

May 2020

SCOTLAND'S COVENANT GRANT NEWS



2019/2020

MAJOR GRANTS

4 Projects

Total £837,102

LOCAL GRANTS

10 Projects

Total £161,712

VETERANS COMMUNITY CENTRES

7 Projects

Total £151,927

Welcome to our first Newsletter providing an update on the Armed Forces Covenant Trust and the Funding that the trust has awarded over the past year across Scotland.

Grant Programmes

Update on COVID19 and new programmes

The Trust are responding to the pandemic by provide support to all of their grant holders to help them continue their work by:

- Delivering emergency funding quickly to support veterans who are particularly vulnerable
- Launching a package of programmes to support the Armed Forces Community with funding from the Covenant Fund and from HM Treasury ; with special attention on those who have faced hardships as a result of the pandemic; on projects to help isolated people reconnect with wider communities; projects that support improved mental health and encouraging stronger links between Armed Forces Charities.

The Covenant Fund Programmes for 2020/21, which will launch over the next few months, are

- £2.5M for local community projects through our Local Grants Programme
- £5.5M through the Reducing Isolation programme with a particular focus on enhancing the support available to those who may have suffered the most as a result of the pandemic; and supporting the wide reconnection needs where this would help Armed Forces Communities. We are keen to support a range of larger and smaller Armed Forces Charities through this programme; and encourage organisations to work together
- £1.5M to support Local Authorities and Local Covenant Partnerships to strengthen future delivery of the Armed Forces Covenant locally, so that veterans, families and the wider Armed Forces community don't get overlooked



RAF Lossiemouth earlier this year during the STEM at the Workplace event.

FORCES CHILDREN IN MORAY SCHOOLS

The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust through their Removing Barriers to Family Life Programme awarded Moray's Dandelion Project a whopping £370k to support forces children in Moray. The project seeks to ensure that all forces children have the right conditions and environment in their school setting to thrive, with a dedicated team of staff being employed to provide in-school support. Bespoke training will be provided to enable school staff to better understand the complex nuances of service life and aims to create a positive and proactive attitude towards supporting Forces children in the region.

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THE COLINTON TUNNEL PROJECT

The funding received from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust Local Grants Programme supports the creation of a heritage mural on a former railway tunnel on the water of Leith. The mural celebrates the area's military and civilian heritage by recording and reflecting the social, industrial, economic, military, artistic and literary history and encourages visitors to the area – aiding the economic regeneration of a community which boasts a large number of service personnel and families. The tunnel hosts an ongoing series of community engagement events – history talks, music, performance art, craft fairs, farmers' markets, events for schools linking to Curriculum for Excellence. The whole project is being carried out by a multi-skilled team of muralists which places the utmost importance on community engagement, to date nearly 600 young people from five local schools and various youth groups have been involved with the project and by using marine plywood boards, they are able to take the mural to the community - rather than everyone having to come to the tunnel. The good news is the local organisations' collective plan to bring visitors to enjoy Colinton is already working thanks to the generous donation from the AFC!



Keep up to date with news from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund by signing up to their newsletters [here](#)

The 2019 [Armed Forces Covenant Report](#) was published on 20 December. The report outlines how the Government has been fulfilling its responsibility to ensure the military community are not disadvantaged as a result of their service.

The next Covenant Champions Conference will be held on Wednesday 16 September at MOD Main Building. To book your place contact CovenantMailbox@mod.gov.uk

Contact

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