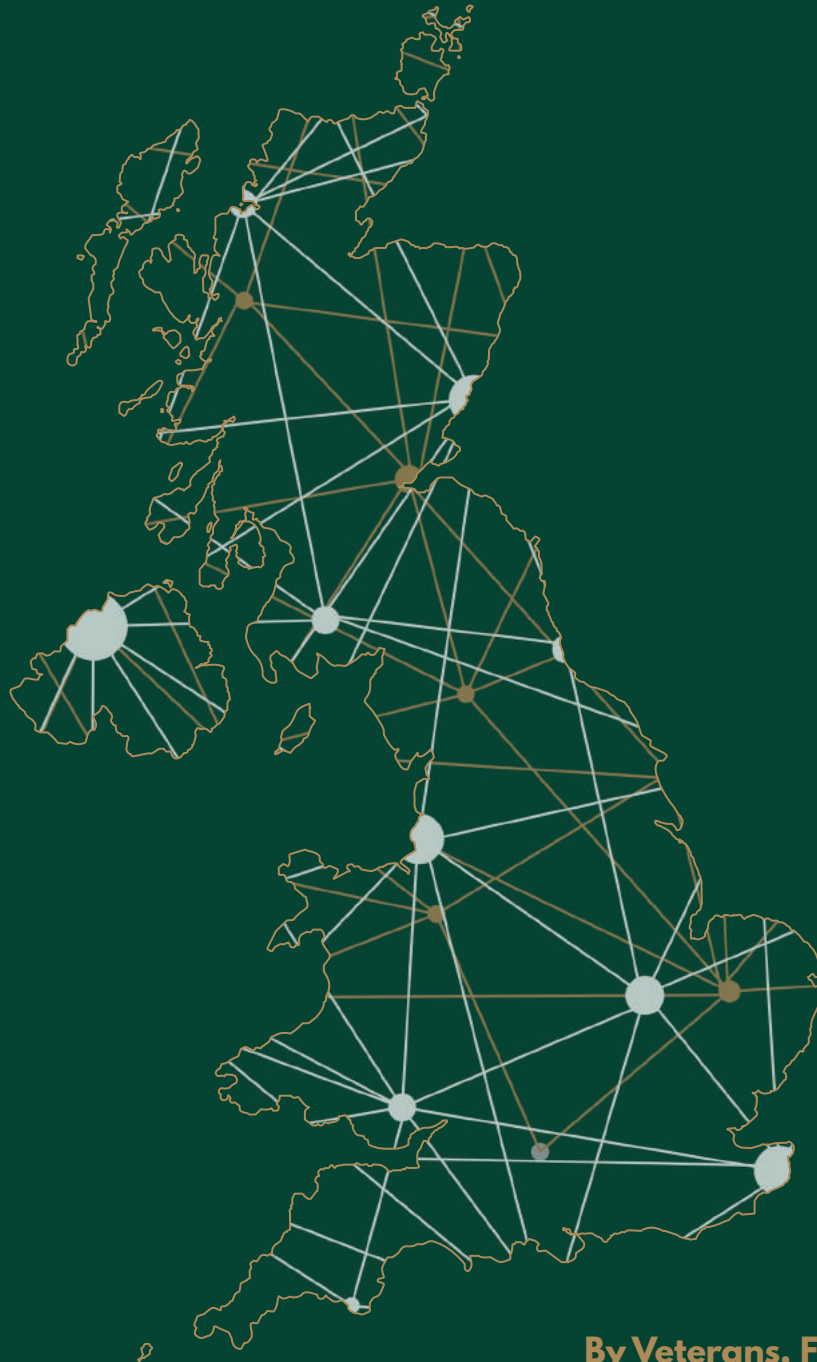


Part of the Veterans' Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund

# VETERANS' PLACES, PATHWAYS & PEOPLE PROGRAMME



By Veterans, For Veterans

A programme to create better, sustainable support for  
veterans in the communities where they live

## VPPP has funded 10 Portfolio projects throughout the UK



### Scotland

NHS Lothian  
The Scottish Veterans Wellbeing Alliance



### Northern Ireland

Tanvalley & Anaghlonge Project  
Northern Ireland's Vital Veterans Network



### North East

Sporting Force  
VPPP North East & Yorkshire



### North west

Broughton House  
NW Armed Forces Wellbeing Network



### Midlands

DMWS  
'Joining the Dots' Midlands Veterans Wellbeing Alliance



### Wales

Adferiad Recovery  
V4P Wales



### East of England

The Bridge for Heroes  
Project Sunrise



### London

Poppy Factory  
Better Together: London Veterans' Partnership



### South East

Veterans Outreach Support  
Partnership in Mind



### South West

Invictus Games Foundation  
Brighter Future for Veterans

*On behalf of The Armed Forces Covenant Trust Fund we would like to thank all the projects for contributing to this publication.  
A special thanks to Jane Williams for her contribution to the written articles*

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### Positive Pathways programme

Part of the Veterans' Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund, the Positive Pathways programme funded projects that develop and run activities supporting the mental health and wellbeing of ex-Forces.



### Strategic Pathways programme

Part of the Veterans' Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund, the Strategic Pathways programme funded a small number of national organisations to provide support and mentoring to organisations delivering activities and opportunities under the Positive Pathways programme over a two-year period.



### Veterans Should Not Be Forgotten

In the March 2020 budget, the Chancellor of the Exchequer awarded additional funding for veterans' mental health. Some of this funding was made available to provide immediate support for vulnerable veterans with reduced social contact via grants to members of ASDIC, Age UK branches and eligible and invited Cobseo members.



### One is Too Many

Part of the Veterans' Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund, the One is Too Many programme awarded grants of up to £300,000 to two-year projects that aim to reduce suicide risks within vulnerable veterans in a co-ordinated and targeted way.



### Veterans' Places, Pathways and People programme

This programme will award 10 grants of up to £800,000 to portfolios of projects, which will work regionally to develop better, more joined up lasting support for local veterans with mental health needs.



# ABOUT THE VETERANS' MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING FUND

In the Autumn Budget 2018, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced £10M to support Veterans' Mental Health and Wellbeing needs, with additional funding granted to the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust in 2019 and 2020. In total £30M has been committed through programmes designed to make an ongoing and sustained change to the lives of veterans.

Funding through this programme has been awarded to the following programmes;

## **Positive Pathways** **£11.6M to 230 projects**

The Positive Pathways programme awarded fixed grants of £35,000 or £70,000 for projects developed by and for veterans that focus on improving veterans' mental health and wellbeing by getting veterans out and active, with projects connecting into wider pathways of care.

## **Strategic Pathways** **£1.94M to seven projects**

(with continuation grants totalling £900K to six of these projects)

Grants were awarded to seven national organisations to provide support and mentoring to organisations delivering activities under the Positive Pathways Programme.

## **Veterans Should Not Be Forgotten** **£2.4M to 120 projects**

This emergency funding programme, launched in 2020 made grants swiftly to projects designed to alleviate distress and isolation amongst vulnerable veterans during the Covid pandemic

## **One is Too Many** **£2.13M to 8 projects**

This specialist programme funded projects that aim to reduce suicide risks within vulnerable veterans in a co-ordinated and targeted way.

## **Veterans' Places, Pathways and People** **Over £9M to 14 projects**

There is significant interconnectivity between these programmes, with learning from the Strategic Pathways programme having influenced the national projects under the VPPP programme. Positive Pathway projects at a high level of maturity have been able to integrate into the regional portfolios; being part of wider interconnected pathways to ensure that veterans can access support that is right for them.

# ABOUT THE VETERANS' PLACES, PATHWAYS & PEOPLE PROGRAMME

This programme aims to:

- **gives veterans safe, welcoming places to go in their local area**
- **supports veterans to access mental health support and treatment pathways that meet their needs**
- **ensures that the people who support veterans (staff and particularly volunteers) can access good quality training and can have better access to connect veterans into wider pathways**

The programme has funded 10 Portfolio projects throughout the UK and four national strategic projects which work alongside the Portfolios.

Over the life of the programme, the Portfolio projects and national strategic projects will be working to deliver these outcomes; which aim to sustain beyond the life of the grant

- **Veterans can find the support they need and access mental health and wellbeing services activities that are interesting and relevant to them**
- **When accessing activities, veterans are safe and can be supported to recover. They can be referred seamlessly to NHS or other services**
- **Veterans at higher risk of suicide or other risk relating to mental ill health can receive better cross-sector support**
- **Effective veteran-led projects are embedded in local care pathways supported by good partnerships**

The Trust is excited about the potential that these grants can have to deliver real and lasting change. Through these grants veterans with mental health needs can have better access to effective pathways of care and support in their region; and have safe places to go to access support, reduce isolation and support positive mental health.

There is strong potential that the veteran led projects within these portfolios can become embedded locally.

The Portfolios are at an early stage of their delivery; and have all developed their delivery plans through extensive regional consultations.

The Portfolios actively encourage organisations in Statutory or Voluntary sectors to engage in their work, and contact details for all of the Portfolio projects can be found within each profile contained later in this document.

# VETERANS' PLACES, PATHWAYS & PEOPLE PROGRAMME

## 10 Country & Regional Portfolios

Convene and curate a portfolio of local veteran community focussed projects; develop stronger partnerships to give more veterans better access to seamless support to address mental wellbeing needs

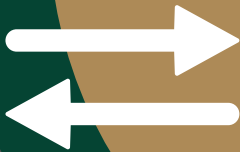


## 4 Strategic grants

Lasting legacy of understanding of veterans mental health & wellbeing needs, enable easier access to, and return from, NHS services and the safe delivery of support services which are accredited appropriately across the UK

### Cross sector oversight group

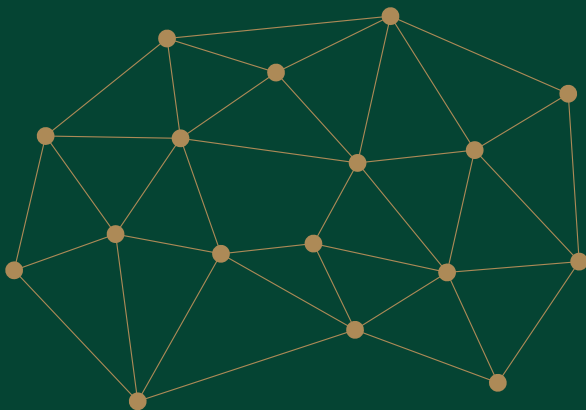
Working with NHS, MOD, OVA and Devolved Administrations



## With 170 Projects

### Within these portfolios

The projects will contribute to the development of a world class network of places and pathways, supporting veterans in their mental health and wellbeing needs.



## How will Veterans Benefit?

### SUPPORT & ACCESS

Veterans will be enabled to identify safe places in their community to access peer support and mental health & wellbeing services.

### NHS REFERRAL

Through a national network of partners, veterans can be referred seamlessly into and out of NHS and other statutory services

### MENTAL HEALTH CARE & SUICIDE RISK

Veterans at higher risk of suicide or poor mental health will receive better and more joined up cross sector support

### LOCAL CARE PATHWAYS

Veteran led projects will be embed in local care pathways and social prescription, with access to the national network of VPPP

# THE NATIONAL PROJECTS

Grants have been awarded to four strategic leads. These organisations will work within the wider VPPP programme. With a cross-sector 'Oversight Group' to encourage the integration of existing clinical mental health provision. This will include broader non-clinical services for veterans needing general wellbeing support, as well as those on the mental health recovery pathway across the sector. Their work will strengthen the development of more joined-up local provision for veterans.

These specialist organisations will work with the 10 Country and Regional portfolios that will be supported through the wider programme; with the wider Armed Forces charitable sector; and with organisations that support veterans.

**The Confederation of Service Charities (Cobseo)** are leading a project to develop and roll out a Veteran



Mental Health Awareness Standard across the sector; and to build co-operation, coordination and collaboration across the VPPP programme and wider Armed Forces charity sector. This Standard will enable veterans to have

greater confidence and choices in accessing services that meet their needs. Cobseo will also provide cross sector leverage to further improve the provision of safe, supportive, and well-run services supporting veterans on mental health recovery pathways. In doing so, Cobseo will work closely with the Contact Group, a collaborative group of statutory and non-statutory organisations working together to improve mental health support to the UK Armed Forces Community.

**The Association of Service Drop-In Centres (ASDIC)** will strengthen the 'bottom-up' and informal but



professional contribution of the Drop-In movement, building on the success of Drop-In centres in seeking out and managing vulnerable veterans. It will also help this emerging sector build upon the local and community generosity observed during the pandemic, ensuring sustainability in the longer term. They plan to enhance collaboration, coordinated efforts and shared resources.

**Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA)** will contribute to the development of safe



pathways through a model of emphasising self reliance, suggesting and organising assistance from a range of agencies while retaining responsibility for the individual veteran, taking them through assessment, recommendation, treatment,

post-treatment rehabilitation and a comfortable and safe return to society.

They will do this by strengthening the sustainability, structure and governance of local projects; working initially within their wide pool of volunteers but developing learning and good practice that will be disseminated across the wider sector

**Combat Stress** will increase the capability of grant holders throughout the wider programme. They



will use expertise in mental health and governance to encourage and support the development of safe pathways and safe places, ensuring a safe journey for the veteran in and out of statutory services and through the voluntary sector. They will work with the Oversight group to provide high level mental health clinical and

governance expertise to the Oversight Group.

These specialist organisations (the Oversight group) will work with the 10 Country and Regional portfolios that will be supported through the wider programme; with the wider Armed Forces charitable sector; and with organisations that support veterans.



# 4 The four strategic leads



Will work with a cross sector oversight group; OP COURAGE, wider NHS and devolved administration health boards

**Sector Specialist:  
Collaboration**



**Sector Specialist:  
Drop in centres**



**Volunteering  
Specialist**



**Mental Health  
Specialist**



Will work with the 10 portfolios and with the wider Armed Forces charitable sector and organisations that support veterans



## The end vision

The Strategic Leads will work with the wider programme and Oversight Group, to encourage the integration of existing clinical mental health provision and the broader non-clinical support services for veterans on the mental health recovery pathway across the sector.








# THE REGIONAL PORTFOLIOS

10 Portfolio grants have been awarded, with one each in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and with seven regional grants awarded in England. Across all of the portfolios 170 individual projects will be supported with funding from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust.

Each grant has been made to a lead organisation that will co-ordinate a dynamic and co-ordinated portfolio of projects that will take an informed approach across their country or region. They will ensure that there are connected pathways which work well for veterans; that there are safe places for veterans to go which connect into these pathways; and that volunteers and staff who support veterans have access to training and work closely with other organisations within veterans' mental health pathways.

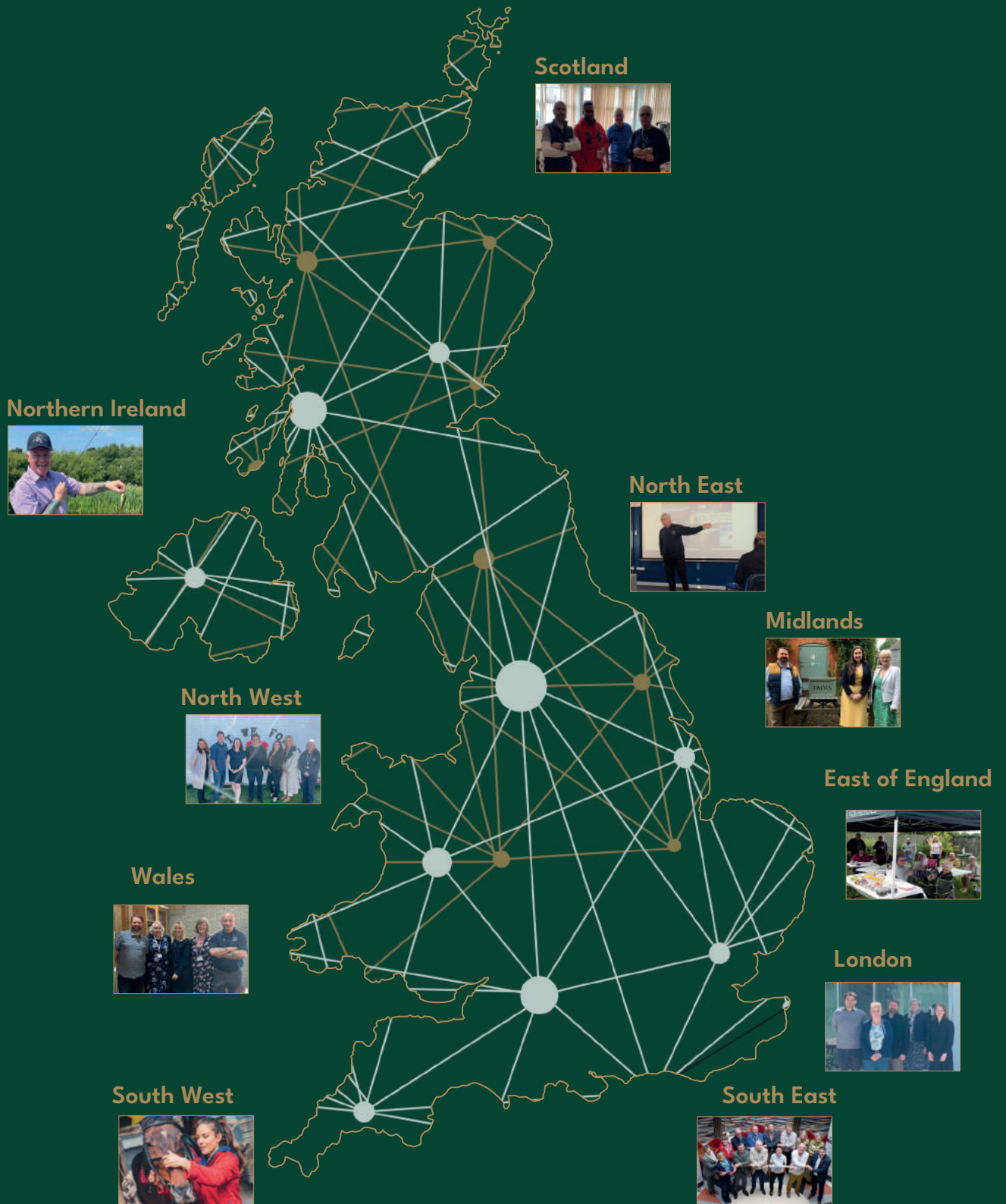
Through working together, it is anticipated that the sum of the projects within a portfolio will deliver more than the organisations working separately could ever achieve.

## Regional Portfolios

 <p><b>Scotland</b> NHS Lothian The Scottish Veterans Wellbeing Alliance</p>	 <p><b>Wales</b> Adferiad Recovery V4P Wales</p>
 <p><b>Northern Ireland</b> Tanvalley &amp; Anaghlonge Project Northern Ireland's Vital Veterans Network</p>	 <p><b>East of England</b> The Bridge for Heroes Project Sunrise</p>
 <p><b>North East</b> Sporting Force VPPP North East &amp; Yorkshire</p>	 <p><b>London</b> Poppy Factory Better Together: London Veterans' Partnership</p>
 <p><b>North West</b> Broughton House NW Armed Forces Wellbeing Network</p>	 <p><b>South East</b> Veterans Outreach Support Partnership in Mind</p>
 <p><b>Midlands</b> DMWS 'Joining the Dots' Midlands Veterans Wellbeing Alliance</p>	 <p><b>South West</b> Invictus Games Foundation Brighter Future for Veterans</p>

# 10 Country & Regional Portfolios

VPPP has funded 10 Portfolio projects throughout the UK



# SCOTLAND

Portfolio lead NHS Lothian

## The Scottish Veterans Wellbeing Alliance



**The Scottish Veteran’s Wellbeing Alliance has attracted organisations from across the country to pool resources and play to the strengths of each organisation. The Alliance has been awarded a grant of £800,000 from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust, Veterans, Places, Pathways & People programme.**

The project lead Dr Linda IrvineFitzpatrick commented that, ‘As a modern alliance we have a clear message both to our beneficiaries and our project partners, you don’t have to do everything, we are greater than the sum of our parts and working collaboratively is efficient, informative and puts the needs of beneficiaries up front and central.’

She added that, ‘The alliance has already delivered shared knowledge between its members and has an inclusive style, with everybody’s contribution being valued.

“Securing the funding from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust has enabled us to build a collaboration of 20 organisations, with the clear aim of improving the quality of life in Scotland for our veteran community”

Learning from past projects and tapping into the plethora of feedback, the alliance organisations have been able to ‘peek behind the curtain’ of needs, for example, Linda notes that “if someone needs support with their mental health there may be other factors that have to be sorted out before we address their mental health needs, it could be support with housing or finances or whatever.

It’s vitally important to make sure that beneficiaries are ready to receive and able to make best use of support offered, it’s the best way of giving people the best chance of success. This is the key to the alliance; each organisation can deliver their specialism. By consolidating some of the learning the vision is that ‘this will be the way we work in the future.

Inviting veterans and their families to engage with all that the alliance has to offer is at the top of the ‘to do’ list and how people are invited in is seen as a very important step, the welcome that people receive focus’ on ‘How can we help you?’ – after all, people generally know what they need, it’s just sometimes tricky to take that first step.’

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## NORTHERN IRELAND

Portfolio lead Tanvalley & Anaghlonge Project, working with the NI Veterans Support Office



# Northern Ireland's Vital Veterans Network

**‘Veterans communicate better shoulder to shoulder, not face to face’ This insightful observation evokes a powerful image of the bond that is synonymous with so many in the veteran community.**

For the veteran community living in Northern Ireland the ability to tap into a network of charitable or statutory services is different compared to those living elsewhere in the UK as a result of the unique circumstances of the Devolved Administration. Statistics collated show that the need for mental health support is high and gaining trust amongst the veteran community is vital.

All that said, where there is a will, there is a way. Some years ago, the Reserve Forces and Cadets Association in Northern Ireland established the Veterans' Support Office within its structure in order to support the application of the Armed Forces Covenant in the Province.

Liz Brown the Head of Veteran's Support Office said, 'Funding from The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust has been the singular biggest enabler for us to deliver and directly support programmes here. With a successful grant award of £800,000 from VPPP,' Liz adds 'we have got big plans.' Careful consideration has been given to the geographical dispersal of project funding to make sure that there is a good spread across the Local Authority areas.

An associated project will deliver a helpline to guide and inform both statutory professionals and staff working in acute hospital settings, with some in most need of assistance in the veteran community. Liz commented that 'Veterans need more than an information poster – a warm hand-over and boots on the ground build relationships. Navigators and care co-ordinators ensure services are connected, they work on building trust with beneficiaries to make accessing advice and guidance straightforward.'

The range of projects being delivered sets out to bridge gaps and offer support from peer-to-peer activities all the way through to higher level clinical services. Taking part in shared ventures such as model making all the way through to participating in a veteran pipes and drums band, there is something for abilities and interests. Liz added "There is a close network across Northern Ireland, we are very proud of the work going on here. We have programmes involving horticulture, fishing, bee-keeping and even equine therapy. Our veteran community really does communicate better shoulder to shoulder.'



“Veterans communicate better shoulder to shoulder, not face to face”

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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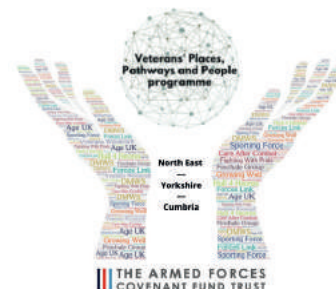
# NORTH EAST & YORKSHIRE

Portfolio lead Sporting Force

## VPPP North East & Yorkshire



When the programme of Veterans' Places, Pathways & People launched the team at Sporting Force felt that they had a lot to offer a North East network, however, on closer inspection if a network was going to combine forces, then one needed to be set-up. So, the team rolled their sleeves up and got to work. Having seen the achievements of working with some of the other enterprising local charities they knew about the power of coming together.



When the network bid was awarded £779,777 from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust, Jacqui Nicolson, Sporting Force Operations Executive said, 'We were delighted and ready to work with nine other organisations. The power that it gives to create additional partnerships is worth its weight in gold.'

Getting the right people in post has been achieved and cross partnership meetings mean that each organisation know what the others are doing, Jacqui added, 'It's important for us to do the groundwork.'

“The power that it gives to create additional partnerships is worth its weight in gold”

January marked the opening of new safe places to meet, using a tried and tested formula of their Combat Cafés, Jacqui said 'The magic is always people talking to each other as if they'd known them for years. We had 60 people come along and it looked like it had been running for years. Six sites are already up and running, with on-going talks taking place with other locations to offer more.

The aim is that no-one is sat alone, the network is striving to reach the under-represented and the hard-to-reach veterans. It's all about coming alongside someone, in fact, if someone would like to get out but isn't sure what to expect or is stumbling with confidence then someone in the network

will help. Even the local community nurse brings veterans to the café, introducing them to the volunteers and other beneficiaries. It's the personal touch that breaks-down hurdles.

The organisations in the network passionately believe in collaborating for the benefit of the veterans and their families.

We truly think that if we can get this right, it will change the face of veterans support'

“The organisations in the network passionately believe in collaborating for the benefit of the veterans and their families”

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## NORTH WEST

Portfolio lead Broughton House

# NW Armed Forces Wellbeing Network

BROUGHTON HOUSE  
VETERAN CARE VILLAGE  
1916 ONWARDS  
ARMED FORCES SUPPORT HUB

**‘There is strength and depth when we work together, it could be on a motivational poster or used as a strap-line to catch the eye, but if it can really be achieved, the power of a whole team really can elevate ambitions to new heights.’**

The idea of playing to strengths and recognising the expertise offered by individual organisations sits at the core of the network ethos, and it’s this co-ordinated approach that offers beneficiaries and their families a collaborative and organised route to the support and assistance they may be seeking. Having successfully bid for £740,000 from the Veterans’ Places, Pathways & People funding programme, the team at Broughton House are in the midst of working with project partners to realise this ambition.



The veteran’s village at Broughton House is well established in its care support role and recognises the value of developing as a centre-point for veterans and their families in the North West, as their CEO Karen Miller noted, “The idea to work with project partners is fully in line with our core values.”

Karen added that, “When the VPPP funding opportunity arose, we wanted to really understand how best to serve the veteran community via a combined bid, the willingness of established and burgeoning organisations to contribute has been terrific. Our mantra has become, there’s no mine, it’s all about how we can go out to our community so that they know how to access the support that’s there for them.”

With an eye on developing the network of support further, each of the ten project partners are actively seeking out other complementary organisations, bringing them into the fold, hearing their ideas and sharing experiences.

The network partners are already developing a tool kit to share, not only with each other, but also other fantastic organisations dotted across the region, safe in the knowledge that the good governance and professional input from partner organisations provides appropriate and accurate information for reference purposes and for beneficiaries - veterans and their families.

“There is strength and depth when we work together”

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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# MIDLANDS

Portfolio lead DMWS



## ‘Joining the Dots’ Midlands Veterans Wellbeing Alliance

**When someone is described as a veteran or from a veteran community, we can all conjure up an image in the mind to visualise what that person may look like and what Service life may have been like for them, however, what is less easy to visualise is the sheer combinations of real people who ‘are’ the veteran community and understand what services they need.**

Is the family from overseas, is the family a dual-serving couple, has the veteran been involved in conflict or maybe even several conflicts, has their Service been as a Reservist or Regular Service person? The list of combinations could continue, but personal experiences and circumstances are almost as individual as a fingerprint.

“We see the project partnerships as a real force multiplier”

It stands to reason then that effective and appropriate support for the veteran community is best when it reflects the diversity of the beneficiaries. With a successful bid of £799,800 from the Armed Forces Covenant Trust Fund Veterans’ Places, Pathways and People programme, the Veterans’ Mental Health Support Midlands project is up and running with Beverly Young from Defence Medical Welfare Service saying, ‘We felt that a breadth of services and project partners offers the best model for beneficiaries. As the project lead, we can’t thank the portfolio enough, all are on-board and passionate about it.’

Within the partnership portfolio veterans can access clubs, drop-in centres, employment support all the way through to specialist medical support and assistance with addictions.

Beverly adds, ‘There should be no wrong door, we don’t mind how they come in, with the correct pathways set-up beneficiaries can move through the portfolio services.’

With partners working together there are benefits for everyone. For example, plenty of organisations would recognise a scenario when a beneficiary is engaged with so many different agencies that it becomes a full-time job just keeping up with who is doing what. It becomes very easy to duplicate or confuse information. The value of having a single point of contact, whether it is a welfare officer or trained team member not only avoids confusion for the beneficiary but removes confusion for the service providers too.



We see the project partnerships as a real force multiplier and are exceedingly grateful for the funding; we are on a fantastic journey to deliver across the Midlands area. It really feels that the project is coming alive.’

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# WALES

Portfolio lead Adferiad Recovery

## V4P



**‘The important thing about the V4P project is that it builds on the success of Positive Pathways work in Wales. When the Veterans’ Places, Pathways & People programme launched our reaction was to say, this is us, it’s got our name written all over it.’**

Project co-ordinator Finola Pickwell explains that the relationships and collaborations forged under the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust Positive Pathways programme have fed into the V4P initiative. With a successful bid to secure £795,000 from VPPP in 2021, the portfolio is embracing all aspects of veteran care across Wales.

‘We have veterans in remote locations as well as centred around busier towns and cities, mapping how to work with project partners to cater for the diverse geographical dispersal as well as appropriate support is very important. We have seen a significant proportion of veterans across the partnership portfolio who are in the age range of between 30-45 years of age. Some have undertaken a military career to find a family that they may not have had growing up, others to step into a career for adventure and to learn new skills or trades. When a career is cut short as a result of medical issues or other reasons then the ability to re-orientate can be a struggle.’



V4P has built links with some statutory providers, regular meetings between Local Authority military leads, project partners and medical representatives focus on discussing issues within the veteran community – ‘if there is complex or unusual question, attendees are encouraged to throw it into the arena, someone at the meeting has the required knowledge to take it forward’. Likewise, regular meetings across partnership organisations and their networks gives a platform to share, learn and contribute for the wider benefit of all.

‘Whether hiking up Snowdon, where no-one minds about anything other than getting to the top, taking some time to have a digital holiday because there is no phone signal, getting stuck into a building or growing project, or assisting veterans in hospital, partners are really invested in V4P, they want veterans to be supported in the best way possible and it’s getting stronger and stronger in Wales.’

“The important thing about the V4P project is that it builds on the success of Positive Pathways work in Wales. When the Veterans’ Places, Pathways & People programme launched our reaction was to say; this is us, it’s got our name written all over it”

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# EAST OF ENGLAND

Portfolio lead Bridge for Heroes

## Project Sunrise



**When it comes to community we can sometimes think of a bygone era where Miss Marple and her in-depth knowledge of village comings and goings were encyclopaedic, but of course, the spirit of community takes many forms and can be very creative in how communities come together. The art of giving a gift is all about understanding what the recipient wants to receive, not what you want to give them, a thread that sits at the core of the Bridge for Heroes philosophy.**



The model of inviting beneficiaries to remain part of this vibrant community by becoming volunteers is incredibly successful, with some 80% of this community deftly moving from receiving a boost and some support to undertaking training to help others in turn. When times were difficult as a result of COVID restrictions their creativity swung into action. Pop-up gazebos, tables, chairs and all the trimmings were deployed into volunteers' gardens to host COVID safe garden parties with so much success that they have become part of regular diary dates. Now as a result of funding from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust Veterans' Places,

Pathways & People programme, Bridge for Heroes is not only taking on the role of promoting all the terrific services available across the East Anglian region but is also using the funding to ask beneficiaries about what they want.

“Everyone is excited about how the projects intertwine and looking forward to the outcomes that will follow. We really wanted to be part of the whole programme and see the value of working together towards the same goal.”

Feedback already given has identified that anxiety is high amongst beneficiaries and is on the radar for support. Strong relationships with local NHS have led to positive pathways for some of the more isolated in the community, particularly when it became apparent that some people were seeking admission to hospital to help alleviate loneliness, the resulting commitment across both charitable and statutory providers in the area is work together to make sure 'no person is missed out or left out'.

The CEO of The Bridge for Heroes, Helen Taylor said 'We are taking the lead for the communication element of the VPPP project in East Anglia. Everyone is excited about how the

projects intertwine and looking forward to the outcomes that will follow. We really wanted to be part of the whole programme and see the value of working together towards the same goal.'

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## LONDON

Portfolio lead Poppy Factory

# Better Together: London Veterans' Partnership



**Location, location, location – London has been the beating heart of opportunity for millions in its history-steeped streets and suburbs, so much so that navigating all that is on offer can, for lots of us, be a bit bewildering and a little overwhelming. The Poppy Factory, known for its employment support for veterans, understands that the streets, if not paved with gold, do offer a lot of opportunities.**

A consultation event, held in the summer of 2021, attracted around 40 London-specific organisations. They exchanged ideas, listened to experiences and thought about best practice in breaking down preconceptions. The group considered how to ensure that veterans are fully aware of – and have access to – the different services, activities and opportunities on offer in London. Armed with the collective information needed, a successful bid of £799,062 was awarded to the London Veterans Partnership from the VPPP programme.



The result of the dialogue has shaped a project designed to complement services, playing to the strengths of partner organisations. These range from friendly spaces and activities to one-to-one support, as needed, open to all in London's diverse veteran community. The mission statement of the London Veterans Partnership captures the motivation behind the project, 'Seeking to build a strong, supportive and inclusive network with London's ex-Forces community at its centre, in doing so helping veterans gain access to services, overcome barriers and explore new opportunities to support positive mental health and reduce social isolation.'

"...from friendly spaces and activities to one-to-one support, as needed, open to all in London's diverse veteran community."

An eye-catching logo, dedicated web page and regular email newsletter have been developed to invite veterans and their families to 'take a look' at what is available. The consultation also confirmed that an easy entry point to the suite of services, with intelligent behind the scenes cross-referral, is the best way to remove hurdles for veterans and their families and prevent them getting lost in the system. The aim is to minimise the need for veterans to repeat their story and build veteran-focused knowledge amongst delivery partners, enabling support staff to understand demand for services, and to deploy them in the best way possible.

The project lead said, 'We are delighted to be leading the London Veterans Partnership. Through an exciting and varied network of partners, all committed to the project's mission, we will reach veterans throughout London and provide a lasting legacy of support and collaboration.'

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

[lvpp@poppyfactory.org](mailto:lvpp@poppyfactory.org)  
[www.bit.ly/LondonVetPartnership](http://www.bit.ly/LondonVetPartnership)

## SOUTH EAST

Portfolio lead Partnership in Mind

# Veterans Outreach Support



**'It's a kind of magic. You put the right ingredients together, and it's amazing to see what comes out'. The Partnership in Mind portfolio has drawn together key partners across the South East region for the collective support of the veteran community and their families. The CEO of Veterans Outreach Support and Portfolio Director, Ian Millen said, 'We have such a pool of talent working together. I am excited and inspired to truly collaborate with people from our project partner organisations.**



We all want to hear from one another, learn from each other's experiences and bring these quality ingredients together. We know we can create something special, and we recognise that we are part of the natural development for the future support of veterans.'

Partnership in Mind was awarded £787,976 from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust Veterans' Places, Pathways & People programme to help enable the programme to realise its ambitions.

It is widely acknowledged that the veteran community can seek different kinds of assistance at different times or stages in life. Offering a range of support and activities, from social groups and creative activities, to needs assessments and onward referrals, beneficiaries can access the whole range of services through a single network.

'We want communities across our region to know we are here for them, so getting the message out far and wide is a critical success factor. We have established a common purpose and team spirit, developed our identity through branding, and are using as many channels as possible to let people know that we are here for them, whatever they need. We are using the hashtag #VPPPSE to share stories, celebrate success, and to keep updates flowing.'

"...there are people out there whose lives we could make better, if only they knew we were here for them"

Ian added, 'There are two things that keep me awake at night. Firstly, ensuring we can sustain our services to the veteran community and, secondly, the thought that there are people out there whose lives we could make better, if only they knew we were here for them. Partnership in Mind will address both of these worries. We have the high-quality ingredients of our talented partners, the shared mission to make veterans' lives better, and the spirit of co-operation as our secret sauce to make it all happen. It's a kind of magic!.'

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

[vppp@vosuk.org](mailto:vppp@vosuk.org)  
[vosuk.org/vppp](https://vosuk.org/vppp)

## SOUTH WEST

Portfolio lead Invictus Games Foundation

# Brighter Futures for Veterans



**‘For us, VPPP is all about developing regional partnerships, developing our Beyond the Games reach, to support the military community.’**

The Invictus Games are known worldwide for their dedication to Veterans, and are champions of helping with big challenges that wounded and sick Veterans face. With VPPP, Invictus are working with organisations from across the South West region, through their “Brighter Futures for Veterans Programme”.

Naomi Adie, Grants & Programmes Manager at The Invictus Games Foundation is excited about the potential of the partnership to make a long term positive difference ‘VPPP is going to better the lives of our veteran community.’

They aim to do this by bringing a wealth of lived experience to provide better pathways of joined up help. Their knowledge base in the Southwest is already strong and with VPPP, they intend to build on this solid foundation.

‘It is important that individuals, sat at home, can have varied options to get specific support they need. Through VPPP, we are arranging simple outreach drop-in facilities to enabling the community to be involved personal interest groups, such as motor sport or outdoor pursuit, which we know helps with their physical and mental wellbeing.

This is especially important for hidden areas of the Armed Forces community that may have previously felt unrepresented and rejected, such as members of LGBTQ+ community, which is why the partnerships of Fighting With Pride is so important. VPPP will help to make first conversations a positive experience.’

Naomi highlights the importance of, ‘Opening corridors of communication and collaboration’, and the strategic benefits of joined up help from the local government, the NHS and their portfolio partners.

The Invictus Games Foundation knows the value, and has “lived experience” of understanding the needs of military life. It is this link that can help with good communication; and ensuring that veterans have better access to support.

There’s already a lot out there but without joined up support the community can feel unsupported. A key focus for the partnership in the South West is to “get people talking and sharing information”.

It’s an exciting time for VPPP in the Southwest. Through the partnerships of those involved, the Invictus Games Foundation hopes to create a greater awareness of what’s available in the region, a sharing of best practice, a mentorship and most importantly, seeing Veterans on a pathway of joined up services.’

“VPPP is going to better the lives of our veteran community”

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**[programmes@invictusgames.org](mailto:programmes@invictusgames.org)**  
**[invictusgamesfoundation.org](http://invictusgamesfoundation.org)**



## VPPP has funded 10 Portfolio projects throughout the UK



### Scotland

NHS Lothian  
The Scottish Veterans Wellbeing Alliance



### Northern Ireland

Tanvalley & Anaghlonge Project  
Northern Ireland's Vital Veterans Network



### North East

Sporting Force  
VPPP North East & Yorkshire



### North west

Broughton House  
NW Armed Forces Wellbeing Network



### Midlands

DMWS  
'Joining the Dots' Midlands Veterans Wellbeing Alliance



### Wales

Adferiad Recovery  
V4P Wales



### East of England

The Bridge for Heroes  
Project Sunrise



### London

Poppy Factory  
Better Together: London Veterans' Partnership



### South East

Veterans Outreach Support  
Partnership in Mind



### South West

Invictus Games Foundation  
Brighter Future for Veterans

*On behalf of The Armed Forces Covenant Trust Fund we would like to thank all the projects for contributing to this publication.  
A special thanks to Jane Williams for her contribution to the written articles*

Part of the Veterans' Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund

# VETERANS' PLACES, PATHWAYS & PEOPLE PROGRAMME

## How will veterans benefit?

### SUPPORT & ACCESS

Veterans will be enabled to identify safe places in their community to access peer support and mental health & wellbeing services.

### NHS REFERRAL

Through a national network of partners, veterans can be referred seamlessly into and out of NHS and other statutory services

### MENTAL HEALTH CARE & SUICIDE RISK

Veterans at higher risk of suicide or poor mental health will receive better and more joined up cross sector support

### LOCAL CARE PATHWAYS

Veteran led projects will be embed in local care pathways and social prescription, with access to the national network of VPPP

**covenantfund.org.uk**

*Supporting the Armed Forces Covenant through funding real change*