

Information from the Scottish Military Community

From Glen MacDonald, **Poppy Scotland**, Unforgotten Forces Coordinator:

Please find attached a further update on the services available to veterans aged 65 and older in Scotland via the Unforgotten Forces partnership during the Covid-19 pandemic. Please feel free to forward this to any individuals or organisations who may be able to facilitate referral/self-referral of older veterans who may benefit from our support at this time.

The **Veterans Employment Transition Support** team have designed some online sessions for those transitioning out of the services and these sessions are open to spouses also.

For example, an upcoming event on Mon 22 Jun:

Making an impression online and virtual networking

<https://covenantfund.org.uk/programme/forces-communities-together-programme/>

To see all sessions, via the VETS Eventbrite page, please click [here](#).

The VETS Team www.veteranemployment.co.uk

The **Armed Forces Covenant team** has announced **The Forces Communities Together** programme which will award small grants up to £10,000 towards creative and engaging projects, which can be delivered under social restrictions, for people from Armed Forces communities who are isolated as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Any Army unit can apply, as can schools, charities, or Community Interest Companies.

<https://covenantfund.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Forces-Communities-Together-FINAL-GUIDANCE-190520NS.pdf>

<https://covenantfund.org.uk/programme/forces-communities-together-programme/>

In addition, there are also the following funds that can be applied for (a summary page is attached).

- The **Force for Change programme** starts in August 2020 and is a new programme superseding the Local Grants programme which ended earlier this year. This programme has been guided by the findings from a recent public consultation, which showed support for funding that focuses on reducing social isolation and community integration. Organisations will be able to apply for grants of up to £20,000.
- The **Loneliness programme** being launched in July will award fixed grants of £60,000 for a two-year period to projects that reduce isolation and loneliness across the Armed Forces community.
- The **Positive Pathways programme** will re-open in July 2020, and there'll be a second round later in the year. Applicants will be able to apply for a fixed grant of £35,000 for activity-based projects that have a positive impact on mental wellbeing of Veterans.

Please see the following update from **The Children's Education Advisory Service (CEAS)**.

"The Children's Education Advisory Service (CEAS) team are working remotely due to COVID-19. If Service families need to contact us regarding any issues to do with their child's education for example CEA, School admissions, advice regarding their child's Special Educational Needs and Disability/ Additional Needs, overseas education, or retaining Service Family Accommodation for educational reasons, then they should email - DCYP-CEAS-Enquiries@mod.gov.uk. Please do not ring or post documents as there is no-one in the office to respond, but the general email is checked

several times a day. There is more information on our website, and matters related to COVID-19 can be found here - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/dcyp-covid-19>."

Royal British Legion Industry (RBLI) LifeWorks newsletter attached which includes detail about what we have been up to during lockdown, Top Tips from Stuart; one of the Employability Coaches, information about how we are endeavouring to support younger members of the military community and some useful links to opportunities that may be of interest to Service Leavers, veterans and military family members.

Joint Service Housing Advice Office (JSHAO) has recently uploaded this useful message: <https://wettransfer.com/downloads/254b84f9df7270c19d516e9329b6b88e20200615102937/eedea304305f7249e1ab15d28de406f020200615103030/f3ef6f>

Alistair Ferrier, Team Leader Veterans Project (Armed Forces Champion), has the following update on how **Skills Development Scotland's Career Information Advice and Guidance (CIAG)** services are evolving to continue meeting the changing needs of customers using the channels available.

'Partners continue to be central to the success of our service delivery, ensuring that individuals can get the right support, at the right time and from the right person or organisation to allow them to progress and succeed. You may have noticed that last week we launched a campaign to make customers aware of our enhanced online content at My World of Work and helpline services on [0800 917 8000](tel:08009178000). These enhanced services are complemented by a fun new career education programme that young people can undertake at home.

In the meantime, I am keen to provide an up to date breakdown on the CIAG services that SDS is providing at this critical time.

Key CIAG service offers and methods of delivery

We take a person-centred approach, focusing on the specific needs of each individual to assist them in making and taking informed decisions about their next steps, gaining control of what the future may hold for them. Our CIAG teams have the expertise to help navigate the wide and constantly updated range of support on offer.

In adapting and evolving our service offers we are continuing to prioritise our focus on equalities and have undertaken a thorough equalities impact assessment.

Our **School** service offer:

Our continued collaboration with school and Local Authority partners will ensure support for these individuals is coordinated to achieve the best outcome for each pupil.

Continued delivery of entitlements for senior phase targeted pupils, identified through validation of service offers, to receive ongoing 121 support.

Engagement with Foundation Apprenticeship learners to support their transition to second year or, for those who have completed this year, to explore their options and next steps.

Engagement with any other pupil with an expected leave date for this year, identified through the Data Hub, to provide transition support and planning for their next steps.

Our **Post School** service offer:

Continued delivery of entitlements for Next Steps targeted customers, identified through the Data Hub, to receive ongoing 121 support.

Engagement with individuals identified as Employability Fund leavers as a result of provision not continuing, to provide transition support and planning for their next steps.

PACE (Partnership for Continuing Employment):

Continued delivery of support for employers and employees in redundancy situations through the enhanced online PACE service offer delivered through the PACE Partnership.

For individuals at risk of, or who have been made redundant, the PACE Helpline provides universal access to support during this time.

Individual Helpline:

Universal support through enhanced digital content and resources on My World of Work as well as access to one-to-one support with SDS advisers through our helpline on [0800 917 8000](tel:08009178000). This includes information and advice on support with:

Finances and employment rights

Wellbeing

Immediate employability and employment opportunities

Longer term employability, learning and skills provision, employment opportunities and career development.

Local authority partnerships are enabling the coordination of support to those accessing national or local helplines and services. This includes local authority support signposted on My World of Work and inter-partnership referral approaches to reduce multiple access points for individuals.

All age support for individuals whose employment, learning, or career development has been impacted as a result of the pandemic. This includes those who are unemployed, furloughed or in work, as well as pupils and their parents/carers looking for information and advice.'

If you would like to discuss any of these services further, please contact
Alistair Ferrier Team Leader Veterans Project (Armed Forces Champion)

Tel: [01414686473](tel:01414686473) Mobile: [07766 087081](tel:07766087081)

Skills Development Scotland Leasachadh Sgilean na h-Alba

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myworldofwork.co.uk – The help you need for the career you want.

ourskillsforce.co.uk – Making skills work for employers.

apprenticeships.scot – Find an apprenticeship. Recruit an apprentice.

sds.co.uk – Making skills work for Scotland.