

## **ABF The Soldiers' Charity**

### **COBSEO Funding Principles**

In partnership with our colleagues at The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity and the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, we have agreed the below core funding principles.

In reviewing applications, the Board of Trustees, supported by our Grants Committee are looking for the following in any application:

#### **1. Evidence of need.**

- Evidence of the need, and a beneficiary-centric approach to delivery that prioritises support for the beneficiary over which organisation should respond, and targets those most in need.
- Demonstrate the importance of the charitable service to the sector, both in terms of direct support to beneficiaries, and in substituting for gaps in statutory provision.
- Whether regional or national delivery is envisaged, and the rationale if replicating services that are already being provided noting we look to the state as the first choice for delivery.
- Consideration of the delivery options and rationale for the proposed way forward.
- Whether the need is temporary or enduring, and the likely impact (eg alleviating, resolving or preventing).
- Any risk of reputation damage to the sector.

#### **2. Impact and effectiveness of delivery.**

- Evidence of cooperation, partnerships, efficiency and rationalisation, particularly where there are other organisations operating in the same sector.
- Evidence of plans being in place to ensure beneficiary needs are met, including on a sustainable basis where the need is enduring.
- Evidence of the effectiveness of the proposed services (eg evaluation processes in place).
- Engagement with, and adherence to, sector support infrastructure where necessary (eg Casework Steering Group tenets for caseworking).

#### **3. Efficient use of resources and an effective organization.**

- Evidence of financial sustainability, both now, and with developed plans in place to sustain services in the longer term.
- Complementary fundraising arrangements are in place.
- Engagement with other funders to bring in additional investment that will enhance support to beneficiaries.
- An effective reserves policy is in place. This is assessed with a high degree of context and subjectivity. Reserves need to be sufficient, but not excessive. Liquidity can be as important a factor as value.