GREENWICH HOSPITAL

SUPPORTING THE ROYAL NAVY SINCE 1694



Grantmaking and Funding

A guide for applicant organisations

Evidence-led. Strong partnerships. Lasting impact.

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Supporting the changing needs of the Royal Navy community

Greenwich Hospital is a unique Crown body, established in 1694 to support the Royal Navy community. Accountable to the Crown through the Secretary of State for Defence, Greenwich Hospital generates income from its investments and property portfolio to provide funding for serving and former serving Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel and their families, and for those organisations delivering wider support.

Informed by RAND Europe's **Meeting the Needs study,** our strategy recognises the complex and interconnected challenges facing serving and former serving personnel and their families across areas covering health and wellbeing, family life, employment, financial security, housing, and transition from service.

Funding covers a broad range of needs, supports those facing hardship and enables proactive initiatives that strengthen family life and support retention. We also fund free, enriching activities and educational support for children from serving families.

The Royal Navy community is increasingly diverse, creating a need for support that is flexible, inclusive, and responsive to changing circumstances. Through our grantmaking, we partner with organisations that understand these challenges and can deliver effective, accessible and sustainable support.

This document outlines the priorities and principles guiding our funding decisions, and provides a framework for directing resources toward effective, sustainable support that helps the Royal Navy community thrive.



Deirdre Mills
Director of
Greenwich Hospital

A focused approach to funding

Greenwich Hospital focuses its funding where it can make the greatest difference. We prioritise **evidenced need, clear outcomes and demonstrable impact,** working with partner organisations to strengthen the support available across the Naval charity sector.

Our funding priorities for 2026–2030:

1. **Health, wellbeing and resilience** – supporting early intervention in mental health, building resilience, providing targeted support for neurodiverse people and promoting prevention.
2. **Education, family and relationships** – providing practical support for families, strengthening connections and relationships, and addressing the needs of Service children.
3. **Employment and financial wellbeing** – supporting partners into employment, helping personnel and veterans transition into civilian life, and strengthening access to financial support.
4. **Housing and local infrastructure** – improving access to suitable housing and supporting veterans at risk of homelessness or housing insecurity.

These priorities are underpinned by two cross-cutting themes: **Inclusive and Holistic Service Delivery and Strategic Future Planning.** These themes will help us improve coordination across the sector, expand shared services, strengthen communication, and ensure support can adapt as demographic, social, and geopolitical needs change.

Over the next 4 years, our funding will deliver:

- a community where everyone feels valued, supported and able to thrive;
- enhanced morale and wellbeing that supports retention across the serving community;
- a simplified, coherent charity sector that is easier to navigate;
- stronger and sustainable delivery partners able to support more people;
- greater collaboration and reduced duplication, ensuring resources are used effectively.



Jonathan Ball OBE
Director of Charity Strategy and Funding

Who we fund

Applicants for funding must demonstrate how their proposals align with Greenwich Hospital's charitable objects and deliver meaningful benefits to the Royal Navy community. Funding should address identified needs, improve the health, wellbeing and welfare of the community and create opportunities that positively impact people's lives.







We award grants for funding across three categories

Organisations

Charities, CICs, social enterprises, Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary, ships and units and other organisations providing direct support.

Strategic awards

Partners and organisations commissioning or delivering support on behalf of Greenwich Hospital.

Individual education

Serving personnel and eligible children and young people seeking grants for education and training purposes through approved partner routes.

- No fixed minimum or maximum award.
- We do not fund costs retrospectively.
- Awards may be conditional or deferred and withdrawn if unused within the period of the grant or used inappropriately.

The people at the centre of our funding



Serving community

Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel including reserves.



Former serving community

People who previously served.



Partners and families

Partners, children and dependant family members.

Vision

A thriving Royal Navy community

The Cobseo Funding Principles guide our decisions

Greenwich Hospital follows the principles adopted by the principal Service charities.



Principle	What your application should show
Evidence of need	Who needs help and are they the people most in need? Gaps in provision. Consideration of practical delivery options, local, regional, or national. Why your approach is suitable, and whether the need is temporary or ongoing. Will the funding alleviate, resolve or prevent the need? Reputational risks.
Impact and delivery effectiveness	Cooperative partnerships. Effective delivery. Clear outcomes. Evaluation criteria and a plan for continuing long-term support.
Efficient use of resources	Financial sustainability now and over time. An effective reserves policy. Complementary fundraising and responsible use of funds.

Strengthening your application for funding from Greenwich Hospital

A strong application brings these principles together, linking evidence of need to a realistic delivery plan and clear outcomes that demonstrate effective planning for impact.

- **Puts beneficiaries first** and **identifies those most in need,** highlighting how they will benefit.
- **Complements existing** statutory and charitable services rather than duplicating them.
- **Explains delivery choices** and supports them with evidence.
- **Demonstrates sustainability** by showing your organisation can deliver and manage the grant effectively.

Funding themes

Applicants should identify the themes that are relevant to their funding proposal.

Health, wellbeing and resilience

What it means

We fund early interventions that build individual and family resilience to prevent difficulties turning into crises.

Education, family and relationships

What it means

We focus on all-round family support, communication, services for children and easier access to help, especially in remote or dispersed locations.

Employment and financial wellbeing

What it means

We support enhanced employment assistance for partners, and the enhancement of stronger financial wellbeing before and after transition.

Housing and local infrastructure

What it means

We fund advocacy for serving family housing issues and assistance to former Service members, particularly those experiencing homelessness or other vulnerabilities.

Inclusive and holistic service delivery

What it means

We support integrated and accessible services that offer effective triage, signposting, and communication with a balanced mix of in-person and digital support. We want to see accessible options for underrepresented groups and meaningful evaluation using common measures such as ONS 4 where appropriate.

Future planning and community growth

What it means

We support initiatives which address geopolitical uncertainty and changing demands.

What we fund

Programmes may change as evidence and need develop.

Acute Need

Health and independence, financial stability, family relationships, transition, addiction, bereavement and end-of-life support.

Examples of support

We make block grants to charities that provide individual acute need payments and to organisations offering direct support to individuals and families.

Funding may:

- Help wounded injured or sick beneficiaries fulfil their potential and achieve independence where feasible.
- Improve physical or mental health and prevent need or ill health from escalating.
- Support terminal illness, end of life care, bereavement and family needs.
- Help people achieve financial stability and independence.
- Maintain or improve family relationships.
- Support transition to civilian life or address addiction.
- Continue essential care after transition to civilian life.

Welfare

Health and wellbeing, comradeship, loneliness, inclusion, advocacy and eligible infrastructure projects.

Examples of support

- Advocacy and activity supporting the health and wellbeing of the Royal Navy community.
- Initiatives that promote comradeship and wellbeing and reduce loneliness and isolation.
- Royal Navy organisations working to promote equality diversity and inclusion.
- Royal Navy or charity infrastructure projects over £100,000, where public funding is not available.

Education

Support for Service children, employability, life skills and preventative education for serving and former serving personnel, partners and children.

Examples of support

Education for individuals

- Means tested Royal Hospital School bursaries for the children of serving or former serving Royal Navy personnel where there is pastoral or educational need.
- Means tested university bursaries for serving personnel arranged with the Royal Navy Learning and Development Organisation.

Education through organisations

- Life skills and social mobility opportunities for children of serving personnel.
- Support for Service children, particularly those with special educational needs, schools and teaching staff.
- Employability, life skills and preventative education for serving or former serving Royal Navy personnel and partners.

Research, Capacity and Impact

Research on need, enhancement of organisational effectiveness, evaluation and impact measurement.

Examples of support

- Research that improves our understanding of need and supports better planning of Greenwich Hospital resources.
- Capacity building assistance for organisations.
- Impact evaluation and training to help organisations capture and apply results.

How funding decisions are made

We undertake a due diligence process for all applicants. We review eligibility, charitable purposes, financial health, governance, policies, and the organisation's ability to manage the award. We then agree with successful applicants on project delivery, permitted uses of funding, and progress monitoring.

Funding amount	Usual approval route
Up to £50,000	Funding Team through the year
Over £50,000 to £250,000	Charity Scrutiny Panel, termly
Over £250,000	Board-level Charity and Education Committee after initial recommendation by the Charity Scrutiny Panel, termly



Applying for funding

Your application starts with a short enquiry to the Greenwich Hospital Funding Team.

1. Send an email enquiry. Briefly explain the need, beneficiaries, activity, amount, and timing.
2. Eligibility check. The team reviews the application with our objects, programmes and priorities.
3. Complete an expression of interest. Eligible applicants receive access to the online portal.
4. Submit a full application. Successful expressions of interest progress to full application and due diligence.

Prepare before you enquire

- Evidence of need and intended beneficiary numbers
- A delivery plan, budget and timetable
- Accounts, reserves, other funding and principal risks
- Governance, safeguarding and inclusion policies
- Outcomes evaluation and reporting plans.

Check **greenwichhospital.co.uk** for current guidance and funding round dates.

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