



**GREENWICH
HOSPITAL**

SUPPORTING THE ROYAL NAVY SINCE 1694



Empowered
Energised
Impactful

IMPACT REPORT 2025

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Vision

Helping the Royal Navy community thrive



p12 Swim Free programme.



p15 RMA – The Royal Marines Charity brings beneficiaries together.



p17 Launchpad is transforming the lives of homeless veterans.



p18 Aggies keep serving families connected.

Our Heritage

A distinct legacy

Established in 1694 by Royal Charter, Greenwich Hospital was founded as a home, or 'hospital', for wounded, sick, and elderly Royal Navy sailors and their families. Today, it continues to evolve as a unique and modern Crown body, leveraging historic assets to deliver vital funding for the Royal Navy community.

Who we are

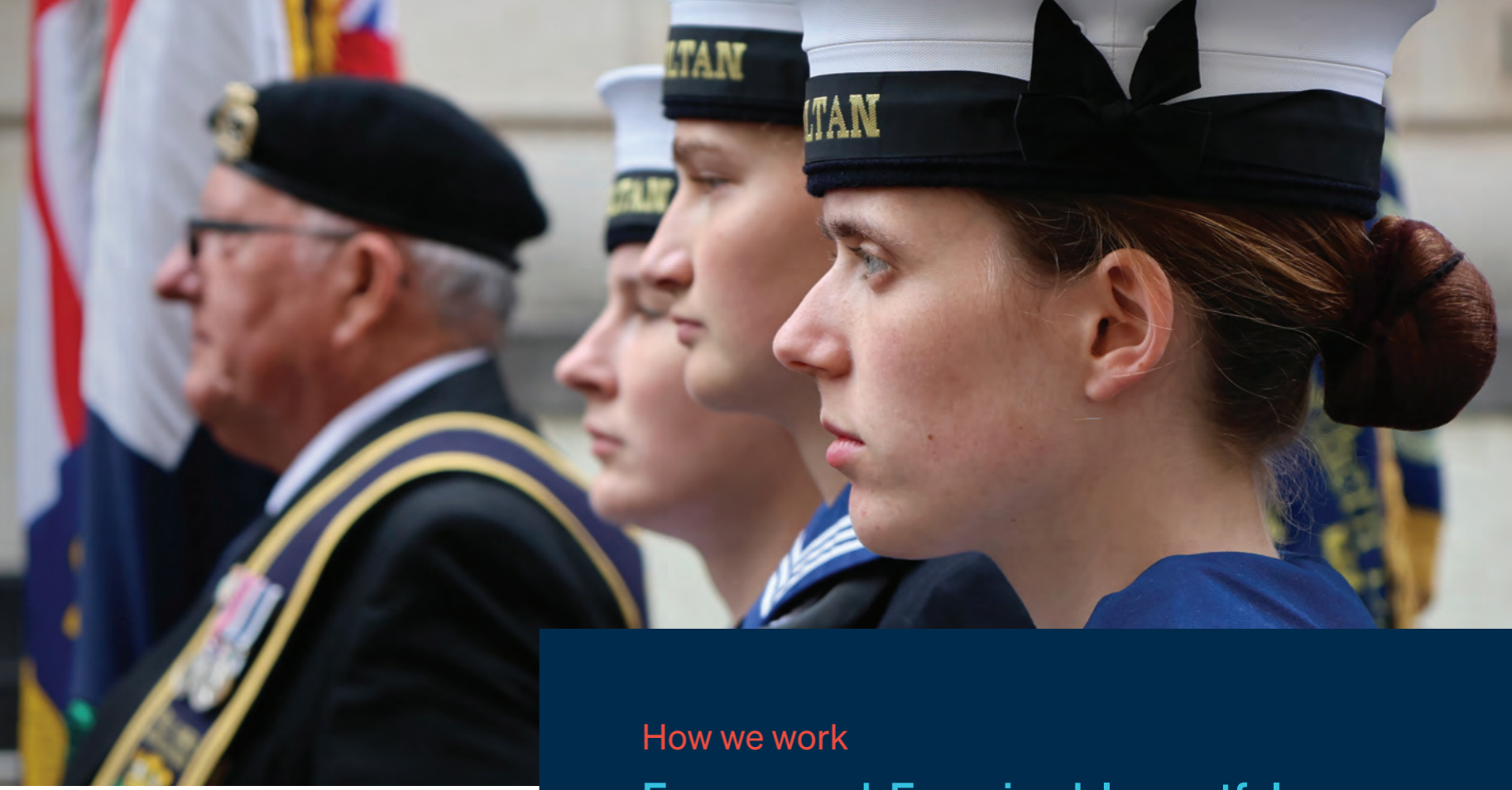
Greenwich Hospital's funding supports Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel and their families

As the largest funder of charitable support for the Royal Navy community, we invest in the education, welfare, and acute needs of serving and former serving personnel and their families to help them thrive during and after service.

Our funding includes proactive and preventative initiatives that improve health and create opportunities, ranging from life-changing programmes for families and young people to retention-positive infrastructure projects to strengthen the Royal Navy community.

Understanding the pressures of Naval life – long deployments, family separation, transition and the impact of service, we partner with the Royal Navy, military charities and organisations across the UK to deliver timely and targeted support.

Every grant, programme, and partnership focuses on helping the Royal Navy community thrive.



How we work

Empowered, Energised, Impactful.

Our values guide our work, helping us build trusted partnerships, make informed funding decisions, and drive measurable impact.



Working with Partners

- Collaborate with the Royal Navy, charities and organisations.
- Align programmes and tailor support to community needs.
- Share best practice to maximise reach and impact.



Agile Decision-Making

- Responsive processes that allow us to act quickly.
- Ongoing refinement to strengthen outcomes.



Funding our Grant Making

- Grants are funded through endowment income.

£7,422,714

Total Charitable Funding. Sept 2024 – Aug 2025

Director and Chair's Introduction

Greenwich Hospital was founded over three centuries ago with a simple yet powerful mission: to care for everyone within the Royal Navy community.



As the leading strategic funder of naval charity, we distributed £7.4 million in 2025, working with partner organisations to enhance the lives of serving and former serving Royal Navy personnel and their families.

This year's funding represents a significant increase on the previous year, and in 2026, we will fund and deliver even more.

Our funding is designed to be transformative, retention-positive, and holistic. Our grant-making encompasses early interventions, education and life opportunities, particularly for young people, alongside initiatives that promote health and wellbeing, and address acute need to improve lives at every stage across the Royal Navy community.

We are providing longer-term funding to deliver a range of benefits, from horticultural and equine therapy, access to outdoor climbing activities, employment and financial wellbeing support, and group Remembrance events across the UK.

This year, we launched a new project in recognition of the growing importance of creating community hubs that can bring people together through sport, health and wellbeing activities.

The hubs will create spaces where Royal Navy personnel and their families can connect, relax, and enjoy a range of high-quality activities. Work is now underway to scope new community hubs at key Royal Navy locations, turning this vision into a reality.

For the children of Royal Navy personnel, our Sail Together and Swim Free programmes are helping them learn life skills, foster new friendships and shape futures. Working in partnership with the Andrew Simpson Foundation and the Royal Naval Sailing Association, we have delivered more than 12,000 swimming lessons and over 400 sailing courses this year. Next year, both programmes will expand to provide next stage tuition, additional courses for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and training to partners to teach these invaluable skills.

We are also broadening our educational offer. As well as offering school bursaries, we are providing access to training, apprenticeships, and vocational learning for the partners of serving personnel.

We received the preliminary findings from our Meeting the Needs study, a landmark research partnership with RAND Europe. The findings, combined with financial modelling undertaken with EY, will sharpen our focus out to 2040, directing funding to where it has the most significant and lasting impact.

Together, with our partners, we're building a co-ordinated, effective, and people-focused system of support.

Deirdre Mills
Director, Greenwich Hospital

Vice Admiral Paul Beattie CBE
Second Sea Lord
Chair
Greenwich Hospital Advisory Board

Meeting the needs of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines community

To ensure that future funding and support for serving personnel, veterans, and their families is targeted and effective, Greenwich Hospital commissioned RAND Europe to conduct a comprehensive study of the Royal Navy community.

This research gives the Naval welfare and charity sector a clear, evidence-based roadmap to prioritise and deliver support that is responsive, sustainable, and impactful, ensuring veterans, serving personnel, and their families receive the help they need, when they need it.

Key features

- **Community profile:** The study identifies the size, demographic makeup, and projected growth of the Royal Navy community.
- **Support needs:** Critical areas include physical and mental health, social and family relationships, employment, financial security, housing, and service experience.
- **Engagement & awareness:** Awareness of existing support varies, highlighting opportunities to improve access and tailor services.
- **Actionable recommendations:** We are responding to the 26 targeted recommendations from the report to deliver interventions that respond to current and evolving needs.

Next steps

- **Future planning:** Population forecasts and financial modelling provide insight into the long-term cost and sustainability of charitable provision up to 2040.
- **A mapping exercise and a wider stakeholder conference** (February 2026) will share findings, strengthen collaboration, and align partner activity.
- **A Meeting the Needs plan**, setting themes, programmes, outcomes and funding criteria to 2040, will be developed with Naval charities by April 2026.



What we do

How we support the Royal Navy community

We fund and support projects to help the Royal Navy community thrive. We partner with the Royal Navy, Naval charities and trusted organisations to deliver targeted funding and report on its lasting impact.



Acute need

Providing immediate, holistic support to help individuals and families access essential resources in times of crisis and restore stability to their lives.



Education and life opportunities

Creating opportunities at every stage of life through education, training, and skills development – empowering personnel, partners and children to thrive within and beyond military service.



Welfare and quality of life

Investing in proactive, preventative and retention-enhancing support that promotes health, wellbeing, and resilience across the Royal Navy community.



Research

Supporting research that deepens our understanding of the Royal Navy community's evolving size, profile, and needs – ensuring our funding remains responsive, targeted and effective.



Sheltered housing

Ensuring former Royal Navy personnel and partners have access to safe and comfortable accommodation to live independently.

How we're making an impact



- 
Acute Need
 £3,543,554
- 
Education and Life Opportunities
 £2,195,680
- 
Welfare and Quality of Life
 £1,047,977
- 
Sheltered Housing
 £452,300
- 
Research
 £183,203

6 major grants to charitable organisations

● Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC)	£1,375,000
● Royal Naval Benevolent Trust (RNBT)	£894,520
● Royal Naval Sailing Association (RNSA)	£490,191
● The Andrew Simpson Foundation	£300,000
● Forces Employment Charity	£269,555
● Special Boat Service Association (SBSA)	£250,000

40% increase in charitable funding over the previous 4 years

£3.54m
funding



serving and former serving Royal Navy families in acute need, delivered through our trusted partners.

1,100+
young people

participated in Swim Free with **12,200+** free swimming lessons delivered across the UK and **10** swimming teachers trained – all from the serving Royal Navy community.


£150,000

in funding allocated to support serving personnel on ships and in units to promote wellbeing during service and deployments.

72

people from serving and former serving Royal Navy families received grants to further their

education and training

125 
veterans/partners

housed in **91** one- and two-bedroom flats. A subsidy of £452,300 supported three housing schemes in Southsea, Saltash and Greenwich.

£236,498

awarded to the Royal Alfred Seafarer's Society to support elderly former Royal Navy personnel living in specialist accommodation.



436

children from serving Royal Navy families enjoyed one-week RYA sailing courses across **10** different locations.

£285,358 awarded to
7 charities

working with the Royal Navy community to support individuals into employment.



Acute Need

Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC) £1,375,000

Funding national support to address acute need, delivered by benevolence charities.

The Royal Naval Benevolent Trust £894,520

Funding regular charitable payments to serving and former RN personnel and their families in need.

Combat Stress £250,000

Providing expert treatment for veterans living with PTSD and complex mental health needs.

The Royal Alfred Seafarers' Society £236,498

Providing residential care for RN veterans and partners living with dementia.

Seafarers' Advice and Information Line (SAIL) £192,000

Supporting a free, national helpline for the RN/RM/RFA community to advise on money management and debt advice.

Launchpad £130,000

Providing homeless veterans with stability and coaching to help them secure employment and independent housing.

RMA – The Royal Marines Charity £100,000

Funding for welfare and acute need emergency grants for the RM community.

The Royal British Legion £75,000

Funding to support the work of Admiral nurses who work with former RN personnel suffering from dementia.

Sailors' Children's Society (SCS) £68,070

Funding to support eligible RN families in acute need.

Veterans Outreach Support (VOS) £50,000

Funding towards VOS clinical services costs.

Climb 2 Recovery £30,000

Supporting the recovery of seriously wounded RN personnel and veterans recovering from complex post-traumatic stress disorder through adaptive climbing and mountaineering.

Centre for Veterans' Health at King Edward VII's Hospital £27,000

Funding £81,000 over three years to enable 15 RN and RM veterans (5 per year) to attend the veteran specific Pain Management Programme (PMP).

Bowra Foundation £20,000

Critical support for RN veterans recovering from stroke and brain injuries.

Rock2Recovery £20,000

Providing coaching to veterans battling mental ill-health.

Horseback UK £20,000

Funding to support RN personnel and veterans suffering from life-changing injuries and/or post-traumatic stress disorder.



Education & Life Opportunities

Royal Naval Sailing Association £490,191

Continued funding of the Sail Together Programme to give 400+ children of serving RN families opportunities to learn to sail and the Go Sailing programme for partners, delivered in partnership with the Andrew Simpson Foundation.

Naval Children's Charity £310,421

Funding supports two posts – an Outreach Caseworker Project Manager for the three-year Life Chances programme (as well as delivery of the programme) and an Outreach Caseworker based in Helensburgh.

Andrew Simpson Foundation £300,000

Funding to deliver 12,000+ free swimming lessons for serving Royal Navy families across the UK as part of the Swim Free programme.

White Ensign Association £109,954

Funding two posts to support serving personnel: a Financial Wellbeing Manager and a Regional Support Manager for Scotland and overseas.

Forces Children Scotland £103,921

Funding to enable Forces Children Scotland to deliver co-produced projects, services and wider activities with and for children and young people.

Forces Employment Charity £100,000

Funding to sustain delivery of the Ex-Forces employment programme for Royal Navy and Royal Marines veterans.

Armed Forces Education Trust £76,600

Funding education and training opportunities for RN personnel and their families.

RN Learning and Development Office £28,000

Education grants to serving personnel to fund professional development opportunities.

X-Forces Enterprise £15,180

Funding training and education for transitioning RN personnel considering self-employment and business ownership as a career.



Welfare & Quality of Life

Special Boat Service Association £250,000

Funding proactive and preventative welfare support and delivery.

Forces Employment Charity Op NOVA £169,555

Operation NOVA Caseworker. (Devon & Hampshire, 2 roles)

Ships and Units £150,000

Funding allocated to support serving personnel on ships and in units to promote wellbeing during service and deployments.

Gordon Messenger Centre £88,000

Funding towards staffing for the Gordon Messenger Centre.

Naval Families Federation (NFF) £47,000

Funding the Head of Stakeholder Engagement role enables the NFF to stay closely aligned with the evolving needs and priorities of Naval families.

HighGround £46,440

Funding Rural Experience Weeks at Bicton College for RN personnel and the provision of Horticultural Therapy sessions at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DMRC), Stanford Hall.

Fighting with Pride (FWP) £45,994

Providing matched funding to enable the continued employment of FWP's Community Team Manager and a Veterans Community Worker.

Vector 24 (Fares4Free) £40,332

Supporting the RN community in Scotland through the funding of reliable transport to key appointments.

Dame Agnes Weston's Royal Charity for the Naval Service (Aggies) £34,022

Contribution towards the costs for the Story Book Waves project and pastoral workers, enabling personnel to record reading stories to their children while on deployment.

The Not Forgotten £20,000

Funding to provide entertainment and recreational events and activities for the RN community to combat loneliness and isolation among veterans.

Recruit for Spouses £17,000

Development of a mental health programme for partners of RN personnel.



Swimming skills and community

The **Swim Free programme**, launched in partnership with the **Andrew Simpson Foundation**, is a four-year initiative providing accredited swimming lessons to the children of serving Royal Navy personnel.

Programme

The programme helps young people become confident swimmers while creating pathways into water-based opportunities. By bringing serving families together, it also strengthens connection and community across the Royal Navy family.

Swim Free further supports the wider Naval community by offering swim teacher and lifeguard qualifications to young adults and spouses of serving personnel – opening new career pathways in and around the water.

Programme highlights

- Children gain confidence in the water, learning essential life skills for safety and enjoyment.
- Young adults and spouses acquire professional qualifications, creating career opportunities in swimming and lifeguarding.
- Families benefit from structured, high-quality lessons that support routines and wellbeing, particularly during periods of deployment.

Feedback

“This funding gave me the opportunity and motivation to start swimming with my youngest. It’s a special time each week that I get with her.”

“As a serving RM, I am often deployed, so these lessons give our family a structured, safe activity and allow me a much-needed break. Thanks to Swim Free for providing a high-quality, much-needed service.”

“The funded course has been fantastic; it has allowed our family to meet other families in similar situations, develop key life skills, and provides recognition of my husband’s work in the military.”



This funding gave me the opportunity and motivation to start swimming with my youngest. It’s a special time each week that I get with her.



Impact

1,100+

young people participated in the pilot year

94%

parents/carers observed improved behaviour and relationships at home

12,200+

free swimming lessons delivered across the UK

100%

of young people reported an improved knowledge and awareness of water safety



Looking ahead

- Introducing family swim sessions.
- Developing a progress-tracking membership portal for parents.
- More opportunities for young adults to gain swimming and lifeguarding qualifications.



Find out more about Swim Free

Rebuilding lives

The **BOWRA Foundation** supports the recovery and rehabilitation of Armed Forces personnel affected by stroke and brain injuries, promoting physical and mental health.

Programme

The BOWRA Foundation offers creative, team-based activities that build resilience, camaraderie, and enhance overall wellbeing for both civilians and veterans, bringing people together to participate side by side.

Their inclusive approach helps them to identify and support veterans who can be hard to reach and challenging to engage.

Paul's story

Paul Hodges served 15 years in the Royal Marines as a Physical Training Instructor. In 2022, his life changed when a minor stroke was followed by a severe stroke during heart surgery, causing permanent sight loss, cognitive impairment and memory loss. The team at BOWRA provided tailored guidance, support and encouragement, helping Paul to access structured activities and rebuild his confidence.

Impact

- Relearned basic skills such as reading and writing.
- Increased confidence and independence.
- Reduced isolation and improved emotional wellbeing.
- Motivation to join local groups and activities.
- Positive influence on mental health, leading to a better quality of life.



Scaling new heights

RMA – The Royal Marines Charity is both the Corps' membership association and Charity, and a trusted partner of the Royal Marines community.

Programme

This unique position enables the Charity to build trusted relationships with beneficiaries and provide holistic, through-life support to meet individual needs.

At the heart of this support are grants designed to relieve hardship and promote recovery. Assistance spans a wide range of needs covering medical care and equipment, rehabilitation and psychological therapy, employability training and direct financial assistance.

Transformative retreats to support recovery

One standout initiative is the series of skiing, climbing, and wellbeing retreats in Chamonix, France. Each year, four groups of Royal Marines beneficiaries embark on transformative experiences, led by former Royal Marine and double amputee Ian "Bish" Bishop.

The experience builds camaraderie, confidence, and a renewed sense of purpose, helping participants reconnect with others who share similar experiences.

Feedback

"The bond that grew between the group over the week was very evident, and I am certain that this will lead to lasting friendships and support."

"The gathering of guys from all eras and various parts of the world to sit and spin dits and share experiences in a normal relaxed environment is priceless. The civilian world does not really understand us, our thinking or sense of humour. On this trip you can be yourself and forget everything."

"I believe this trip should be cemented in the Royal Marines Charity calendar. You cannot put a price on how the trip leaves you feeling."

Impact

Rebuilding camaraderie

 and purpose through shared challenges


4 retreats annually supporting 40+ beneficiaries

 Promotes physical recovery, mental wellbeing and
confidence

 Peer-led by a former beneficiary helps to reinforce confidence, inspiration and
support



Strengthening connections through Remembrance and comradeship

Through its longstanding partnership with the **Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC)**, Greenwich Hospital supports initiatives that bring veterans and families together to help reduce loneliness and isolation across the Royal Navy community.

Programme

A highlight this year was the Royal Naval Association's 75th Anniversary Parade, held on Whitehall. The event brought together hundreds of veterans, families, cadets and serving personnel to honour shared service, reconnect with shipmates and rebuild social networks that often fade with time.

The day was both a moment of reflection and an important opportunity to draw people back into a trusted community network.

Feedback

Shipmate Alex Blincow captured the spirit of the day: *"A great event with just the right amount of ceremony and formality followed by the camaraderie and friendship that is present when Royal Navy veterans get together."*

At the AnyFace Association Reunion in Portsmouth, veterans from the Skyraider and Gannet eras reunited after decades apart. *"We were sharing a table 48 years later – it was like no time had passed at all,"* said one attendee.

Remembrance also underpinned the Scott Sutherland "Leaping Salmon" Memorial Project, where families of the fallen, veterans and local communities came together to commemorate the sculptor of the Commando Memorial. One family member described it as *"a very emotional day... deeply touching to see everyone come together to remember."*

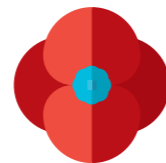
Together, Greenwich Hospital and RNRMC ensure that Remembrance is lived, not just observed, creating opportunities for people to reconnect, combat isolation and find community at every stage of naval life.

Impact

Reduced loneliness by drawing isolated veterans back into supportive networks



Strengthened intergenerational bonds through Remembrance projects and reunions



Improved wellbeing through shared experiences and renewed friendships

UK-wide reach through Remembrance events and reunions



Transforming homeless veterans' lives

Launchpad is a homeless veterans' charity that provides safe, supported accommodation and individual support to help former personnel rebuild their lives.

Programme

Operating three housing schemes in Newcastle, Durham, and Liverpool, Launchpad offers 98 fully self-contained apartments, giving veterans not only a secure home but a pathway to achieve lasting independence.

Many arriving at Launchpad come directly from the streets or periods of sofa surfing. They arrive with only a handful of possessions and can face multiple challenges: mental health difficulties, addiction, or long-term unemployment.

Residents are welcomed with a five-day food-and-essentials pack before receiving tailored, wraparound support. This can include psychotherapy, mental health treatment, addiction recovery, and physical rehabilitation. When ready, veterans are supported to access training, education, and employment opportunities.

Most residents stay for around 12 months. Crucially, Launchpad continues to support veterans after they leave, helping to prevent a return to homelessness.

Nic's story

Nic served for 14 years in the Royal Navy as a Leading Weapons Engineer. After being diagnosed with glaucoma, his sight began to deteriorate – a challenge that became more severe after leaving the military.

Determined to remain independent, Nic retrained as a paramedic but was eventually forced to stop altogether when his vision declined further. During this time, Nic was also diagnosed with service-related PTSD.

Following a relationship breakdown, Nic became homeless. With his mental health deteriorating, he reached out for help through Operation Fortitude and was referred to Launchpad Liverpool. Nic began receiving specialist rehabilitation support from Blind Veterans UK, alongside mental health and wellbeing support from Launchpad's team. Structured activities helped Nic rebuild his confidence and physical health. A volunteer role with the National Trust provided a renewed sense of purpose and community.

In 2025, Nic successfully moved on from Launchpad into long-term accommodation in his hometown of Gosport. He remains in touch with Launchpad and reflects: *"I'd still be homeless and really struggling with my mental health if it wasn't for Launchpad."*

Impact

98 self-contained apartments across three locations



80% of residents moving on successfully transitioned to long-term accommodation during 2024–25



36 secured paid employment during the last year



Keeping serving families connected

Aggie's Storybook Waves project enables Royal Navy, Royal Marines, and Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel stay connected with their families during periods of separation.

Programme

With the serving parent recording bedtime stories and poems that can be re-played at home, Storybook Waves offers comfort, routine and connection through the joy of storytelling.

Funding has enabled Aggies to:

- Expand the project for all ages.
- Provide additional deployment kits for accessibility.
- Renew recording equipment to maintain quality.
- Supply laptops to volunteer editors for faster delivery of recordings.

Feedback

"Listening to Daddy's stories has been part of our routine for over a year and a half. It has provided priceless connection and helped her love books and develop speech. Storybook Waves has eased the deployment ache in ways I can never thank them enough for."

Hannah, Royal Navy wife and mother to a two-year-old.

Below: Tommy 5, enjoys his Storybook Waves books while his parent serves on HMS Sultan.

Impact

5,000+
recordings produced

3,000+
Royal Navy families helped worldwide and in the UK



Helping reclaim lives

Through its funding for **Combat Stress**, Greenwich Hospital is helping former Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel access specialist mental health care and regain hope after trauma.

Programme

The Charity's evidence-based treatments empower veterans to rebuild their lives, strengthen relationships, and reconnect with their sense of purpose.

Combat Stress is the UK's leading charity for veteran mental health, providing specialist treatment and support for those living with trauma related to military service. The Charity delivers proven, life-changing therapies both in person and online, helping veterans recover from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, and depression and supports families throughout the healing journey.

Martin's story

Royal Navy veteran Martin served for 10 years as a Marine Engineer and qualified ships diver. During his service, two serious incidents left lasting psychological scars; one was a diving accident in which a recall charge exploded underwater without warning. Though he left the Royal Navy in 1996 and built a family life, the trauma stayed buried for decades.

In 2023, when his daughter suffered a near-fatal fall during a family mountain walk, those memories resurfaced. Martin began to experience nightmares, flashbacks and uncontrollable anger.

"I pushed my family away. I wasn't myself – I was in self-destruct mode," he recalls.

Encouraged by his wife, Martin contacted Combat Stress, where he was diagnosed with PTSD and began Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy with a clinical psychologist. The treatment helped him process the trauma and start rebuilding his life.

"My wife and I have started doing things together again. I can see a future, whereas before I was living day to day. Combat Stress helped me get my life back."

Impact

70% 
of veterans completing treatment make a full or significant recovery

 Veterans report improved mental health, stronger relationships and renewed purpose

 Specialist therapies like EMDR and CBT* are proven to transform lives

*Note: CBT: Cognitive Behavioural Therapy.



Finding purpose through nature

HighGround provides serving personnel and veterans with the opportunity to rebuild confidence, develop new skills, and discover fulfilling land-based careers.

Programme

At the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DMRC) at Stanford Hall, the charity delivers specialist horticultural therapy sessions as part of the clinical recovery pathway. Led by registered occupational therapists, these structured outdoor sessions promote teamwork, stamina, and concentration while supporting physical and psychological recovery.

Beyond rehabilitation, HighGround's mission extends to helping Service leavers find meaningful employment in the land-based sector. Through its renowned Rural Weeks, veterans explore careers in agriculture, conservation, forestry, environmental management, and heritage landscaping.

HighGround's Rural Weeks help veterans like Paddy discover meaningful civilian careers that align with their skills, values, and sense of purpose. By combining practical experience with guidance and reflection, the programme supports confident transitions from military to civilian life.



Paddy's story

After seven years of service as a Royal Navy Lieutenant, Paddy Gibbons joined HighGround's Rural Week to explore new directions. *"The rural week was fantastic and really rewarding," he says. "It helped me prioritise what I wanted from a career and reinforced the transferable skills veterans have to offer."*

Today, he works as an Assistant Project Manager with the Environment Agency, leading projects focused on flood defence, environmental enhancement, and sustainable infrastructure.


"My job definitely uses so many of the skills learned from my time in the Royal Navy," Paddy explains. "The Rural Week helped me find focus and clarity – I feel I'm making a difference in protecting local communities and the environment, which follows on naturally from serving in defence."



Impact

15 

Royal Navy Rural Week and Rural Experience Week participants

 Veterans connect with the military community and develop local, professional

networks

 Support for career planning and

exploration

leading to further study, employment, or skills development

Supporting financial wellbeing

The **White Ensign Association (WEA)** provides trusted, impartial guidance to serving and former members of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Royal Fleet Auxiliary, and their families.

Programme

With funding from Greenwich Hospital, the WEA established a Financial Wellbeing Manager role in 2024 to enhance financial resilience across the Naval community. The role combines proactive education with individual casework, offering early intervention for money worries and long-term financial planning.

The WEA offers expert guidance on:

- Armed Forces pensions, compensation schemes, and personal financial matters.
- Civilian employment, retraining, and resettlement.
- Access to professional, domestic, and welfare support.



Dan's story

Dan, a sailor with four years service, was medically discharged in 2024 following a period of ill health. During his illness, he accrued £5,000 of credit card debt and feared it would become unmanageable once he left the Royal Navy. Anxious about starting civilian life in debt, Dan reached out to the WEA through its website.

Financial Wellbeing Manager, Alfie Orton worked closely with Dan to:

- Review his income, outgoings, and debt commitments.
- Create a realistic repayment plan.
- Maximise his income and reduce unnecessary spending.
- Consideration of formal debt management methods with the Seafarers' Advice and Information Line (SAIL).

Impact

By early 2025, Dan had fully repaid his debts and regained control of his finances.

"Seeing the balances reduce so fast made me feel in control again," he said. With his stress reduced and confidence restored, Dan secured salaried employment in retail while preparing for his next career move.

Dan's story demonstrates the powerful difference early financial support can make. Through the WEA's expert guidance, serving and former Royal Navy personnel are gaining the confidence, stability, and skills to build stronger financial futures and navigate life beyond the Service.



Youth leadership in action

Forces Children Scotland champions the rights of children and young people from Armed Forces families, helping them to realise their potential and thrive.

Programme

Working directly with children and young people across Scotland, the Charity provides vital mental health and financial support. Their youth-led programmes create spaces where young people can share their experiences, influence services, and speak up for their rights within the Armed Forces community.

Creating the Forces Children's Rights Charter

The development of the Forces Children's Rights Charter and its launch highlight the power of youth leadership to drive change. By giving young people time, resources, and genuine influence, the Charity ensures their voices remain at the heart of every decision.

A residential weekend brought together 16 young people from tri-service families to shape the Charter's content and design, turning their lived experience into a clear, collective call to action.

The completed Charter was launched at a national roundtable, where young people led the discussion and presented their recommendations directly to decision-makers during the Month of the Military Child.

Feedback

- "Stop forcing children to fit a system. Adapt the system."
- It was welcoming, friendly, and child-led, setting the tone for discussions.
- Truly listen to what young people say."

Young participants, Forces Children's Rights Roundtable.

Impact

100%



of young people reported increased confidence, feeling valued and respected



95.5%

said it improved their understanding of their rights

Young people



working together to develop solutions, challenge assumptions and influence change

Go Sailing – Building confidence, connections and new horizons

Go Sailing, part of the successful Sail Together programme, extends the wellbeing benefits of sailing to the partners of serving Royal Navy, Royal Marines, and Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel.

The programme offers free RYA Start Sailing courses to help Royal Navy partners gain new skills, confidence and friendships – helping to connect people who share an understanding of service life.

The experience brings a sense of freedom and achievement, while supporting wellbeing and resilience.

- 70+ partners taking part across Portsmouth, Plymouth and Faslane.
- Free RYA Level 1 & 2 beginner courses.
- Delivered by the Royal Naval Sailing Association and the Andrew Simpson Foundation.



I never imagined I'd be able to sail, but the course was incredible. I met other partners who understand the ups and downs of military life, and we supported each other. It's given me confidence, new friends, and a whole new passion.



Go Sailing participant



Find out more
www.rnsagosailing.org.uk



Increased funding to deliver

more impact

Greenwich Hospital is pursuing an ambitious strategy to increase its funding and deliver more impact.

Greenwich Hospital is accelerating its funding strategy to deliver better outcomes.

As needs evolve, we are sharpening our focus on longer-term priorities to develop initiatives that expand opportunity, strengthen wellbeing, and support retention during service.

We are investing in personal and professional development, building transferable skills, and widening access to learning for service personnel, partners, and children.

Maximising funding and impact

- Managing investments and property to grow funding.
- Providing targeted support for urgent welfare and wellbeing needs.
- Ensuring every pound delivers measurable benefit.

Supporting a changing community

- Responding to longer life expectancy and more complex needs.
- Providing care and guidance for older and vulnerable personnel.
- Tailoring support to enable independent, confident living.

Education and lifelong learning

- Providing bursaries and free sports programmes for Service children and families.
- Supporting children with SEND.
- Offering free online tutoring for national examinations and for children transitioning across education systems.
- Developing career opportunities for personnel and partners.

Promoting mental health and resilience

- Combining clinical and non-clinical counselling, therapy, and clinical support.
- Enabling peer networks and community initiatives to reduce stigma.
- Building confidence, wellbeing, and personal resilience.

Connecting people and supporting families

- Providing respite accommodation for separated families.
- Investing in sport and community hubs at Naval bases.
- Expanding the Sail Together, Go Sailing and Swim Free programmes.



Increased funding will ensure the Royal Navy community continues to thrive.

Looking ahead, we will use research and financial modelling to shape our long-term funding plans, ensuring we respond to future challenges.

Greenwich Hospital funds organisations supporting the Royal Navy community.

For enquiries relating to our grants or strategic programmes, please contact:

funding@grenhosp.org.uk



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SUPPORTING THE ROYAL NAVY SINCE 1694