

Trusts and Foundations Impact Report

With grateful thanks for your support, we are proud to report our progress during the financial year October 2022 to September 2023. Your generosity helps us **make a difference** to the lives of so many individuals and families within the Armed Forces community across Scotland.

WELFARE SERVICES UPDATE



A total of
1,049
beneficiaries were successful
in accessing a Grant.



More than
£729,977
was awarded to individuals
to help fund household items and repairs,
arrears, mobility home adaptations and
much more.

Cost of Living Grants

The cost-of living crisis has hit our beneficiaries hard. In response we provided support for our beneficiaries struggling to meet the cost of everyday essentials.

654 Cost of Living Grants were awarded to beneficiaries in Scotland.

£464,267 used to support beneficiaries with energy bills, household items, debt, housing and more.



1,013 Immediate Need Grants were awarded to individuals to help with a wide range of needs. The total spend was **£681,617**.



£48,360 was used to support some of our most elderly and vulnerable beneficiaries, via an Annual Grant (historic Annual Grants will continue to be administered, but we do not accept new applications).

Casework and Independent Living Advice

Our Welfare Service Delivery enables beneficiaries to access the most appropriate services for their needs, which are often urgent, complex and multiple in nature.

- Over **1500** enquiries received from beneficiaries
- Over **500** individuals referred into our Casework team
- **83** individuals referred to our Independent Living Advice Service
- Individuals were also referred to other organisations - working in collaboration with others helps us get beneficiaries connected to the right support for them

Admiral Nurse Service

In April 2023, we launched the Admiral Nurse Service in Scotland - a specialist service helping the Armed Forces community and their families living with dementia.

- **23** referrals were received within the first six months delivery



PARTNER PROJECTS

Employment Services

Led by The Forces Employment Charity



36 clients received an Employment Grant.



68 veterans received ongoing one to one support from an employability advisor through the Employ-Able programme delivered by Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH).



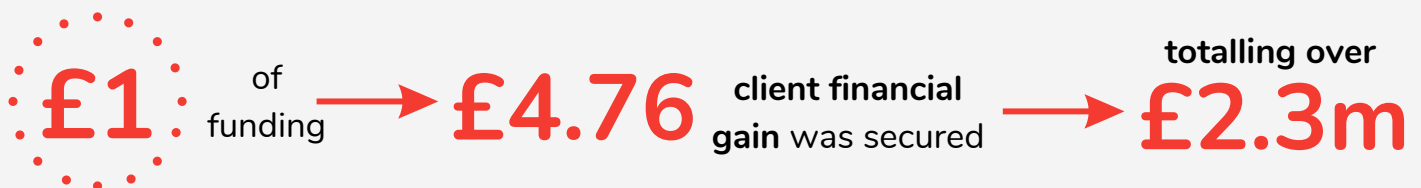
We received a total of 13 referrals for our Advance to Work courses.



ASAP's service continues to deliver tailored support to members of the Armed Forces community through a Scotland-wide helpline and through face-to-face casework in 11 regions.

ASAP advisors supported 2,043 individuals over the year and gave advice 10,819 times.

The service continues to provide value for money, as for every:



Legion Scotland's Pension Advice Service provided free and confidential advice, and legal representation to those in need of assistance in pursuing potential entitlement to a War Disablement Pension or a claim under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme.

Over the last 12 months they have received around 3,000 enquiries by telephone and email, with an increasing number of face-to-face meetings.

The service represented 93% of all cases listed by the Tribunal and achieved a 53% success rate, with financial benefit to veterans following appeal decisions totalling £820,526.

JOHN'S STORY

John spent thirty years in both the Royal Navy and the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) before he and his wife, Lena, were enjoying a well-earned retirement at their home in Fife.

As a deckhand in the Royal Navy, John took great pride in ensuring the upkeep of his various ships was first class when at sea, where he could be for one and a half to two years at a time.

Which is why, after seven adventure-laden years, John decided to leave the Royal Navy to spend more time with Lena.

Settling in Kirkcaldy, where John and Lena remain today, John began work as a miner prior to taking up a job at Rosyth Dockyard. Here, his proximity to ships eventually led John back to the High Seas with the RFA.

Another twenty-three years of Service with the RFA took John to retirement.

Life was going well until water started pouring through the roof of their home. The couple were told it would have to be totally replaced at great cost. The couple were panic-stricken, left wondering how they could pay.

It was at this point that Poppyscotland stepped in to provide a grant towards the cost of a new roof. It was a gesture that alleviated the couple's stress and has since allowed them to return to their normal life together.



SAMMY'S STORY



Whilst growing up in Glasgow, Sammy's friends were getting into trouble. Wanting to avoid the same path as his friends, Sammy joined the Army in 1986.

As his illustrious career, which saw Service across Europe, edged towards a conclusion, Sammy began to consider what would come after the Army.

Making use of resettlement opportunities, Sammy trained to become an HGV driver, subsequently working for Stagecoach, where he has been for over a decade.

Having resettled into civilian life with his family in Inverness, Sammy and his wife planned the trip of a lifetime to Mexico to celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary.

Sammy's beloved dog, Whisky, and one of Sammy's sons, were staying to look after the house. **But, as he was lazing on the beach, Sammy received a devastating call. His house was on fire.**

Thankfully, Sammy's son was not home when the fire broke out, but Whisky the dog tragically passed away.

Devastated, and conscious of the severe damage to his property, Sammy reached out to Poppyscotland. We gave Sammy immediate financial assistance to get his life back on track in the first few days.

Then, a few months later, the stress and tragedy of the situation dawned on Sammy, leading him back to us. **Poppyscotland arranged counselling sessions for him, which, Sammy said, "was just what I needed at exactly the right time."**

EDUCATION AND LEARNING UPDATE

Bud

Our interactive micro-museum, Bud, recently celebrated its 5th birthday.

Bud continues to be in high demand as it travels the length and breadth of Scotland visiting schools, events and communities.

Visitors on board this **free and fully accessible** resource learn about a range of topics including the history of the poppy and the stories of our service men and women. There are many engaging exhibits on board such as archive handling tools, 'talking portraits', and the opportunity to make your very own poppy.

Since hitting the road in April 2019, Bud has:

- Visited all **32 local authorities** in Scotland
- Met over **32,000 school pupils**
- Travelled over **52,000 miles**

Bud's impact is transformative, enabling us to develop awareness with visitors of all ages and backgrounds, and to increase beneficiary signposting to our welfare services.



Lady Haig's Poppy Factory

In 2023 we welcomed visitors back to the newly refurbished Lady Haig's Poppy Factory.

In the first year since reopening to the public our veterans have conducted more than 200 tours, totalling over 3000 visitors.

This beautifully curated heritage tour tells the story of the factory, its unique history, and the stories of the many veterans who have worked in the factory over the last 97 years.

From school classes to corporate teams and community groups, we have seen a wide range of visitors and received some outstanding feedback.

If you would be interested in joining us for a tour, kindly contact: factorytours@poppyscotland.org.uk.

“We were very impressed and moved by the work you are doing at the factory. We were made very welcome and the enthusiasm shown by your tour guides and the people working there really made the visit more memorable.”

We couldn't do this without your help.

Without your generosity, we would be unable to provide this breadth and depth of support across the country. On behalf of all those who will benefit from our services and care, thank you again for your support of Poppyscotland.

Find our research, reports and accounts online: <https://www.poppyscotland.org.uk>

Contact us → Call: 0131 557 2782 Email: enquiries@poppyscotland.org.uk

