

Annual Review 2018-19



ABF

THE SOLDIERS'

CHARITY

The Army's National Charity

THE SOLDIERS'
CHARITY
The Army's National Charity
75th ANNIVERSARY
1944-2019

For Soldiers. For Veterans
For Families. For Life

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Cobseo
The Confederation
of Service Charities



The Army's National Charity



Registered with
FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR

ABF The Soldiers' Charity is an incorporated charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales with Charity No.1146420, and in Scotland with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator with Scottish Charity Register No. SC039189.

ABF The Soldiers' Charity is a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (07974609) and was incorporated on 2nd March 2012.

Cover image: The Royal Logistic Corps' Silver Stars Parachute Display Team fly over Salisbury to mark ABF The Soldiers' Charity's 75th anniversary.

WELCOME FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE



This Annual Review 2018 - 19 describes the impact of our work over the last year and the crucial part played by our many supporters in facilitating our help for those in need. It has been another very strong year for ABF The Soldiers' Charity and I am especially pleased that, yet again, we have increased our core charitable expenditure whilst also making the biggest single grant in almost 75 years of existence.

We are not a charity that shouts loud about our achievements, nor seeks to embellish the extent of need within the Service community. Yet I feel we should take great pride in the relative scale and breadth of support we provide. Over the last year, we saw a significant uplift in the cost of providing support to individuals through the Regimental and Corps charities, and the underlying activities we undertake on behalf of

the Army. In parallel, we also saw an increase in the number of charities we funded - 92 this year - which collectively support our soldiers, veterans and their families in 68 countries across the globe. And as ever, our individual grants and the charities we fund span an incredible range of needs and support mechanisms.

On top of an 8% uplift in charitable expenditure (of which 19% went to the serving community), we were able to provide an additional grant of over £7 million to the new Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre at Stanford Hall - the replacement for Headley Court. Specifically, we gave £7 million to fund the cutting-edge Neurological Wing which deals with some of the most seriously injured soldiers (with further support provided by the Army Central Fund), whilst also funding other activities around the centre. This investment reflects the Board's intent to hold substantial reserves, not only to mitigate against unforeseen risks (like major conflict), but also to bring strategic impact to bear on the sector when the opportunity arises. Our contribution to the DNRC was the largest by any military charity which is appropriate, given the high volume of Army personnel treated by the centre - and a fitting tribute as we enter our 75th year.

None of this would have been possible without first raising the necessary funds - a very creditable £17.7 million this year.

Again, I must give heartfelt thanks to all our many and varied supporters both in the UK and around the world. I regard their efforts as especially impressive, given a generally difficult fundraising climate. It would also be remiss not to mention our own staff, both nationally and regionally, who work with such enthusiasm and commitment.

As 2019 unfolds, we will continue to mark our 75th anniversary - not for its own sake, but as an opportunity to express thanks to our supporters and reflect on our continued relevance to the serving and former soldiers of today. In the background, we remain conscious of the current political and economic uncertainties; substantial pressures on the provision of many public services and the challenges faced by many of our important partners who we fund or otherwise support. Where we can, we will help - but we have a strong bias to support only genuine need rather than aspiration or expectation, and to shape change across the sector by encouraging coordinated and effective action.

**MAJOR GENERAL (RET'D)
MARTIN RUTLEDGE CB OBE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
ABF THE SOLDIERS' CHARITY**

OUR VISION
 ALL SERVING
 SOLDIERS,
 VETERANS AND
 THEIR IMMEDIATE
 FAMILIES SHOULD
 HAVE THE
 OPPORTUNITY TO
 AVOID HARDSHIP
 AND ENJOY
 INDEPENDENCE
 AND DIGNITY.



01
 Agnes McCleod served as a Captain with the Queen Alexandra's Royal Nursing Corps. From 1946, she spent six years nursing soldiers wounded during the Second World War. Agnes now lives at Erskine, Scotland's leading carehome for ex-servicemen and women. We provide long-term funding to Erskine.

02
 Bob Semple, formerly of the Royal Engineers, was captured by Al-Qaeda whilst working as a contractor in Yemen in 2014. He was held hostage in a windowless cell for 18 months before his rescue. During Bob's confinement, we supported his wife, Sallie, and sons with the costs of their household bills to ensure the family could remain in their own home. Bob reunited with his family in August 2015.

03
 Bob Semple pictured at his wedding to Sallie.

04
 Our Board meeting in April 2019. Not shown: Lisa Worley, Major General Sharon Nesmith and Warrant Officer Class One Gavin Paton.

05
 Innes Aucott served in The Staffordshire Regiment between 1994 and 1998. He found it difficult to cope with life after the Army and suffered a mental breakdown. He was helped by Future 4 Heroes and The Poppy Factory – both supported by The Soldiers' Charity – and was then funded by our charity to undertake an HGV Class 2 course. He is now in full-time employment with a transport haulage company.

06
 We supported Brenda Hale when her husband, Captain Mark Hale, was killed in Afghanistan in 2009. Brenda and her daughter Alix (both pictured) are tireless ambassadors for our charity, raising funds and awareness for the Army family.



**WE WORK WITH VETERANS OF EVERY
 CONFLICT, FROM THE SECOND
 WORLD WAR TO THE MOST RECENT
 OPERATIONS, WHETHER THEY LIVE IN
 THE BRITISH ISLES OR OVERSEAS.**



OUR MISSION

We are the Army's national charity, giving a lifetime of support to soldiers, veterans and their immediate families when they are in need.



OUR OBJECTIVES

Since our formation in 1944, our objectives have been to benefit persons who are serving or who have served in the British Army, or their dependants, in any charitable way by the provision of grants, loans, gifts, pensions or otherwise. We work with veterans of every conflict, from the Second World War to the most recent operations, whether they live in the UK or overseas.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

When reviewing The Soldiers' Charity's aims and objectives, and when setting grant making policy and planning for the future, our Trustees have carefully considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The Soldiers' Charity provides a public benefit in that it supports the Army community, contributing to the defence of the UK and its interests. Through its external grants programme, The Soldiers' Charity also enables other charities to maximise their public benefit, in support of the Army family.



CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES OVERVIEW

WE PRIDE OURSELVES ON ACTING IMMEDIATELY WHEN HELP IS NEEDED, PROVIDING LIFELONG SUPPORT TO THE NATION'S SOLDIERS, VETERANS AND FAMILIES WHEN THEY ARE IN NEED.

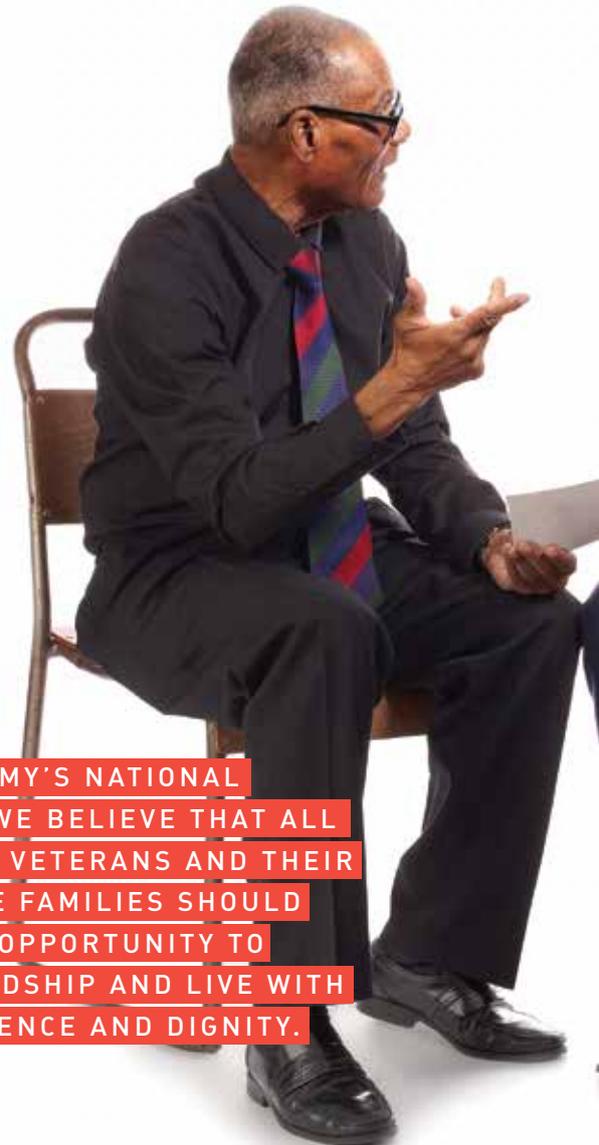
As the Army's national charity, we place the welfare of soldiers, veterans and their immediate families at the heart of all we do. In the past year, we have supported people in 68 countries across the globe, and funded 92 other charities and organisations to deliver specialist services to the Army family at large.

In FY 18-19, we spent £10.3m ensuring a complete spectrum of support to more than 70,000 members of the Army family in the areas it was needed most, such as: enabling independent living; caring for the elderly; training and education to increase employability; improving mental fitness; helping Army families; and securing suitable housing. This represents an increase of 8.4% in charitable expenditure compared to last year.

The Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre

In addition, our charity made a landmark grant of over £7 million to the new Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre (DNRC) at Stanford Hall. This represents the largest single award ever given by ABF The Soldiers' Charity, marking our enduring commitment to providing the very best support for the nation's Armed Forces.

The new facility will draw on expertise developed at Headley Court to create a bespoke, state-of-the-art clinical facility at the forefront of medical rehabilitation. Amongst other things, our grant will support the new ABF The Soldiers' Charity Neurological Wing; the centre's welfare fund and Norton House, which provides accommodation for families.



AS THE ARMY'S NATIONAL CHARITY, WE BELIEVE THAT ALL SOLDIERS, VETERANS AND THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILIES SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO AVOID HARDSHIP AND LIVE WITH INDEPENDENCE AND DIGNITY.

Want to know more / Donate / Get involved

then call 020 7901 8900

or visit www.soldierscharity.org

WE ARE NEVER JUDGEMENTAL AND WE ALWAYS ADOPT A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO THE PERSON OR FAMILY IN NEED OF SUPPORT.

WE ACT WITH SPEED. WHEN WE ARE ALERTED TO A PERSON OR FAMILY IN NEED, WE AIM TO MAKE THE RELEVANT GRANT IN 48 HOURS.



Our Three Mechanisms for Providing Support

1

WE MAKE GRANTS TO INDIVIDUALS, THROUGH THEIR REGIMENTAL AND CORPS CHARITIES

2

WE MAKE GRANTS TO OTHER CHARITIES AND ORGANISATIONS THAT DELIVER SPECIALIST SUPPORT TO SOLDIERS, VETERANS AND THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILIES

3

WE TAKE A KEY ROLE IN THE MILITARY WELFARE ECOSYSTEM BY: FUNDING ORGANISATIONS THAT CARRY OUT ARMY-RELATED CASEWORK (PARTICULARLY SSAFA); INVESTING IN THE CASEWORK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (TO ENSURE GRANTS ARE REVIEWED AND DISBURSED QUICKLY); AND COLLABORATING WITH AND PROVIDING ADVICE AND SUPPORT TO OTHER MILITARY CHARITIES AND ORGANISATIONS

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES OVERVIEW

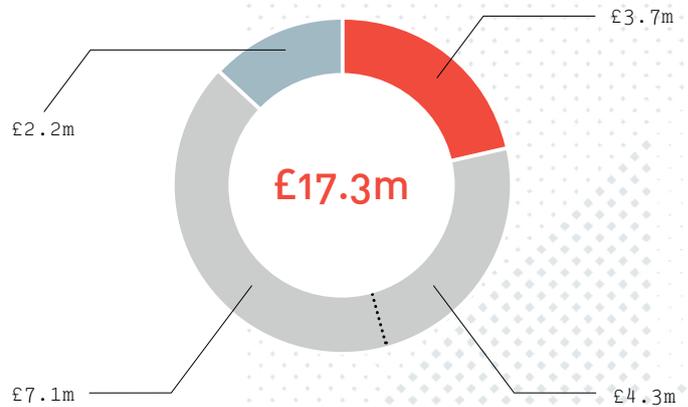
A Holistic Approach to Welfare

The overall scale, breadth and variety of our support is vast. It ranges from providing electric wheelchairs for disabled children, to helping very young serving families cope with sudden bereavement or traumatic loss. We supply stairlifts to injured former soldiers; cover care home fees for elderly veterans and provide much-needed respite breaks for war widows and widowers and their families. Our support to soldiers, serving and former, and their immediate families extends across the globe.

We are never judgemental, and we always adopt a holistic approach to the person or family in need of support. All applications for assistance are judged on their merits but 'need' rather than 'want' is our guiding principle. We achieve this through our agile and professional grant-making process, which considers requests on a daily basis. Grants are normally approved and payment made within 48 hours of casework being received.

Often, an individual in need will receive an initial grant, delivered through their Regimental or Corps charity; then be referred to a specialist charity that we have funded. They may then receive support from other partner charities - with assistance from us at every stage. Throughout, we rigorously focus on their need and allocate our support accordingly across a wide range of charity partners.

OUR CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE IN SUPPORT OF THE ARMY FAMILY



£17.3m

In FY 18-19 we spent £17.3m supporting more than 70,000 members of the Army family

£3.7m

We awarded £3.7m as grants to individuals in need



£4.3m

Our grants to other charities and organisations providing support to the Army family totalled more than £4.3m



£7.1m

In addition, this year we have spent £7.1m funding the Neurological Wing at the DNRC plus further support

£2.2m

We spent £2.2m supporting the military welfare ecosystem to ensure soldiers, veterans and their families' needs can be met in a timely and effective manner





The youngest person we have supported was **2** years old, the eldest was **102** years old



WE FUNDED 92 OTHER CHARITIES and organisations that are providing support to the Army family



We have supported the British Army family all over the world – in **68** countries this year



Around **19%** of our grants were spent supporting serving Army personnel and their families; the balance was spent on the veteran community



WE SPENT AROUND £15k A DAY and **£77k** a week on grants to individuals



SUPPORTING 70,000 MEMBERS OF THE ARMY FAMILY



HOW WE HELPED JOHN

John joined the Royal Engineers when he was just 18 years old, serving back-to-back tours in Northern Ireland at the height of The Troubles. He then served as a reservist between 1982 and 1984. As a result of his service in Northern Ireland, John developed deep-rooted trauma and physical health issues which went undiagnosed until just recently. He has since received support for PTSD from the NHS Talking Changes service and Combat Stress (for more information about our support to Combat Stress, see page 14).

Working together with Finchale Group, one of 92 charities supported by The Soldiers' Charity, John identified art as a form of therapy. Nervous around crowds and new environments, he was encouraged to pursue his love of sculpture, and is now studying for a degree in Fine Art. His sculptures representing his mental health journey were recently displayed as part of an exhibition featuring veteran artists.

The Soldiers' Charity awards John an annual bursary towards his degree, which he uses for equipment costs and transportation to and from the university.

“

WITHOUT THIS FUNDING I'D HAVE PROBABLY BEEN SAT AT HOME, FEELING SORRY FOR MYSELF... IT'S GIVEN ME A NEW LIFE WHICH ENABLES ME TO COPE WITH THE OLD ONE.

”

John

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES ENABLING INDEPENDENT LIVING

WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT ALL PEOPLE, REGARDLESS OF AGE OR DISABILITY, SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEAD FULL AND INDEPENDENT LIVES.

We are on hand to support veterans and their families, both young and old, with home adaptations and mobility equipment to enable them to live where they are most comfortable. Some will require substantial support for the rest of their lives, and we hold funds on behalf of the nation to ensure their needs are met (for more information, see page 20).

We work in partnership with Army Personnel Recovery Units (PRUs) to provide support to Wounded, Injured and Sick (WIS) soldiers. This is focused on helping soldiers with physical and mental injuries to find meaningful employment when they are discharged, and is funded with the help of support from the Deflog VQ Fund, Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo and Barclays Bank.

In addition, we fund a number of specialist charities that support former soldiers and their families to live independently. One such organisation is Launchpad, which provides accommodation, training, employment and housing support to vulnerable veterans in two refurbished homes in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne and Liverpool.



01 A recent site visit by The Soldiers' Charity staff to Launchpad's Avondale House.

02 Former Avondale House resident Darren served in The Royal Logistic Corps from 1994 to 1995. Thanks to the support he received, Darren is now building a new life in permanent, independent accommodation. ABF The Soldiers' Charity also provided Darren with a grant to purchase furniture, turning his new house into a home. Darren says: "I am very grateful to Avondale House and the support the staff have given me. Without the help from The Soldiers' Charity, I would not have been able to move on so quickly."





HOW WE HELPED ROB & KAREN

Rob served in The Royal Anglian Regiment for 16 years between 1991 and 2007, rising to the rank of Corporal. He was deployed all over the world, undertaking operational tours in Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Iraq, Afghanistan and Sierra Leone.

After discharge, Rob had various jobs but struggled to find permanent employment. He and his wife Karen found work abroad, but when the opportunity fell through, they found themselves homeless.

In 2018, Rob and Karen were referred to Launchpad, a charity supported by The Soldiers' Charity. Launchpad found the couple a temporary one-bedroom flat in Avondale House while they worked to rebuild their lives.

The Soldiers' Charity also supported Rob and Karen with an individual grant to purchase furniture for the flat, which is now homely and comfortable.

Rob and Karen are both seeking employment, and are looking forward to building a secure and independent life together.

“

THE SUPPORT FROM THE SOLDIERS' CHARITY HAS BEEN A LIFELINE REALLY. IT'S A NEW BEGINNING. ONWARDS AND UPWARDS.

”

Rob & Karen



WE ASSISTED 216 WIS SOLDIERS

with individual grants this financial year



WE SUPPORTED 390 INDIVIDUALS

through providing grants for mobility aids



WE SPENT MORE THAN £300,000

on specialist mobility aids for individuals

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES CARE FOR THE ELDERLY

OUR AIM IS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR SOLDIERS, FOR LIFE. IN FY 18-19, WE ARE SUPPORTING WORLD WAR TWO VETERANS TO LIVE WITH INDEPENDENCE AND DIGNITY – AND WILL BE DOING THE SAME FOR AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ VETERANS IN YEARS TO COME.

A key aspect of our work is ensuring that elderly veterans and their families have access to the highest quality care and equipment. Whether a veteran is living in the UK or overseas, we reach them through our extensive, established network to ensure they have the support they need.

We enable veterans to stay in their own homes by providing specialist electric beds that rise and recline; and by adapting homes with stairlifts and accessible bathrooms to ensure they are safe and comfortable. We also give grants for electrically powered vehicles to ensure they remain independently connected to their local communities. For those who are no longer able to stay at home, we assist with care home top-up fees. We support a number of leading national charities



01 Sid Sallis is the last surviving RASC Air Despatcher from the Battle of Arnhem in World War Two. He was a 21-year-old Corporal when he first flew in a Short Stirling to deliver supplies to troops of the British 1st Airborne Division. We support Sid with an annual grant towards his care home fees, allowing him to live where he is happy, secure and comfortable.

to provide top-quality care to elderly veterans across the UK. These include The Royal Star & Garter Homes in England; Erskine in Scotland; and The Somme Nursing Home in Northern Ireland. We also support international organisations taking care of veterans of the British Army overseas, such as the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League.



£608,500

We spent £608,500 supporting organisations that help elderly veterans



33

We continue to help veterans who served in World War Two, 33 this year



£1m

We spent over £1m on individual grants to veterans over 65 years old

Supporting Care for Veterans

WE PROVIDE FUNDING TO A RANGE OF CHARITIES AND ORGANISATIONS THAT PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR ELDERLY VETERANS.

One such organisation is Care for Veterans, which received a £50,000 grant from The Soldiers' Charity last year. Care for Veterans (formerly The Queen Alexandra Hospital Home) was established in 1919 to care for soldiers who had sustained life-changing injuries during the First World War.

Today, the charity's 60-bed facility in Worthing provides long-term nursing care, rehabilitation, respite and award-winning end-of-life care to disabled ex-Servicemen and women from the Armed Forces. Its care and rehabilitation includes physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy and neuropsychology, as well as social and recreational activities and a chaplaincy service.



Irene

Irene, 100, was born in Shoreditch two months before the end of the First World War. Her father had served in the Army in the Boer War. Irene's husband, Philip, was conscripted into the Army during World War Two and joined the Royal Artillery. On his return in 1945, he was awarded a certificate by Field Marshal Montgomery for 'outstanding good service', which Irene treasures to this day.

After the war, Irene worked as a dressmaker in Oxford Street before retiring to Worthing. In 2009 at the age of 90, she suffered a stroke and moved into residential care. Irene



Vardre

Vardre was born in Brighton in 1933 and grew up in Norfolk. He did National Service and went on to serve in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in the 1950s. He explains: 'I spent one year in Libya. I was a vehicle mechanic, working on Centurion tanks, as well as servicing all the other vehicles. I was out there for the Suez Crisis. I'll admit, I actually enjoyed my time out there because of the climate!'

After leaving the Army, Vardre trained as an accountant. He married and has two daughters. He originally came to Care for Veterans for a 5-week physio and respite stay, becoming a permanent resident in November 2015 and benefitting from our charity's support.

LAST YEAR,
34 MEMBERS
OF THE ARMY
FAMILY RECEIVED
PERMANENT OR
RESPIRE CARE
FROM CARE FOR
VETERANS.

enjoys a real laugh with other residents and going to the Social and Recreation room. She says 'I love it here. I am grateful for the funding support The Soldiers' Charity gives towards physiotherapy, social and recreational activities.'

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

TRAINING AND EDUCATION TO INCREASE EMPLOYABILITY

OUR VETERANS HAVE ADVANCED AND VARIED SKILLS GAINED OVER A LIFETIME IN THE MILITARY. WE PROVIDE GRANTS TOWARDS EDUCATION AND TRAINING, AND SUPPORT SPECIALIST CHARITIES TO HELP FORMER SOLDIERS EMBARK ON REWARDING NEW CAREERS.

Army life is a unique experience, and for some the transition to civilian life is challenging. We are here to help those who require additional support whilst taking this step. As such, we support Wounded, Injured and Sick soldiers who have had to leave the Army through no fault of their own. We also support families and partners when a soldier is left unable to work; or if a partner has been widowed or children have lost a parent.

This year, we welcomed Mission Motorsport to our grants portfolio. This charity offers former soldiers opportunities to work in the motorsport and automotive industry. Alongside skills in mechanics, logistics and management, the programme instils in veterans renewed self-confidence and the motivation to pursue their future goals.



Above
Mission Motorsport is the Forces' motorsport charity. its motto is "Race Retrain Recover."



**WE SPENT MORE
THAN £765,000**

on education support for individuals, including training course fees



**OVER 1,300
PEOPLE**

have been helped into employment following participation in the programmes we support

THREE OF THE CHARITIES AND ORGANISATIONS WE SUPPORTED IN THIS KEY AREA OF NEED WERE:



£382,833

RFEA - the Forces Employment Charity - is the leading source of ex-forces jobs and careers advice



£100,000

The Poppy Factory provides employment support for disabled veterans



£40,000

Mission Motorsport offers veterans work in motorsport and the automotive industry



HOW WE HELPED MARK

Mark, formerly of 1st Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, served for 22 years and undertook operational tours in Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan. On his last tour of Afghanistan, he was a Platoon Sergeant and was Mentioned in Dispatches for courage under fire.

In 2018, Mark was medically discharged from the Army with complex PTSD. He knew he wanted a civilian career that would utilise his Army skills and training, and decided to turn his passion for mountain biking into a career.

Our charity provided grants towards training and equipment to enable Mark to complete an Adventure Training Instructor course. Through our partnership with Barclays, he also received funding towards his Level 4 Mountain Biking course.

Mark is now a qualified Freelance Outdoor Instructor with his own adventure training business. He is optimistic about the future and dreams of one day having his own mountain centre. He and his fiancée Karly are now expecting their first child together.

“

I KNEW THE SOLDIERS' CHARITY WAS THERE FOR SOLDIERS IN NEED. YOU'RE NEVER PROUD TO ADMIT YOU'RE THAT SOLDIER IN NEED. BUT THE SOLDIERS' CHARITY WAS THERE FOR ME WHEN I NEEDED IT MOST.

”

Mark

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES INCREASING MENTAL FITNESS

MENTAL HEALTH IS A KEY AREA OF OUR WORK. WE PROVIDE WIDE-RANGING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PROMOTE MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WELLBEING AMONGST THE ARMY COMMUNITY.

Combat Stress continues to be our long-term strategic partner, providing residential care and outreach for patients and families facing a mental health crisis. Treatments can be sought for anxiety, depression, PTSD and multiple mental health diagnoses. We also support many local projects offering social and recovery settings which combat social isolation, loneliness and addiction in the veteran community.

In addition, we fund fresh initiatives such as the Pain Management Programme at King Edward VII's Centre For Veterans' Health. This programme seeks to address the mental and physical effects of chronic pain, in order to allow veterans to work towards more positive futures.



WE GAVE £350,000

to Combat Stress to support over 2,000 veterans with an array of mental health issues



WE GAVE £30,000

to Addaction to support veterans battling substance misuse and addiction through the 'Right Turn' programme



WE HELPED FUND

the Pain Management Programme at King Edward VII's Hospital with a grant of £22,380, allowing 123 patients to access the life-changing service



Above
For 15 years, we have been providing an annual grant to Finchale Group for its work with veterans in the North East.

Supporting Finchale



We have a long-standing relationship with Finchale Group, a specialist employment support organisation based in the North East. We have supported Finchale for many years and in 2015 worked with them to create the role of the ABF Case Manager – a dedicated British Army veteran case worker who provides one-on-one, long-term support to veterans.

In FY18-19, we awarded Finchale an annual grant of £32,866 to fund their ABF Case Manager, and £74,000 for individuals who need additional support. This funding covers anything from training course fees to mental health counselling, or helping a young single mother keep up with rent payments.

Vicki

Vicki served as a Corporal with the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps for 14 years, deploying to Bosnia and Kosovo. She left the Army in 2004 and worked as a carer for the elderly whilst bringing up her son as a single mum.

As a result of workplace bullying, Vicki was forced to leave her job. Her son began to experience behavioural problems, which added to the strain. Vicki's mental health deteriorated and she struggled financially.



Through her local job centre, Vicki discovered Finchale Group and made contact with Mark, the ABF Case Study Manager. Mark worked with her to complete a debt relief order and referred her for counselling. But what Vicki needed most was someone to talk to. Mark was there for her.

Vicki continues to act as sole carer for her son and is working with Mark to manage her finances and continue her mental health counselling.



WE AWARDED THE MATTHEW PROJECT

£38,277 to provide therapy and activities to veterans and serving personnel in Norfolk and Suffolk



DUNDEE THERAPY GARDEN

We have supported the Dundee Therapy Garden since its inception, this year giving £15,000 towards horticultural therapy for veterans



BY SUPPORTING REVITALISE,

we helped 150 families with respite breaks this year

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES HELPING ARMY FAMILIES

NO ONE IS IMMUNE TO LIFE'S CHALLENGES AND THE UNEXPECTED CAN THROW FAMILIES INTO A STATE OF EMOTIONAL AND FINANCIAL DESPAIR. OUR TEAM RESPONDS TO INDIVIDUAL GRANT REQUESTS WITHIN 48 HOURS, ENSURING FAMILIES RECEIVE THE HELP THEY NEED.

We are committed to supporting the immediate families of those who have served their country. Our help comes in many forms - furnishing a new home after a relationship breakdown; funding a relative's funeral; helping repair a leaking roof or boiler; or assisting with the grocery bill for a single parent who has fallen on hard times.

When providing financial assistance, we signpost families to the relevant local services such as debt advice and support or available state benefit. This helps the family to build financial security and avoid a similar crisis in the future.

We continue to work especially closely with, and fund, the Army Families Federation, to improve the quality of life for Army families around the world.



01

01
Andy pictured at home with his wife and children.

02
Andy has taken part in numerous events for our charity over the years. He is pictured here in the Ultra 6 Challenge, travelling by bike from Land's End to John O'Groats.



02



WE RUN AN EXTENSIVE BURSARY PROGRAMME

to support children from Army families: through this, 5 children in particularly difficult circumstances were able to stay at school this year



WE HELPED 459 FAMILIES

with funeral costs, spending £437,258 to ensure they could bury their veteran with dignity



RAINBOW TRUST CHILDREN'S CHARITY

Rainbow Trust Children's Charity was supported with a grant of £15,000 to provide a family support worker for Army families in Chippenham with a terminally ill child



HOW WE HELPED ANDY

Andy served with 3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment. Whilst on tour in Afghanistan, he stood on an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and lost his right leg below the knee, left leg above the knee and right arm. He is now married with a young son and daughter.

After only two weeks in hospital, Andy was ready to make his first trip home. However, there was an urgent need for his house to be made wheelchair accessible. We awarded an immediate grant for a wheelchair ramp, alterations to the front entrance and a bed downstairs. Over the years, The Soldiers' Charity has provided grants for further home adaptations, enabling Andy to enjoy family life and independence.

Andy is a passionate Ambassador and an accomplished public speaker, regularly representing our charity at events across the UK. 2019 marks the 10th anniversary since Andy was operationally injured, and he is undertaking countless challenges to raise funds and awareness of The Soldiers' Charity.

“

AFTER MY DISCHARGE I CHOSE TO BECOME EVEN MORE INVOLVED WITH THE SOLDIERS' CHARITY BECAUSE THEY SUPPORT THE FULL SPECTRUM OF THE ARMY FAMILY. I KEEP PUSHING MYSELF FORWARD TO SHOW OTHER GUYS INJURED IN SERVICE WHAT CAN BE DONE. THAT IT'S NOT THE END OF THE WORLD AND YOU CAN CARRY ON AS NORMAL A LIFE AS POSSIBLE.

”

Andy

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES SECURING SUITABLE HOUSING

HOUSING IS AN ISSUE FOR MANY IN SOCIETY TODAY AND VETERANS ARE NO EXCEPTION. WE ASSIST INDIVIDUALS TO MOVE INTO AND STAY IN SECURE HOUSING, WHETHER THEY HAVE BEEN LIVING ON THE STREETS; SOFA-SURFING; OR LIVING IN UNSUITABLE OR UNSAFE HOMES.

We do this by providing grants to individuals and families who are facing eviction, or in need of maintenance support for their current house. We also fund a number of charities across the UK who tackle the needs of those on the frontline of the housing crisis.

One of our partners is Amicus Trust, which provides homeless adults with complex mental health needs with housing and support. We also support Changing Lives, a charity which offers specialist housing support to veterans in Gateshead and Newcastle.



OVER £1.2 MILLION

was spent on grants to individuals with housing needs

£518,109

We spent £518,109 on essential household domestic appliances such as fridges and washing machines

£417,523

We spent £417,523 on grants to other charities supporting veterans with housing needs

Supporting Stoll



In FY18-19, we were delighted to award a grant of £40,000 to Stoll, a leading provider of supported housing for veterans and our longstanding partner in the sector. Stoll provides state-of-the-art supported housing to vulnerable veterans and an outreach service for those veterans struggling to find a home. These dedicated housing schemes place veterans together, so they will be with peers who understand the impact of Army life and can help them overcome any challenges.



01
Charles Louis pictured with Stoll Outreach worker Sophie, who helped him to find a new flat in London.

02
Charles pictured in his new flat, now fully furnished with support from The Soldiers' Charity.



Charles

Charles served in The Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1961 to 1973. Following his service, he continued to work in the UK until he retired and moved home to his native Dominica. In 2017, Charles lost his home when Hurricane Maria struck and was forced to evacuate back to the UK.

Charles slept on his daughter's sofa for a year, but it was difficult for her to accommodate him and her two young children in a two bedroom flat. He contacted the Stoll Outreach team, who assisted him to find appropriate housing in London.

Charles now had a new flat to call his own - but having lost his belongings to the hurricane, he could not afford to furnish it. Without furniture, he risked losing the accommodation all together.

We stepped in with an individual grant to help Charles furnish his flat. He can now sleep in a bed again, with a secure and comfortable place to call home.

**I CANNOT THANK
THE SOLDIERS'
CHARITY ENOUGH FOR
SUPPORTING ME WITH
MY FLAT SO MANY
YEARS AFTER LEAVING
THE ARMY. IT WAS LIKE
I FOUND MY PARADISE.**

SUPPORTING THE MILITARY WELFARE ECOSYSTEM

We take great care and invest substantial resource in playing a key role in the military welfare ecosystem, collaborating with our sister Service charities (the Royal Naval Benevolent Trust, the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity and the RAF Benevolent Fund), other charities that support the Army family, government and the Army, to ensure we have a comprehensive picture of what is the need and to guard against duplication of effort. In particular, we fund the casework and Casework Management System costs of the Regimental and Corps charities.

This financial year we have spent £2.2m on activities that fall outside the responsibility of our principal business of grant-making but are key to ensuring soldiers, veterans and their immediate families' needs are met in a timely and effective manner.

Funding casework

All our grants are made in partnership with the Regimental and Corps charities and are supported by detailed casework as a key element of our governance procedures. These organisations aim to help all those who currently serve or have served in their respective Regiments or Corps (including any antecedent Regiments/Corps) and who find themselves or their dependants in need. We rely on organisations such as SSAFA and The Royal British Legion (TRBL) to undertake this work. Both SSAFA and TRBL train volunteers and staff to visit soldiers, veterans and their families and report on the need as they find it including a review of the financial situation in which the family finds itself. In the last financial year, we spent £200,000 funding SSAFA in order to ensure that need could be speedily and adequately assessed.

Funding the casework management system

Nearly all individual grants we make, some 4,528 this financial year, are via the presentation of casework on the Digital Casework Management System. This digital platform enables detailed information to be passed securely between Regimental and Corps charities, caseworkers (such as SSAFA) and grant makers (such as The Soldiers' Charity) - and enables grants to be paid out quickly. This system continues to require substantial investment from us to ensure data remains secure and to guarantee that when the appropriate information is provided those who need help can have their case assessed and, if appropriate, have a grant disbursed to support them as quickly as possible.

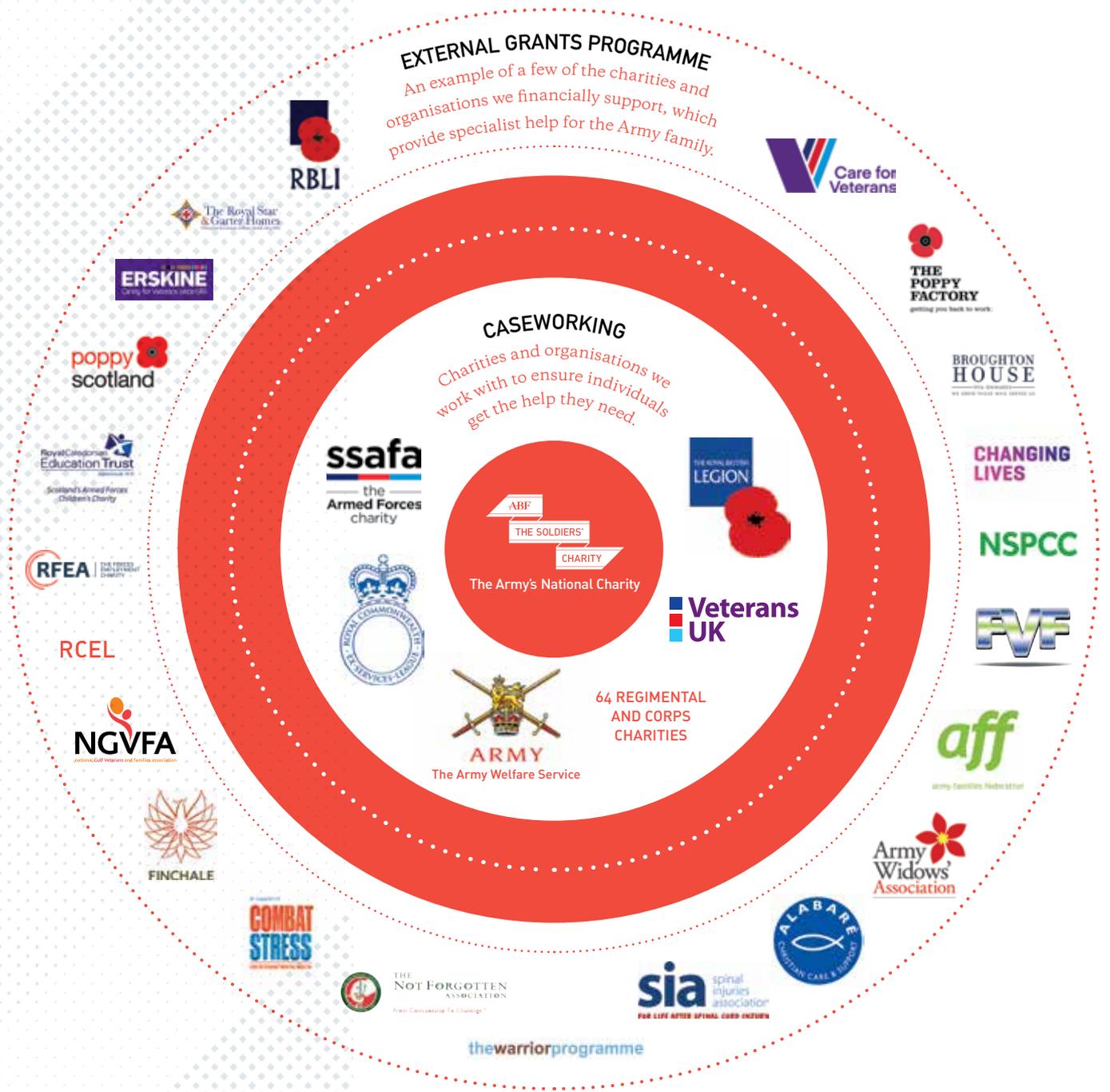
Due diligence

Our governance process is at the heart of all we do, and accordingly substantial staff resource is invested. This process includes checks on grant recipients (often in the form of Trustee-led visits), and quarterly audits by external Regimental/Corps staff of our individual grants programme. These site visits for audit purposes help provide us with an overall picture of the military welfare ecosystem and assist us with gauging the 'need' landscape. The emphasis on a comprehensive governance process is critical when it comes to examining applications for funding and auditing the outcomes related to our grants.

Administering funds on behalf of others

We continue to administer funds on behalf of the nation, such as the Falklands Fund, Gulf Fund and Afghanistan Fund. These primarily provide very long-term support to veterans wounded or injured in those conflicts, as well as their families. These funds are subject to the same governance processes and staff resources, but we have absorbed the associated costs related to managing these funds in the interest of efficiency, partnership and collaboration - ensuring that optimal financial support is obtainable and distributed to those in need.





DEFENCE AND NATIONAL REHABILITATION CENTRE

THIS YEAR, WE ARE CELEBRATING A LANDMARK £7.1M GRANT TO THE NEW DEFENCE AND NATIONAL REHABILITATION CENTRE (DNRC) AT STANFORD HALL.

This grant represents the largest single award ever given by our charity. It is a fitting tribute for our 75th anniversary year, as we mark our enduring commitment to providing the very best support for soldiers, veterans and their families.

The new facility will include the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DMRC), which has recently completed a move from Headley Court where it had stood since the Second World War. Since then, it has been transformed into a tri-service centre at the cutting edge of medical rehabilitation. The move to Stanford Hall represents the next step on that journey.

We supported the former DMRC at Headley Court for many years, and were clear that the same relationship should exist with the new facility at Stanford Hall. Army personnel will invariably represent a large majority of those who pass through the centre. Many of those will have already received support from our charity - particularly if they have passed through the Army Recovery capability - and some will require our support for many years after discharge. Our commitment to the DNRC allows us to continue to provide seamless support for those undergoing rehabilitation. The centrepiece of our contribution to the DNRC is the £7m grant to the "ABF The Soldiers' Charity Neurological Wing"; a ground-breaking facility that will deliver world-class support to those with brain injuries. Some of these injuries will be amongst the DNRC's most serious cases, requiring long-term support. Beyond this, we are pleased to underpin the centre's wider welfare activity,

and assist SSAFA with the provision of accommodation for visiting families at Norton House. All of this feels absolutely right in our 75th anniversary year.

In addition to this, we were delighted to assist with brokering a further £1 million contribution from the Army Central Fund. We work very closely with this charity to deliver welfare and benevolent support across the Army family, in line with our ethos of shaping change by encouraging coordinated and effective action.



01
The Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre (DNRC).

02
ABF The Soldiers' Charity Chairman, Lieutenant General (Ret'd) Philip Jones and Chief Executive, Major General (Ret'd) Martin Rutledge, pictured with The Duke of Westminster in front of the ABF The Soldiers' Charity Neurological Wing.

OUR MERCHANDISE

SUPPORT SOLDIERS, VETERANS AND THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILIES THIS YEAR BY BUYING A LOVED ONE A GIFT FROM OUR ONLINE SHOP. BURSTING WITH NEW IDEAS AND OLD FAVOURITES, WE HAVE SOMETHING FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY.

From cards and toys to gifts and clothing, our fantastic products are available now and, as an added incentive, we are offering all Annual Review readers a discount. Simply enter 'SOLDIER19' at the checkout and get 15% off your order.

01

Heritage Leather Bracelet

Stylish and classic, our new heritage leather bracelet is made from plaited leather and uses a simple magnetic clasp to fix round the wrist. Available in M and L.

£20.00



01

02

Soldier Moneybox

Let the soldier guard your pennies in this lovely wooden moneybox for children and make saving fun for little ones!

£10.00



02

03

Technical T-Shirt and Baseball Cap

Made from 100% dry-fit wicking material this T-shirt is excellent at keeping you cool while you are active and working up a sweat! Available in navy or black, our unisex caps are made from 100% brushed cotton and are fully adjustable.

T-shirt £15.00, Cap £10.00



03

FUNDRAISING

We could not annually assist more than 70,000 members of the Army family across 68 countries without our fantastic supporters. We are extremely grateful to each and every person and organisation that makes our grant-making possible.

Fundraising standards

We adhere to the highest fundraising standards. Our fundraising success is directly related to our reputation and we go to great lengths to protect the public, including vulnerable people, by, for example, avoiding cold calling, street 'chugging' or any other practices that are not in line with The Soldiers' Charity's values. We are committed to the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Standards to ensure we meet the highest standards, so supporters and volunteers can give and fundraise with confidence and trust.

Our behaviour

We promise to always show respect and never pressure anyone to make a donation. We want the decision to give to always be an active choice on the part of the giver and we are particularly sensitive when dealing with vulnerable people. We have a comprehensive supporter engagement policy, which incorporates all elements of fundraising and associated activities.

We do not sell personal details to other charities or other third parties. We only share personal information with suppliers that we engage to process data on our behalf; and such processing is only conducted under formal data processing agreements.

Safeguarding

The Soldiers' Charity is committed to pro-actively safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults with whom staff, or any organisation acting on our behalf, come into contact during fundraising, benevolence or outreach activities. We reviewed our safeguarding policy in early 2018, having taken expert counsel to ensure it is fully up-to-date and fit for purpose. We take all reasonable care to protect our beneficiaries and supporters, and comply with all relevant legal obligations and statutory guidance, with safeguarding being integral to our recruiting process. There is also a documented procedure for reporting serious incidents to the Charity Commission and relevant statutory bodies. In FY18-19 there were no such matters to report.

Accessibility

We make it easy for people to get in touch with us either by phone, letter or email. Whether someone wants to ask a question about our work or how we spend donations, or wants to find out about an event we are organising, or to update their communication preferences, we pride ourselves on being responsive and accessible. We have a complaints process in place, should any supporter be unhappy or express concerns about our activity; and complaints received this financial year remain at a very low level.

Complying with GDPR

The Soldiers' Charity takes the privacy of its beneficiaries, supporters and volunteers very seriously. In preparation for the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) that came into effect in May 2018, we expended considerable effort with our preparations. These have included publishing a comprehensive new privacy policy on our website; taking due note of guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), the Fundraising Regulator and the Institute of Fundraising; carefully defining the lawful basis of processing personal data; and conducting regular staff and trustee awareness training.

Cyber security

During 2018, the charity invested to further enhance our highly capable Information Technology (IT) support team in order to keep pace with governance, cyber security and to drive opportunities for innovation. This enabled us to review our hardware, software and processes, make tangible savings and focus resources to achieve a more resilient cost effective IT infrastructure with maximum interoperability between our electronic systems. As a direct result we then passed an independent audit to achieve 'Cyber EssentialsPlus' certification, demonstrating that the Charity has a comprehensive and effective Information Security Management System (ISMS).

Relationships with agencies and commercial providers

We have a small in-house fundraising team and we employ external agencies to add additional expertise or capacity, for example event management companies when we are organising largescale events. This is more cost effective than trying to do everything ourselves. We always ensure signed contracts are in place and complete due diligence checks on the supplier.



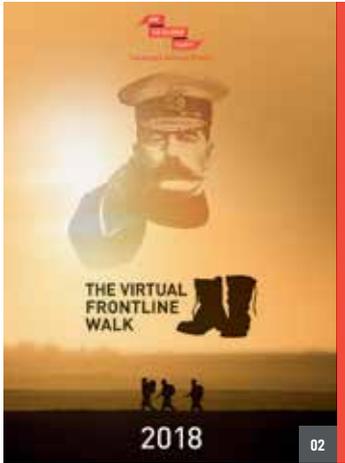
01

01
Captains Dominic Cork and Matthew Hoggard stand with their teams at our third City Invitational Cup cricket match and gala dinner. This is held as part of our partnership with the Honourable Artillery Company, which has raised the incredible amount of more than £150,000 since its inception in 2016.



04

04
2018 saw the return of our successful Wheels on the Western Front cycling event, organised by our West Midlands Regional Office. The event saw 60 riders complete the demanding 428-mile route across France and Belgium in just six days.



02

02
In 2018, we introduced our first virtual event to our portfolio, The Virtual Frontline Walk. Participants were tasked with walking 100km over 40 days leading up to November 11 and to visit local military memorials, cemeteries and sites of historical significance. The response and positive feedback from our supporters was overwhelming with over 200 sign ups from around the world raising tens of thousands of pounds.



03

03
In 2018, our intrepid ambassador Captain Lou Rudd became the first Briton to walk, unsupported and unassisted, across the highest, driest and coldest continent on earth. Lou completed his Antarctic traverse in support of The Soldiers' Charity and to honour his friend, Henry Worsley, who tragically lost his life attempting the same feat in 2016.



05

05
Paul Gooding, Chairman of Vitax and Brigadier (Ret'd) Robin Bacon, Chief of Staff at The Soldiers' Charity celebrate the return of our partnership for a second year. To date, Vitax have raised a fantastic total of over £10,000 for our work.

NATIONAL EVENTS

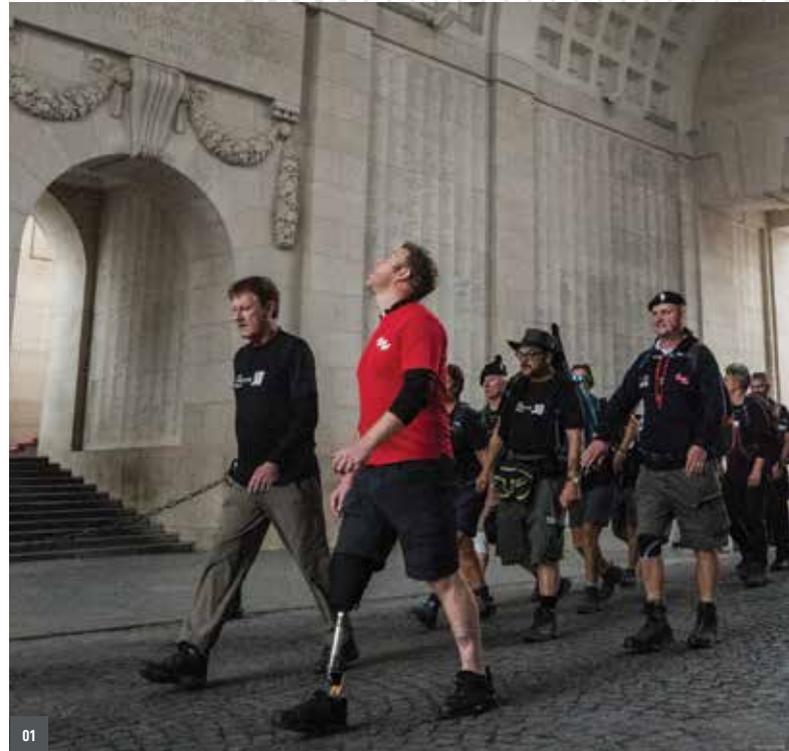
EVERY YEAR, OUR NATIONAL EVENTS TEAM COORDINATES A SERIES OF FLAGSHIP EVENTS AND CHALLENGES ACROSS THE UNITED KINGDOM AND BEYOND. OUR EVENTS PROGRAMME IS A MAJOR SOURCE OF INCOME FOR THE CHARITY AND WE ARE INCREDIBLY GRATEFUL TO THE MANY THOUSANDS OF PARTICIPANTS WHO ENABLE US TO GO ON PROVIDING VITAL SUPPORT TO THE ARMY FAMILY.

The Frontline Walk

We are delighted to announce that our annual event, The Frontline Walk, has raised £1m since its inauguration in 2014. The Walk, which sees participants take on a 100km guided trek along the Western Front of World War One, has grown in popularity over the last five years and we are so grateful to our walkers for their hard work and commitment.

Together, our walkers have built a strong community full of good cheer, friendly chit-chat and a shared motivation to keep one another training. Without them, the Walk wouldn't be the success it is today. Every step taken has provided an opportunity to contemplate 100 years of sacrifices made by the Army for our security and prosperity, to pay homage to those who returned and to help us be here for their tomorrow.

GET INVOLVED BY VISITING SOLDIERSCHARITY.ORG/EVENTS



Five Years of The Frontline Walk



£2,200 RAISED FOR OUR CHARITY

by the average participant



47,000KM IN TOTAL WALKED

more than the globe's circumference



A TOTAL OF 476 SUPPORTERS

have taken part in Frontline Walk



OVER 61 MILLION

steps walked between them



01
Frontline Walkers pass under the Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium, October 2018.

02
A participant in Rifle Run, 2019.

03
The Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch, April 2018.



Rifle Run

2018 saw us launch Rifle Run, based on an Army basic training exercise known as a march and shoot, Rifle Run is a 10km run – but only if you can shoot straight. The first and only event of its kind welcomes competitors to the stunning EJ Churchill Shooting Ground near High Wycombe to take on the 10km cross-country run with shooting challenges along the way.

Cateran Yomp

The Cateran Yomp continues to go from strength to strength as Perthshire welcomed over 1,000 Yompers raising money for The Soldiers' Charity. Participants challenged themselves to walk 22, 36 or the fearful 54 miles in just 24 hours. The sun shone and spirits were high as hundreds of thousands of pounds were raised for soldiers, veterans and their immediate families.

Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch

On Wednesday 11th April, we welcomed over 1,300 guests to Guildhall for a day packed with curry, silent auctions and prize draws – all in support of the Armed Forces. The atmosphere was electric with our guests ending their day with a stomach full of food and a smile on their faces. We were graced with the presence of HRH Princess Eugenie, who was this year's Royal Guest of Honour. The 11th annual Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch raised over £190,000, bringing the total raised since 2008 to £1.9 million.

Fundraising Army

Hundreds of supporters ran, walked, cycled or jumped out of perfectly functioning airplanes in 2018 to raise money for The Soldiers' Charity. An enormous thank you to everyone who supported us in 2018.



REGIONAL EVENTS

OUR REGIONAL TEAMS HAVE HAD ANOTHER INCREDIBLE YEAR RAISING MONEY AND AWARENESS WITH THE HELP OF OUR FANTASTIC REGIONAL SUPPORTERS AND VOLUNTEERS.



01

Nottinghamshire ACF lend their support to the County Committee Clay Pigeon shoot.



02

Hexham Detachment, Northumbria ACF, is crowned winner of the 2018-19 Revision Cadet Challenge.



03

03

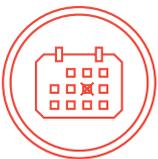
Soldiers from 16 Medical Regiment set out to cycle the equivalent distance (699km) from the Normandy Beaches to John Frost Bridge in Arnhem in 24 hours.

04

Pauline-Anne Jones celebrates with her grandchildren after completing the Spinnaker Tower Abseil in Portsmouth.



04



OVER 600 REGIONAL EVENTS



OVER 1,000 REGIONAL VOLUNTEERS



05

Commanding Officer 2CS Bn REME (Lt Col Jamie Hayward) proudly holding the Famous Grouse trophy sponsored by Edrington. The trophy is awarded with 48 bottles of Famous Grouse Whisky to the most supportive unit of the charity in Scotland.



05



06

Lt Col Duggan; Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Mark Carleton-Smith; Sir Max Hastings and Major Kelly at The Tower of London for the WW1 Commemoration Gala Dinner.

07

Amy and Mel from the North East regional office, keeping calm and currying on at the Finchale Big Curry.



07

08

Skydive North West, Cumbria. Skydiving is a popular challenge event with our fundraisers. This year alone, over 120 Junior Soldiers from AFC Harrogate have undertaken a sponsored skydive.



08

09

Soprano Clara Wilson raising money at Bangor's Bloomfield Centre, Northern Ireland.



09

10



10

The Chelsea Pensioners make a 'hole-in-one' in support of our annual Charity Golf Day at Celtic Manor Resort in Wales.

OUR PARTNERSHIPS

WE BENEFIT FROM THE SUPPORT OF A WIDE RANGE OF TRUSTS, FOUNDATIONS AND CORPORATE PARTNERS WHOSE GENEROSITY ENABLES US TO CONTINUE CARING FOR THE NATION'S SOLDIERS, VETERANS AND FAMILIES. PARTNERSHIPS THIS YEAR HAVE INCLUDED:

Breaking down barriers to employment with BAE Systems

We work in partnership with BAE Systems to provide educational and vocational training grants to soldiers and veterans experiencing difficulties finding a civilian career. In 2018/19, BAE Systems helped 33 soldiers and veterans in need to enhance their skills and long-term employment prospects across a range of industries, including construction, welfare and marketing. Beneficiaries represented 18 different Regiments and Corps and grants included funding towards a Rigging Course, a Personal Trainer Course and an Aeronautical Engineering Degree. A beneficiary of our Education and Training Grants Programme says: "When you're in the deepest, darkest hole and you can't see any way to get up and out, just imagine that somebody's throwing you a rope. The help of The Soldiers' Charity is setting me up for a new career: hopefully a long and happy second career."

As well as supporting our grants programme, colleagues at BAE Systems also took on a skydive with the Red Devils to raise vital funds for our work. Thanks to their support, and the continued commitment of BAE Systems, we can ensure that even more soldiers and veterans have the best opportunity to capitalise on their existing skills and gain sustainable employment.

Re-imagining Christmas with Advent of Change

In 2018, Advent of Change launched its innovative charity advent calendar, raising awareness and almost £100,000 for 24 fantastic charities in a matter of weeks.



The charity advent calendar invited people to give back in the countdown to Christmas and set a new tradition of giving, rather than receiving. Each door revealed a different donation to one of 24 incredible charities featured, including The Soldiers' Charity.

The calendar attracted the attention of John Lewis & Partners, who became the exclusive retail partner and stocked Advent of Change in stores nationwide and online. Exciting endorsements also came from household names such as Sir Richard Branson, Lawrence Dallaglio OBE, Holly Branson and Bob Wilson OBE.

Kristina Salceanu, Founder of Advent of Change, said: "Advent of Change began with one simple idea: to give the gift of giving at Christmas. And that small idea has already taken on a life of its own. Here at Advent of Change we have captured the imagination of so many people already, and we really do believe that this simple concept has the power to change the world."

Thanks to those who purchased a calendar, ABF The Soldiers' Charity received a fantastic gift of over £4,000 to support soldiers, veterans and their families in times of need.

To find out more about Advent of Change and their exciting plans for 2019 visit www.adventofchange.com



The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo continues its exceptional support

Following the success of its annual spectacular, The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo donated £1 million to 13 UK-based charitable military organisations and arts bodies - including a substantial donation to ABF The Soldiers' Charity.

Delivering world-class events rooted in Scottish tradition and military history, the Tattoo has delighted and astonished generations of spectators since its inauguration in 1950. The event has a long history of charitable giving and we are honoured to have been chosen, once again, as one of its beneficiary charities. We would like to thank the Tattoo for such a generous donation, which will help us continue to support soldiers, veterans and their families in the UK and beyond.

The Bridging the Gap Project

The Bridging the Gap Project helps Wounded, Injured and Sick (WIS) and vulnerable veterans secure employment after leaving the Army and is delivered in partnership with RFEA, The Forces Employment Charity.

Currently, WIS service leavers only receive 2 years of employment support from the government. For some, this duration of support is not enough. The individuals being supported through Bridging the Gap are often highly vulnerable veterans, with many complex obstacles in their lives. Most have been long term unemployed and have a variety of issues that include physical impairments and mental health challenges which make it difficult for them to obtain - and maintain - employment. The Bridging the Gap Project ensures that these individuals don't get left behind by providing expert vocational case-working support through three Specialist Vocational Advisors. It ensures that Army WIS veterans receive seamless employment support, irrespective of where they are on their recovery journey.

We are extremely grateful to The Garfield Weston Foundation, the Dyers' Company and to all of the organisations that have supported this ground breaking endeavour.

To speak to our Partnerships Team about opportunities to add value to your organisation in support of our work with soldiers, veterans and their families, please email partnerships@soldierscharity.org or call 0207 811 3963.



01 The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, August 2018 (credit: The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo).

02 Advent of Change Founder Kristina in John Lewis, the exclusive retail partner (credit: Advent of Change).

2018 PHOTO COMPETITION

THIS YEAR SAW THE RETURN OF OUR ANNUAL PHOTO COMPETITION, WHICH EVERY YEAR WELCOMES HUNDREDS OF ENTRIES FEATURING ALL ASPECTS OF ARMY LIFE. AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BY OUR CELEBRITY JUDGES, 12 SHORTLISTED ENTRIES WERE CHOSEN AND TOP PRIZE AWARDED TO STEVE JONES FOR HIS IMAGE, 'DADDY'S GIRL.' THE 12 SHORTLISTED ENTRIES ARE FEATURED IN OUR 2019 CALENDAR, WITH THE WINNING IMAGE SECURING THE FRONT COVER.



02



01

01 Daddy's Girl, Steve Jones

02 Take the Strain, Shane White

03 Winter Defence, Philip Carr

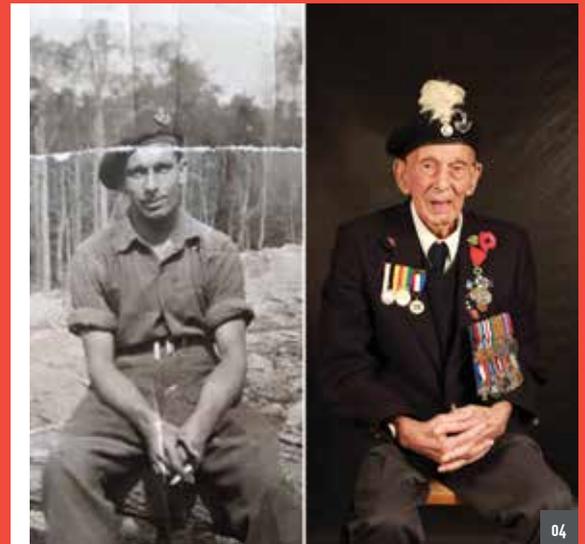
04 Jack Bellis age 22-102, Rebecca Jones

05 Veterans in Scarlet, Paul Buchanan



THESE IMAGES
CAPTURE EVERYTHING
WE ESPOUSE - SERVICE,
DUTY, BRAVERY AND
NATIONAL PRIDE

WO1 Glenn Haughton OBE,
Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chiefs
of Staff Committee, 2018 Photo
Competition Judge.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Overview

We have had a successful year, generating an income of £17.7 million (FY 17-18: £20.4 million). This has come from a wide range of sources such as donations from individuals, trust and foundations; direct marketing appeals; legacies; high-profile events and income from investments and cash deposits.

We received the final £1m tranche of the £3m LIBOR funding awarded to us in 2016 to help improve childcare and community centre facilities for Army families. We thank the Chancellor of the Exchequer for his confidence in our governance of these funds.

As a charity, we benefit from the generosity of a number of organisations who give freely of their time, energy and financial support. There are too many to name here but we are grateful to them all. Special thanks this year must go to: Barclays Bank, BAE Systems, The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, the Honourable Artillery Company, Garfield Weston, MBDA, RIFT, Robert Galbraith Limited and Little, Brown Book Group.

As detailed earlier in this report, our core charitable expenditure was £10.3 million, representing an increase of 8.4% on last year. In addition, an investment of over £7m has been made in the newly established Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre (DNRC) at Stanford Hall. We are absolutely delighted to have made a contribution to this world-class centre out of our reserves.

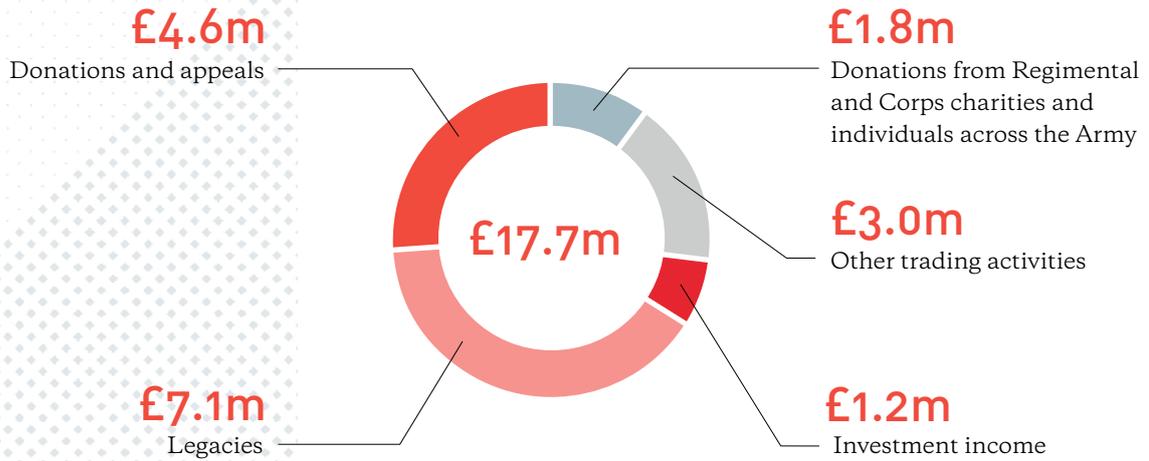
The total costs of raising funds for the year were £5.7 million (FY 17-18: £5.2 million) as we invested more in income generating activities.

Total expenditure rose to £22.9 million (FY 17-18: £14.7 million) due to the aforementioned grant to the DNRC.

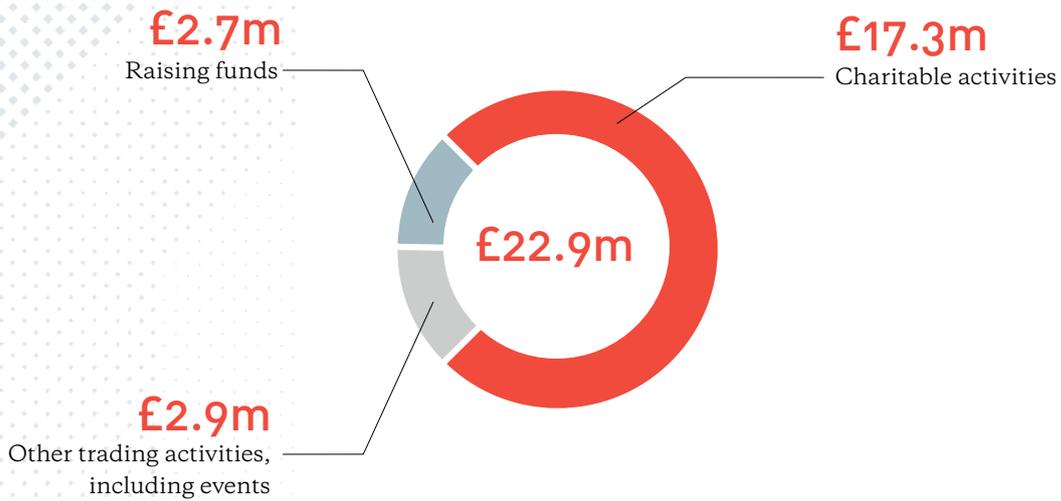
We are delighted to have been able to make a real and significant difference to the Army family, whether serving or retired - and are steadfast in our commitment to being able to provide this support for soldiers, veterans and their families for the very long term.



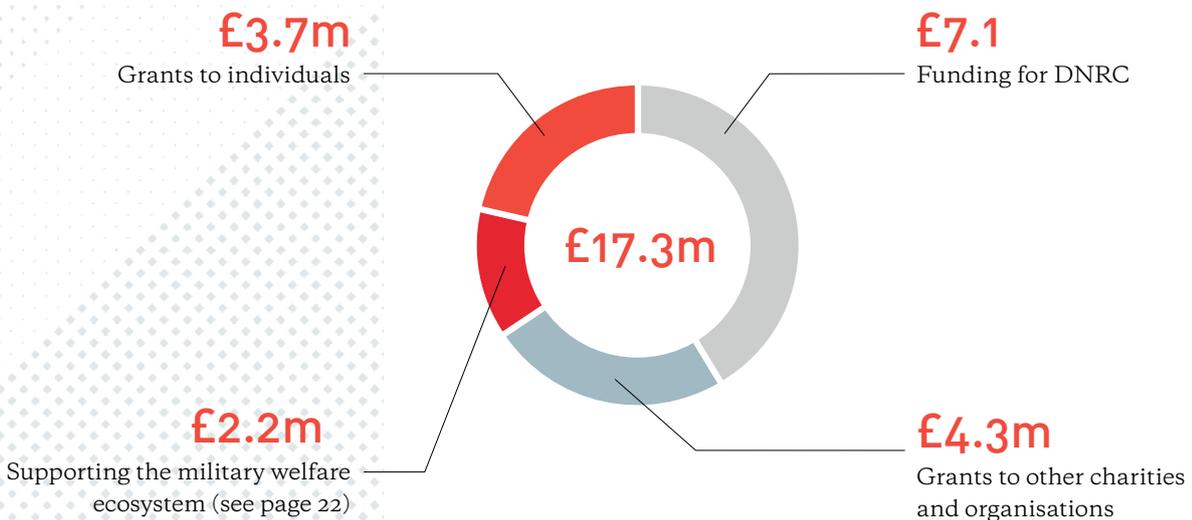
WHERE MONEY CAME FROM



HOW WE SPENT/ALLOCATED MONEY



HOW WE SUPPORTED THE ARMY FAMILY



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Investment management

Our overall investment objective is focused on capital growth of the investments in real terms with an appropriate return for our income units.

At the year end, the charity held long term investments with a market value of £77,158k and short term cash deposits of £1,915k (2018: £73,082k and £3,894k respectively). The charity's long-term investments are held in BlackRock managed Armed Forces Common Investment Fund and the CCLA Common Investment Fund with the aim of achieving a balance between the two investment managers.

Our investment performance and holdings are reviewed regularly by the Finance & Investment Committee against the investment objective and its benchmark. Both investment managers have performed satisfactorily in difficult market conditions.

Reserves

Our reserves policy is set to ensure that our work is protected from the risk of disruption at short notice due to lack of funds, or indeed sudden pressures on the Army and its people in this very uncertain world. At the same time, we need to ensure that we do not hold income or capital for longer than required - but equally we must ensure that we meet our strategic imperative to act 'for the long haul.'

Much of our reserves has been endowed to us as Restricted or Designated funds, meaning they are held against a specific purpose. These include substantial funds such as the Northern Ireland Special Relief Fund and the Afghanistan Fund which are solely for soldiers and families affected by these conflicts. We are privileged to administer these funds on behalf of the nation. We willingly absorb the associated costs related to managing these funds in the interest of efficiency, partnership and collaboration - ensuring that optimal financial support is available and delivered to those in need.

Designated funds also include money that has been set aside to ensure we, and by extension the wider Army family of Regimental and Corps charities, can meet the needs of

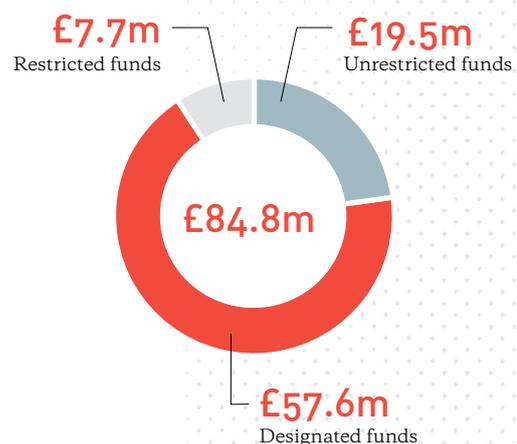
our current and future beneficiaries against potential future risks. This remains the fundamental purpose of The Soldiers' Charity - established as it was with the approval of the War Cabinet in 1944 to act as the Army's strategic reserve in times of exceptional need.

Our Designated funds also cover LIBOR funding that will be disbursed for specific projects in partnership with the Army and the Defence Medical Welfare Service; and a sum to cover our eventual relocation from the current head office. The latter is a strategic issue for us, given our role as landlord to eight co-located charities, and our continuing wish to drive efficiency across our sector.

The balance of our reserves is held in Unrestricted funds, which are the resources The Soldiers' Charity has available for its general purposes once it has met its planned expenditure commitments.

Our Board is clear that the fundamental purpose of accumulating reserves is to mitigate against unanticipated risks (such as major conflict) and to bring strategic impact to bear on the sector when opportunities arise. This year our reserves position has changed as a result of the decision to make a strategic investment in excess of £7 million drawn down from that reserve to help set up the new Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre at Stanford Hall in the North Midlands. This is the single biggest grant in the charity's 75 years of existence.

HOW OUR RESERVES ARE APPORTIONED OUT



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Drawn from the Annual Report and Consolidated Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2019

	FY 2018-19	FY 2017-18
	£'000	Restated £'000
Income from:		
Donations and Appeals	4,550	6,368
Legacies	7,057	8,236
	11,607	14,604
Donations from Regimental & Corps charities and individuals in Army Units	1,815	1,821
Income from Investments	1,234	1,121
Other trading activities	3,046	2,865
Total Income	17,702	20,411
Expenditure on:		
Grants to individual through Regiments & Corps	3,736	3,351
Grants to other charities and organisations	11,293	4,013
	15,029	7,364
Grant making and other support costs	2,236	2,109
	17,265	9,473
Raising funds and other trading activities	5,659	5,198
Total expenditure	22,924	14,671
Net income/(expenditure) before net gains on investments	(5,222)	5,740
Net gains on investments	5,045	2,005
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	(177)	7,745
Fund balances at 31st March	84,863	85,041



Annual Report
& Consolidated
Accounts
2018-19

Want to know more / Donate / Get involved

then call 020 7901 8900

or visit www.soldierscharity.org

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