

Champion for Armed Forces Veterans

Report on Expenditure from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016

"To assist the Leader and appropriate Cabinet Members to work with the organisations that support ex-servicemen and women to work even more closely together and to ensure that veterans and their families get the support they deserve."

Activities Supported from my 2015/16 Budget:

Morecambe and Heysham RAF Cadets – IT Equipment Upgrade £1,600

Morecambe and Heysham RAF Cadets requested the funding to upgrade their IT equipment as their current equipment was unable to support the demands they are now placing on it. Their computers are essential to allow the cadets to study for classification training to aid their development within the organisation and assist their personal development and grow their skills base for when they are applying for college, university or their future careers both civilian and within the Military. As an organisation RAF cadets support the cadets in their personal schools training enabling them to carry on with school studies whilst attending the squadron especially when exams are approaching for those cadets who may not have the finances to own and use IT equipment at home.

AFG Armed Forces Day - £1,500

Preston hosted a huge event for the Armed Forces day, similar to last year but bigger starting with a home coming parade by the Kings Royal Hussars, singers, entertainers, displays from the regimental bands, a VIP civic reception, a professional wrestling show, strong man tournament, various military vehicles and much more. They also arranged a concert for heroes in the Guild hall. This was an opportunity to raise public awareness of the contribution made to our country by those who serve and have served in Her Majesty's Armed Forces.

Brick North West (Preston) Utilities for Snack Shop - £1,000

Brick North West are a small organisation supporting military veterans back into employment. They are doing this through the establishment of a bakery and café in Ashton Park, staffed entirely by veterans recovering from mental injuries. As part of their feasibility study into this larger project they set up a snack shop in the park. The items they have requested from the grant will enable them to equip the snack shop. They will then use the service to train up veterans in customer care and retail skills; and to engage and consult with the local community in order to shape the service provided by their future café.

Dig in North West (Preston) Wood Carving Tools and Lessons - £2,000

Dig In were very grateful to receive some training for their team members in Stone Masonry. This proved to be a popular activity and some of the team found a real skill that they didn't know they had. As a result of this activity, they requested some lessons in wood carving, to compliment these new skills, and some tools so that they may carry on the work they started with the tutor in stone masonry.

The benefits that they have seen through the stone work have included a noticeable increase in confidence and an enhanced motivation to engage with an activity while accessing the garden.

SALUTE – Publicity Materials £1,000

The funding was required as they have a combination of items that are required for community events to publicise SALUTE and the work that they undertake within the veteran community. The items are to be available for the public when they attend community events such as fun days, fetes and community events.

The funding would benefit people, as it would make the veterans living in the area aware of SALUTE and the work that they do. The promotional material that would be available would raise the profile of SALUTE and enable the veterans to know that there is a place for them to go, which will support them through their specific needs.

MAON Limited - £1,066

This request for funding related to work from 20 September 2014 on the Armed Forces Community Covenant Grant 1547 dated 16 January 2015.

Throughout Lancashire the network will give virtual and physical form to relationships within and between local and armed forces communities. They found the Armed Forces Network by making 132 Covenant Signatories 25 services visible online and available in communities and integrate sponsored programs that improve opportunities along 4 channels:

The Lancashire Community Covenant Board will oversee the Lancashire ROSE Network setup and operation. Armed Forces Champions will oversee projects, report and champion this initiative.

Armed Forces Launch of Website Banners - £378

The funding was used towards the cost of the design and printing of the banners for the launch of the Armed Forces Website.

Lancaster Military Heritage Group - Armed Forces Day events £1,640

Armed Forces Week is a national event and LMHG ran an event in Lancaster & Morecambe on the weekend of 25/26 June in association with the National Programme and in support of the Armed Forces Community Covenant signed by both Lancashire County Council and Lancaster City Council.

The overall funding enabled a weekend attraction in Morecambe and Lancaster, which has never before been attempted on this scale. As a visitor attraction it increased footfall and turnover in the visitor economy, in addition to providing an opportunity for the public to meet with and enjoy interacting with members of the Military Family in a social and recreational setting.

***County Councillor Armed Forces Veterans
Champion for Armed Forces Veterans***

Schedule of Expenditure for 2015/16

County Councillor Darren Clifford - Champion for Armed Forces Veterans

Applicant	Amount of Grant
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Morecambe and Heysham RAF Cadets – IT Equipment Upgrade	£1,600
AFG Preston Armed Forces Day	£1,500
Brick North West (Preston) – Utilities for snack shop	£1,000
Dig in North West (Preston) – Wood carving tools and lessons	£2,000
SALUTE – Publicity Materials	£1,000
MAON Limited	£1,066
Armed Forces – Launch of Website Banners	£378
Lancaster Military Heritage Group – Armed Forces day event	£1,640

TOTAL SPENT	£10,184
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