

Armed forces covenant (LIBOR) fund

Successful tranche one projects

The importance of the covenant to the government is highlighted by the decision of the Chancellor to transfer £35 million from fines levied on the banks for attempting to manipulate LIBOR to the MOD for use in supporting the armed forces community.

The aim of the fund is to support the two principles of the armed forces covenant:

- that members of the armed forces community should not face disadvantage in comparison to other citizens
- that special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved

The first £1 million of the armed forces covenant (LIBOR) fund was allocated to the [Fisher House Project](#) at Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham in December 2012.

A further 15 projects, totaling £5.7 million, were awarded funding in the first tranche in March 2013:

- [UK4U Thanks!](#) Christmas boxes will send Christmas boxes to every member of the armed forces who is away on operations on Christmas Day in 2013 and 2014
- [Royal Navy and Royal Marines Childrens Fund](#) are going to produce a tri-Service, national booklet for Service families where a member of the family has [Post Traumatic Stress Disorder \(PTSD\)](#)
- [Felix Fund](#) will provide five day normalisation breaks to all 32 Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams expected to return from Afghanistan in the next 12 months, including outdoor pursuits such as rock climbing, abseiling and caving
- [RAF Widows Association](#) will offer training for those who are the first point of contact for new widows and widowers, providing friendship, practical support and counselling
- [Tickets for Troops](#) will work with event organisers to provide free tickets to musical, sporting, entertainment and cultural events for distribution to Service personnel and those who have been medically discharged
- [Combat Stress](#) are adding experienced community psychiatric nurses trained in addiction management to each of 14 Combat Stress Community Outreach teams for 3 years
- [Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association \(SSAFA\) Short Breaks](#) will offer holidays for children of Service personnel, who have additional needs and/ or a disability, allowing young people to develop their social skills and gain independence and providing respite care for Service families
- [SSAFA Support Groups](#) will establish mutual support groups providing emotional and practical help to families dealing with loss or struggling to cope with an injured loved one
- [SSAFA](#) Mental Health First Aid intends to train 200 veterans and members of forces families as Mental Health First Aid Trainers to detect the early signs of mental health problems
- [Combat Stress](#) will complete phase two of a 24 hour telephone helpline providing a stigma free first approach for help with mental health issues across the UK
- [SSAFA](#) Health, Wellbeing and Transition will develop of a minimum of 200 separate mentoring relationships offering one to one individual support through a volunteer mentor to

wounded, injured and sick Service leavers out of Personnel Recovery and Assessment centres

- [National Memorial Arboretum](#) will instigate a programme of improvements at the National Memorial Arboretum where the Armed Forces Memorial is the prime visitor attraction
- [Army Family Federation](#) will create an armed forces covenant cell within the AFF to ensure that Army families have equitable access to provision of public services and are not disadvantaged by their military service
- [Navy Family Federation](#) will create a regional network of Covenant Practice Experts, employing service spouses, to drive forward implementation of the armed forces covenant at a local level
- [RAF Family Federation](#) will create a network of RAF Family Federation regional representatives to liaise with local authorities and RAF units and families to better promote the armed forces covenant