

2024/25 ANNUAL REPORT & CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



For Soldiers. For Life.

PATRON

In abeyance (September 2022-April 2024)

Her Majesty The Queen (from May 2024)

PRESIDENT

General Sir James Everard KCB CBE

TRUSTEES

CHAIR

Sarah Booth (From April 2025)

Simon Heale (Retired April 2025)

VICE CHAIR

David London (From May 2025)

Sarah Booth (From May 2024, until April 2025)

Mary Fagan (Retired May 2024)

MEMBERS

Warrant Officer Class One (Army Sergeant Major)

Paul Carney (Retired March 2025)

George Culmer (Appointed August 2024)

Rowena Fell

Caitlin Hayden (Appointed August 2024)

Major General (Ret'd) Chris Hughes CBE

Major General Sam Humphris MBE

Amanda Metcalfe

Warrant Officer Class One (Army Sergeant Major)

John Miller (Appointed May 2025)

James Rous

Anthony Scott

Anna Sedgley (Appointed August 2024)

Julie White

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Major General (Ret'd) Tim Hyams CB OBE,
Chief Executive

Brigadier (Ret'd) Peter Monteith MBE, Chief Operating
Officer and Company Secretary

Temidayo Ajakaiye, Director of Finance

Colonel (Ret'd) Darren Doherty, Director of Grants &
Welfare (Appointed November 2024)

Colonel (Ret'd) Kevin Haugh CBE, Director of Grants &
Welfare (Retired November 2024)

Svetlana Kirov, Director of Fundraising

Kath Mills, Interim Director of Communications &
Marketing (May 2023-June 2024)

Jenny Redman, Director of Communications & Marketing
(Returned from maternity leave June 2024)

CHAIR REGISTERED OFFICE

Mountbarrow House
6-20 Elizabeth Street
London
SW1W 9RB

Telephone: 020 7901 8900

E-mail: info@armybenevolentfund.org

Website: www.armybenevolentfund.org

Army Benevolent Fund 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.

Army Benevolent Fund is a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (07974609) and was incorporated on 2nd March 2012.

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WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR



This is my first report as Chair, having taken over from Simon Heale in April 2025. On behalf of everyone associated with the Charity, I would like to express our gratitude to Simon for his hugely significant contribution as Chair, and as a trustee since 2020. We wish him all the very best; and know he will be following closely our progress and work.

It is a great honour to chair the Army Benevolent Fund. As the Chief Executive notes, this charity was created during the Second World War, and its purpose – and relevance to the Army community – endures.

During 2024, the nation commemorated the 80th anniversary of D Day; and we also celebrated the 80th anniversary of the founding of the ABF. In February 1944, Winston Churchill's War Cabinet discussed the formation of the Army Benevolent Fund – a national charity for the British Army – to ensure the brave service men and women returning from the Second World War would not face the hardships endured by those who fought in the First World War, a generation earlier. We still have a small number of veterans alive today, some of whom are beneficiaries of the Charity, who took part in the D Day landings and fought their way through Europe.

The welfare of soldiers, past and present, and their families, remains at the heart of everything we do. In the last 80 years, we have helped many hundreds of thousands of members

of the Army family, from the youngest children to the oldest veterans, both in the UK and around the world. In the 2024-5 financial year alone, I could not be prouder that the ABF has delivered support to more than 80,000 people in 52 countries through its grants to individuals and funding for 93 other organisations and charities.

In terms of governance, our 80th anniversary year was one of continuity and change. We said farewell to Warrant Officer Class One Paul Carney who, in his role as the Army Sergeant Major, has served as a trustee with dedication and boundless enthusiasm. Paul has encouraged soldiers to support the ABF and participate in its activities, such as the annual Cateran Yomp, and he has also taken on epic fundraising challenges in the Charity's name, such as the Marathon des Sables, raising hugely welcome funds and profile in the process. We wish Paul well, and are delighted to welcome his successor, Warrant Officer Class One (Army Sergeant Major) John Miller, to the board.

Our board has seen the appointment of three new trustees, George Culmer, Caitlin Hayden, and Anna Sedgley, appointed through open competition, and who joined us in August 2024. We thank them for volunteering for these roles and warmly welcome them to the trustee body.

During the 80 years that have passed since the ABF was founded, the world has seen much change. However, the need for the British Army to be there to defend our freedom is enduring. What also is enduring is the Charity's purpose: to be there for those who serve, who have served, and their families; enabling them to avoid hardship and live with independence and dignity.

None of this could be possible without the dedication of my fellow trustees, the excellence of our wonderful professional team, the selfless commitment of our army of volunteers, and the generosity of those who give to us. This Annual Report reflects a busy charity in good health, and this is testament to the magnificent work and dedication of the people who support it – not just in the UK but around the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'S Booth', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sarah Booth
Chair

WELCOME FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE



The Army Benevolent Fund was established in August 1944, as the Army's national charity, to ensure the soldiers who had fought in World War Two, and their families, received the support they needed and deserved.

80 years later, the 24/25 financial year saw the Charity spending some £9.2m in benevolence, supporting over 80,000 members of the Army family in 52 countries around the world. Our youngest beneficiary was three years old; our oldest was 105. We genuinely are here for soldiers, for life.

In so doing, we are very clear as to the value of the Army to the nation; and that there is a value in service, with the vast majority of soldiers of all ranks making a meaningful contribution to society, both whilst serving and as veterans, on the basis of the values and skills they develop during their time in the Army.

But equally, the reality is a significant number of the Army family fall into need each year. These soldiers, former soldiers, and family members require our assistance such they can overcome their challenges and move forward with their lives. That brings a sharp focus to the requirement for the Army Benevolent Fund to provide that immediate support, with our benevolence grants expenditure again this year increasing by 4% overall in response to evidenced need.

At the same time, it is essential that, as the Army's national charity, we take a strategic view of how to respond over the longer-term. In this regard, the receipt this year of a

highly significant and generous legacy of nearly £25m has reinforced our financial reserve such as to afford the charity the opportunity to take a genuinely considered approach to a number of issues.

- + First, ensuring we are positioned, through allocation of funds from our financial reserve and in terms of contingency planning, such as to enable the Charity to respond to a significant change in operating conditions (such as a major conflict involving the British Army) or benevolence need.
- + Second, through initiation of a formal programme of preventative measures, funded from our financial reserve, aimed at addressing the underlying causes of need and thus reducing, over the longer term, the number of the Army family who fall into need in the first place.
- + Third, a formal investment strategy review, to ensure we are positioned financially for the long-term, fulfilling the requirement to deliver support to the Army family on an enduring basis.

Our judgement is these initiatives, individually and collectively, represent the appropriate and responsible approach to positioning the Army's national charity to respond to the geopolitical and economic challenges that lie ahead, as well as acting proactively, through a deliberate programme of preventative measures, to reduce, over the long-term, the number of soldiers, veterans, and their families who fall into need of support.

Marking our 80th anniversary throughout 2024 has been important; not for its own sake, but as an opportunity to express profound thanks to our generous and loyal supporters and reflect on our continued relevance to serving and former soldiers, and their families.

As we look ahead, I reflect that the ABF's founding purpose endures: to ensure that all soldiers, veterans, and their immediate families can avoid hardship and live with independence and dignity. That is a compelling objective and one we are extremely proud to deliver on behalf of those we serve.

Major General (Ret'd) Tim Hyams CB OBE
Chief Executive

STRATEGIC REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES



Our vision

All serving soldiers, veterans, and their immediate families should have the opportunity to avoid hardship and live with independence and dignity.

Our mission

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



Charitable objects

Since our formation in 1944, our charitable objects 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 British Isles or overseas.

Public benefit

When reviewing the Army Benevolent Fund's aims and objectives, and when setting grant making policy and planning for the future, the trustees have carefully considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The Army Benevolent Fund 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 Army Benevolent Fund also enables other charities to maximise their public benefit, in support of the Army family.

Equality, diversity & inclusion

We are committed to championing equality, diversity and inclusion on our Board, amongst our workforce, and in all our behaviours. As the Army's national charity, it is vital we remain relevant and reflective of our varied Army community and of society more broadly. We are particularly proud of our diverse workforce, both in the national office and across all 11 regional offices; and we are committed to creating a culture where everyone is celebrated, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, disability, neurodiversity, ethnic background, nationality, religion, or belief. We recognise there is still work to be done and are committed to continuous improvement to ensure we remain best placed to serve the Army community, both here in the UK and around the world.



01 Former Reservist, Rebecca, was left with PTSD after her service, struggling with isolation and symptoms such as panic attacks and anxiety. With the support of Bracken, an energetic spaniel cross, who was paired with Rebecca by Service Dogs UK, which the ABF helps fund, her life is looking positive again. Rebecca's story featured in the 2024 Telegraph Charity Christmas Appeal, which the ABF was selected for, raising over £100k.

02 Peter served during World War Two with the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire light infantry. Since 2023 he has lived in Broughton House, Salford, a care home for military veterans, which the ABF helps fund.

03 Former Metropolitan Police officer and Army widow, Elaine, has been living since 2018 at the Chiswick War Memorial Home, part of The Stoll Foundation. The ABF helps fund The Stoll Foundation, which provides housing support for military veterans and their dependants.

04 Running the TCS London Marathon for the ABF.

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES OVERVIEW

As the Army's national charity, the welfare of soldiers, veterans, and their immediate families (including the bereaved) has always been at the heart of everything we do.

Our purpose has remained the same since 1944: to ensure that every soldier, past, present and future, and their immediate families, can avoid hardship and live with independence and dignity.

In the past year, we have supported over 80,000 members of the Army family in 52 countries across the globe. This has been achieved via our individual grants programme, through which we have supported over 3,500 individual cases, and by providing essential funding to 93 other charities and organisations to enable them to deliver specialist services to the Army family.

In addition to these two key grants programmes, we have also funded Army-related casework and the pan-sector digital platform that enables grants to be paid out quickly and securely; and collaborated with key sector stakeholders, including the government, other charities and the Army, to ensure we are as well placed as possible to support soldiers, veterans, and their immediate families. By supporting us, you truly do support the whole Army family.

In FY24-25, our charitable expenditure was £9.2m. As one of the largest funders in the military charity sector, our aim is to ensure a complete spectrum of support to the Army family in the areas it is needed most. The overall scale, breadth and variety of our support is vast: helping Army families, including the bereaved; improving mental wellbeing; enabling independent living; caring for the elderly; training and education to increase employability; and securing the provision of suitable housing.

As ever, we pride ourselves on acting immediately when help is needed and providing true through-life support.



Henry is the disabled son of an Army veteran, Lee, and his wife, Natalie. Aged four, Henry was diagnosed with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a rare life-limiting, muscle-wasting condition. We provided a grant of £13,500 to help fund essential adaptations to the family home. Henry is now able to get outside into the garden in his wheelchair, to enjoy time with the family.

OUR STATS



In FY24-25 we spent **£9.2M** supporting **80,000** members of the Army family



The youngest person we supported was **THREE YEARS OLD**, the eldest was **105**



We funded **93 OTHER CHARITIES AND ORGANISATIONS** that provide support for the Army family

SUPPORTING THE ARMY FAMILY

We are here to support the Army family through all of life's challenges, including bereavement, injury, getting back to work, elderly care, and much more besides.

Our support is truly for life, with individuals supported in FY24-25 aged from three years old to 105.

We are never judgemental, and we always adopt an integrated approach to the person or family in need of support. Sometimes, an individual in need may receive an initial grant from us, 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. We give grants to support other charities both large and small, local and international, depending on our assessment of where the need is. Our grants programme is continually evolving, with an increasing focus on addressing the underlying causes of need,

as described in the Chief Executive's foreword; and all cases are based on evidenced need, with rigorous due diligence checks on the effect of our expenditure.

Finally, and crucially, we act with speed. When we are alerted that a person or family needs help, we aim to make the relevant grant within 48 hours.

We are here for all members of the Army family when they need us. Our support is available for soldiers at the start of their careers and continues for life – long after service is over.

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 play a key role in the military welfare ecosystem by funding organisations that carry out Army-related casework (particularly SSAFA The Armed Forces Charity); 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 such as Cobseo and Veterans Scotland.



We have supported the British Army family in **52 COUNTRIES** all over the world



Around **12% OF OUR GRANTS** expenditure benefited the serving Army



We spend around **£66,000 A WEEK** on grants to individuals

FUNDRAISING

We are extremely thankful to our very generous donors who raised £34.6m in FY24-25 (£10.7m in FY23-24).

This significant increase is due to a highly generous legacy of nearly £25m; the impact of which is addressed in the Chief Executive's foreword. However, legacies are generous gifts, which can neither be anticipated nor relied upon; and, excluding that single donation, we raised less than in the previous financial year. To address this challenge, we have conducted a formal Fundraising Review, with the Board-endorsed recommendations now being taken forward into the Year 3 FY25-26 Plan, not least in terms of seeking to diversify our fundraising portfolio, and investing in growing our supporter base.

As with previous years, we remain extremely grateful for the continued support of those organisations close to the Army family; including the Army Dependents' Trust, which donated £800k this year, and the regimental and corps charities, which contributed nearly £857k over the same period.

Individual supporters and legacy giving

Every year, thousands of individuals help us by giving a monthly regular gift or one-off donation, taking part in our raffle, or remembering us in their Will. We remain extremely grateful to each and every one of them. We are exceptionally grateful for the £24.6m legacy, the planned employment of which is described in the Chief Executive's foreword.

Corporate partnerships and philanthropy

We partner with a broad range of UK businesses, high net worth individuals, trusts and foundations, enabling our ongoing work to support soldiers, veterans, and their families.

We are extremely fortunate for the sustained support of our philanthropic donors The Edward Gostling Foundation, The Mike Gooley Trailfinders Charity, National Garden Scheme, Peacock Charitable Trust, PF Charitable Trust, The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, The Wimbledon Foundation, The Dyers' Company

Charitable Trust and our generous anonymous donors. We are also grateful for the significant support we have received this past year from The Billmeir Charitable Trust, The Ian Fleming Charitable Trust, Moondance Foundation, Princes Exchange Foundation, The Princess Anne's Charities, Scott (Eredine) Charitable Trust and The 29th May 1961 Charity.

We also received support from corporate partners, including Ascot, Azad Ayub, Babcock International Group, BAE Systems, Clogau Gold, Corps Security, Leonardo UK, MBDA, RIFT Group, Rolls-Royce, The Thales Charitable Trust and VIVO Defence Services; this enabling our ongoing work to support soldiers, veterans and their families.

Community and events

We work hard to build relationships and generate financial support via events such as the London Marathon, CATERAN YOMP, The Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch, Frontline Walks, golf days and Christmas Carol Concerts, to name just a few.

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 avoiding any practices that are not in line with the Army Benevolent Fund's values. We are committed to the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice to ensure we meet the highest standards, so supporters and volunteers can give and fundraise with confidence and trust.



In June 2024, a team from the British Army Recruiting Group swam the English channel and raised over £8,000 for the ABF.

Nearly 1,000 people marched the Scottish hills while taking part in the 2024 CATERAN Yomp, marking 80 years since D-Day and the founding of the Army Benevolent Fund.

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; such processing is only conducted under formal data processing agreements.

Information systems

We continue to modernise and raise the standard of our technical processes and infrastructure that support fundraising. We upgraded and modernised our client relationship management database to Salesforce CRM this year; and have embarked upon the process to modernise and upgrade our financial management information system by the end of the 2025-26 financial year. We have continued to make significant strides towards using Business Intelligence and data analysis, better to understand our supporter base and thus communicate more effectively with them. We have also continued to ensure that our data holdings, and wider IT infrastructure, are secure and robust in terms of countering the cyber threat.

Safeguarding

The Army Benevolent Fund is proactively committed to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults with whom staff, or any organisation acting on our behalf, come into contact with during fundraising, benevolence or outreach activities. We regularly review our safeguarding policy, including a full annual Board of Trustee review, to ensure it is fully up-to-date and

fit for purpose. We take all reasonable care to protect our beneficiaries, supporters and staff, and comply with all relevant legal obligations and statutory guidance. Safeguarding is integral to our recruiting process and all new staff members are DBS checked. There is also a documented procedure for reporting serious incidents to the Charity Commission and relevant statutory bodies. In FY24-25 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 find out about an event we are organising, or update their communication preferences, we pride ourselves on being responsive and accessible. And, of course, we have a complaints process in place, should any supporter be unhappy or express concerns about our activity. The Charity received no complaints in FY24-25.

Relationships with agencies and commercial providers

We have a small in-house fundraising team and employ external agencies to add additional expertise or capacity; for example, event-management companies when we are organising large-scale events. This is more cost effective than trying to do everything ourselves. We always ensure signed contracts are in place and regularly monitor their performance in line with these agreements.

The professional face to face fundraising agencies we work with provide value and expertise and allow us to engage with new audiences. We recognise the need to monitor their performance and compliance. We input into their training, and our quality assurance includes regular reviews of complaints - of which we received none in 24-25 - and other feedback.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

OVERVIEW

Total income was **£38.7m** (FY23-24: £15.3m); an increase of **£23.4m** from the previous financial year. This was due to higher legacy income at **£28.2m** (FY23-24: £5.2m) and we continue to be deeply grateful to the individuals who have remembered us in their Wills.

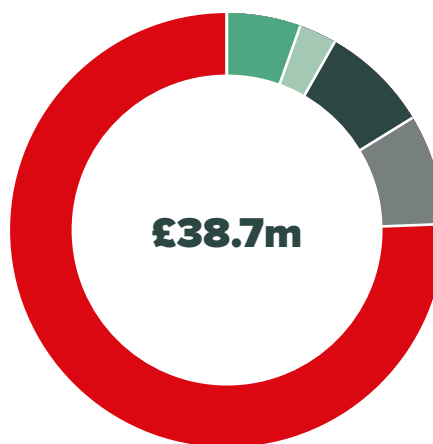
Income received from donations was higher at £3.3m (FY23-24: £2.8m). Income from the Army, which comprises donations from individuals, regimental and corps charities and the Army Dependants' Trust, decreased to £1.75m (FY23-24: £1.96m). Income from trading activities was higher at £3.2m (FY23-24: £2.7m). The investment income was £2.3m (FY23-24: £2.5m).

Of the £2.3m of investment income received, £1.3m represented cash dividends and interest receivable, with the remaining £987k being represented by additional investment units, which further bolster the Charity's investment portfolio to provide rising income over time. This is set out in more detail in the investment management section.

Total expenditure for the year increased to £16m (FY23-24: £15.6m). Our charitable expenditure delivering benevolence, including individual and charitable grants to those in need was £9.2m (FY23-24 £9.1m). Costs of raising funds increased to £6.8m (FY23-24: £6.5m) as we continue to invest in donor recruitment.

Overall, the accounts for the year ended with a net income of £20.6m which includes losses on investments of £2.2m (FY23-24: net income of 5m included gains on investments of £5.4m).

WHERE OUR FUNDING CAME FROM



£2.3m

Income from investments

£1.7m

Donations from regimental and corps charities and individuals in Army Units

£3.2m

Other trading activities

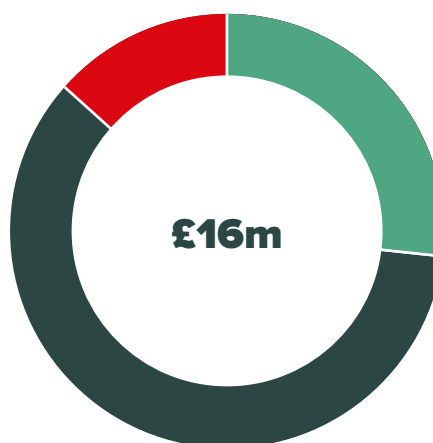
£3.3m

Donations and appeals

£28.2m

Legacies

HOW WE SPENT AND ALLOCATED MONEY



£4.2m

Other costs of raising funds

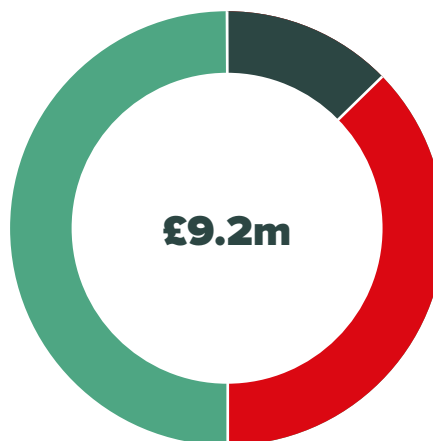
£9.2m

Charitable activities

£2.6m

Cost of trading activities

HOW WE SUPPORTED THE ARMY FAMILY



£4.3m

Grants to other charities and organisations

£1.8m

Supporting the military welfare ecosystem

£3.1m

Grants to individuals

Investment management

Our overall investment objective is focused on the capital growth of our investments in real terms, with an appropriate return from our income units. The performance objective of the fund is to provide capital growth and rising income over time. The Charity invests funds that are required over the medium to long term. At the year end, the Charity held investments with a market value of £76.8m and cash deposits of £20.5m (FY23-24: £78.3m and £7.4m respectively).

Our investment performance and holdings are reviewed regularly by the Finance & Investment Committee against our investment objectives and its benchmarks. Our investments are held in line with our investment policy, which lays out guidelines for risk, as well as ensuring there are appropriate ethical policies in place. Each of our investments performed in line with, or better than, its benchmark, and therefore, overall, the trustees were satisfied with this performance.

Reserves

Our reserve is based on three imperatives:

- 1.** To manage, on behalf of the nation, a series of designated and restricted funds, that support veterans who have served in particular conflicts and their immediate family members.
- 2.** To provide an operational reserve in the immediacy of a 12 to 36-month period, to ensure the Charity can continue delivering benevolence to the Army family in the event of financial risks identified in the Risk Register materialising.
- 3.** To provide a strategic reserve for the delivery of benevolence to the Army family in a more enduring sense, enabling the Charity to respond to a significant change in operating conditions (such as a major conflict) or benevolence need.

A significant proportion of our funds is ringfenced and administered on behalf of the nation to help veterans and families in need from conflicts such as Afghanistan and the Falklands Conflict. They will be disbursed over many years until the last eligible soldier or family member is no longer alive.

Our operational reserve ensures we can continue delivering benevolence to the Army family in the immediacy of a 12 to 36-month period, should we face a significant fall in income. The operational reserve has been established through the work to place a monetary value on risk, together with

sensible provision for other probable contingencies and the Charity's working capital. The risk-based approach provides a rationale that leads to a justified level of operational reserves, based on the drivers of sufficient working capital to get through cyclical fluctuations; an estimate of the potential value of the foreseeable inherent and residual risks derived from the risk register; and an estimate of the amount required by the Charity to fulfil its 4-Year Plan.

We also hold a strategic reserve to ensure that we can deliver benevolence to the Army family in the long term, despite any changes that may occur in the operating environment (for example, future conflicts). Part of this picture includes meeting our responsibility for ensuring the regimental and corps charities can provide appropriate benevolence support, when called upon, in perpetuity. Essentially, the Army's national charity needs to ensure that the whole Army family's needs can be met, for as long as there is an Army.

The Charity has in place a Reserves Policy, which aims to ensure that its ongoing activities are protected from fluctuations in income and expenditure. The Board of Trustees reviews this policy annually to ensure it continues to comply with Charity Commission guidance.

The total value of funds held at year end was £118.5m (FY23-24: £97.9m). There are restricted funds of £6.2m (FY23-24: £6.6m), unrestricted funds of £112.1m (FY23-24: £91.1m) and endowment funds of £200k (FY23-24: £225k). The unrestricted funds include both general funds of £104.8m (FY23-24: £83.2m) and designated funds of £7.3m (FY23-24: £7.8m). Of the £104.8m general unrestricted funds, £345k represents fixed assets that can only be realised by disposing the assets, leaving £104.4m free reserves (FY23-24: £83.1m), which is above the target of £80.5m (FY23-24: £53.5m). The level of free reserves allows the Charity to be resilient, to continue to focus on its charitable activities, and to adopt a necessarily agile approach in responding to the changing economic and wider strategic environment.

Risks and uncertainties

The Army Benevolent Fund has a proactive, thorough, and balanced approach to risk management. The Board of Trustees reviews major risks at each meeting and ensures that the senior management team has taken all reasonable measures to manage these risks and has the flexibility to seize opportunities as they appear.

Risks are graded by likelihood and severity, and include full descriptions of the actions and measures underway or required to attend to them. Key risks are also monetised, with an appropriate amount of the Charity's reserve annotated as allocated if required. This process allows us to measure

CONTINUED

the correct amount of operational reserve to hold, as well as being a prudent and effective way of managing the risks.

As a result, the Charity has a clear view both on the key risks to its operation over the short and long terms, and the means by which they will be mitigated.

The risk of a reduced ability to raise sufficient funds in a global, national, and indeed personal environment of constrained discretionary spending is specifically mitigated by the roll out of the 4-Year Plan, which is described in greater detail in the next section. The risk of not being positioned to respond effectively to the changing nature of the Army, its veteran community, and their increasing integration into wider society is mitigated actively and constantly by the executive's proactive horizon scanning, in collaboration with both government (MOD; not least, the OVA), the Army, and sector (not least, Cobseo, Veterans Scotland, and FiMT) stakeholders, and through the Benevolence Strategy. The risk to our investments of significant fluctuations in global markets is mitigated by maintaining a balanced portfolio, consisting of an appropriate mix of income and accumulation units, across two major fund managers, under the regular and expert oversight of a trustee-led Finance & Investment Committee.

In the event of a major situation involving or otherwise affecting the Army Benevolent Fund, business continuity and disaster recovery plans are in place. Trustees also place considerable importance on achieving compliance with employment, health and safety and other relevant legislation.

The Army Benevolent Fund's solicitors review our principal policies on a regular basis, and all other policies are reviewed periodically by the senior management team on at least an annual basis. The key ones, such as Safeguarding and Anti-Fraud, are also annually reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

In the certain knowledge that we will need to continue to provide support to soldiers, veterans and their immediate families for many decades, we regularly update and review our financial plan, reserves and investment policies. Internal financial controls are reviewed by the Finance & Investment Committee on a regular basis.

We continue to conduct routine and regular end-to-end audit processes. This allows the Charity dynamically to confirm that its financial and technical control procedures remain effective and fit for purpose; or, if they are not, to improve them quickly. The trustees have declared themselves satisfied that major risks have been identified and adequately mitigated, wherever reasonably practicable. It is recognised that systems can only provide reasonable rather than absolute assurance that major risks have been adequately managed.

Plans for future periods

The first three years of the 4-Year Plan have witnessed a range of overlapping issues impacting variably and in combination on this Charity and UK society more broadly. The legacies of the pandemic and Brexit, the global and national rises in commodity prices exacerbated by conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, and the impact in the UK specifically of stubbornly persistent inflation and inconsistent mitigation measures, leading to and combined with enduring public caution over non-essential personal spending, all have contributed to a particularly challenging operating environment.

Despite the predicted gradual easing of UK inflation rates, the resultant loosening of fiscal control and interest rates, and the UK government's attempts to stimulate economic growth, the impact of this combination of issues, exacerbated by more broad geopolitical factors, will continue to be felt through FY25-26.

Our response

Against this challenging context, the Army Benevolent Fund remains in a relatively strong position, continuing to reflect the manner in which we were set up in 1944: to act as the Army's strategic reserve, or second line of benevolence support, behind the first line activity of the regimental and corps charities. Conscious of this role, over the years we deliberately have configured our operations to protect that responsibility. We remain focused entirely on grant making and have no direct delivery responsibilities; we make no grant commitments beyond in-year; and we husband our free reserves for the long haul, whilst also being prepared to make strategic interventions where appropriate. Prudent measures to increase our liquidity provide adequate cash well into the next Financial Year, and our investments are held in very broad and diverse funds.

Set against that context, at an operational level, our return to long-term planning, in the shape of the rolling 4-Year Plan, saw us take significant strides in FY22-23 (Year 0) towards setting the conditions for success; with the removal of the artificial divide between national and regional fundraising, the reset of the People Plan, and a redefinition of the regional contribution being notable achievements.

Thereafter, FY23-24 (Year 1) saw continuing refinement, with particular emphasis on understanding the drivers behind, ROI from, and opportunities afforded by volunteer-led community fundraising activity and the wider programme of staff-led community fundraising events delivered across the country. It also saw us measure the impact of the levers being pulled in-year; specifically, the investment in face-to-face fundraising, a more coherent

pan-charity approach to events, and a similarly coherent and increasingly programmatic approach to trusts, major donors, and corporates. In parallel, FY23-24 saw significant improvements in our inter-relationship with the Army, and the coherence, both internal and external, of our communications. It also saw the highly successful refreshment of our brand.

Building on those foundations, FY24-25 (Year 2) has been one of further iterative and evidence-led enhancement, particularly in terms of the longer lead time areas of direct marketing and legacy giving. In parallel, we have conducted a fresh eye, evidence-driven, review of fundraising, which has set the baseline for our fundraising approach in FY25-26 and into FY26-27. FY24-25 also has seen much progress in terms of leveraging the extremely successful re-brand and our more assured relationship with Army Media & Communications, and harnessing more productively the associated, available, resource through a more strategic, campaign-led, approach to brand awareness and audience engagement. In the background, there has been a continuation of our drive to minimise overhead costs, with the long-term agreement on tenancy in Mountbarrow House being, by way of example, a cost saver as well as a creator of efficiency.

Looking ahead, FY25-26 (Year 3) will be a year of exploitation of previous groundwork.

- + We will continue to increase benevolence spend in line with need, tempered by affordability. In the background, we will initiate a formal Benevolence Strategy, in order to position the Charity to attend to the requirement to tune its existing grants programme to emergent patterns of need and the dynamics of the delivery landscape. In parallel, we will take forward a deliberate programme of activity, funded from the residual free reserves, aimed directly at addressing the underlying causes of need and thus reducing need over time.
- + We will deliver through on the endorsed outcomes of the Fundraising Review; enacting the measures relating to methodology, structure, resource, and further investment, in order to deliver success in terms of the fundraising outcomes required to achieve 4-Year Plan objectives and end state.
- + The more strategic, campaign-led, approach to brand awareness and audience engagement will continue to be at the heart of the communications and marketing operation.
- + In parallel, overheads will be maintained as low as inflation renders practical. We have embedded a new CRM, ready to be integrated with a new financial MIS in FY26-27 (Year 4), which further will drive efficiency.

Our overall operational level intent remains to continue to refine and improve the 4-Year Plan's underpinning methodology and logic rather than to steer a different course. Conscious always that it is healthy for a charity to maintain a modest annual deficit to ensure we are spending our generously donated money on benevolence, we nevertheless continue to aim, by the end of Year 6, to be closer to breaking even than has historically been the case. In addition to the ongoing work to enhance the income streams referred to previously, Year 3 and beyond will see increasing emphasis on longer lead time streams, such as legacy giving. We will continue to enhance our investment in face-to-face giving, seeking to increase regular donations, whilst also seeking to diversify our individual giving. And in parallel, we will provide an improved and nuanced corporate offering, particularly for those corporate entities with existing relationships with the Army.

In all of this, coordination with the Armed Forces Covenant Trust (AFCT) and the other single service benevolent funds will continue to be necessary such as to capitalise on the opportunity for greater efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of outcomes for those in need. This coordination very much is set in context of our position at the heart of the Army's charitable ecosystem and in the wider service charitable sector, working coherently and effectively with the other key charities.

At the same time, it is essential that, as the Army's national charity, we take a strategic view of how to respond over the longer-term. As described in the Chief Executive's foreword, the receipt this year of a highly significant and generous legacy of nearly £25m has reinforced our financial reserve such as to afford the Army Benevolent Fund the opportunity not only to respond to the geopolitical and economic challenges that lie ahead, but also to act proactively, through a deliberate programme of preventative measures, such as to reduce, over the long-term, the number of soldiers, veterans and their families who fall into need of support.

Subsidiary and associated company

Soldiers' Trading Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Army Benevolent Fund. Its purpose is to raise money for the Charity through the online shop and commercial partnerships.

The Soldiers Fund, based in the United States, is an associate of the Army Benevolent Fund. It makes grants in support of soldiers and veterans from the US Army and British Army.

STRUCTURES, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Reference and administrative details

The Army Benevolent Fund is a Company limited by guarantee not having a share capital (Company No. 07974609), governed by the Articles of Association of the Army Benevolent Fund. The Army Benevolent Fund is registered with the Charity Commission (Charity No. 1146420). It is also registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator; the registration number is SC039189.

The Army Benevolent Fund is governed by the Board of Trustees, which is ultimately responsible for the organisation's strategic direction. The Board of Trustees is assisted by four trustee-led committees: the Governance Committee, which is responsible for governance policies and procedures; the Finance & Investment Committee, which is responsible for oversight of all aspects of the Army Benevolent Fund's financial policies and operations; the Grants Committee, which provides direction to and scrutiny of all grant-giving; and the Fundraising & Marketing Committee, which provides expert guidance on the Army Benevolent Fund's approach to fundraising and marketing.

Trustees are appointed for an initial period of three years, which can be extended for up to two further three-year periods. No trustee can serve for a consecutive period of more than nine years, except when approved by a majority of the other trustees by special resolution.

On appointment, each Trustee undergoes an induction programme tailored to their knowledge and experience. All trustees are offered briefings on charity governance, charity finance and their individual and collective legal responsibilities. A register of trustees' interests is held centrally, and trustees are required to disclose all relevant interests, register them with the Secretary to the Board of Trustees, and in accordance with the Army Benevolent Fund's policy, withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises. Trustees receive no remuneration or benefits in-kind, but are reimbursed for their expenses as noted in the accounts. Trustees receive and review regular reports from the committees and senior management team.

The Board of Trustees met five times in the FY24-25, including their annual, strategy-focused, full day meeting.

The Chief Executive and senior management team are responsible for the day-to-day management of the Army Benevolent Fund's affairs and for implementing the strategies and policies agreed by the Board of Trustees.

The Army Benevolent Fund provides support for the Army family through a range of other charities and organisations. The trustees are grateful to these bodies, and especially the unpaid caseworkers and other volunteers, without whom we would be unable to meet the needs of our beneficiaries.

The Charity is firmly aligned with the Charity Governance Code, closely adhering to the code's seven principles, applying the recommended practices and thus able continually to demonstrate good governance.

Staff remuneration policy

Making effective decisions in relation to remuneration and reward is crucial to the continued success of the Army Benevolent Fund. We aim to pay competitively against our relevant comparators in the voluntary sector. We draw our benchmark data from 'Croner's Charity Rewards', which gives indicative median salaries for all roles and grades from a very wide selection of national charities. All positions in the Army Benevolent Fund are assessed and placed within an appropriate generic pay band. Like the Army we support, we believe in the principle that we are all of one company; thus, people doing similar jobs are paid at similar rates and in accordance with the relative complexity and responsibility of the appointment they hold. We do not pay bonuses or retention inducements.

We also aim to enhance the organisation's competitive positioning by promoting a total-reward approach, recognising that other aspects of the employment package (such as working patterns, benefits and development opportunities, as well as the intrinsic moral value of working for a charity) are also valuable to employees.

Staff remuneration review and annual pay award

Consistent with the approach adopted in the previous two years, the Board of Trustees approached the FY24-25 pay review from the point of view of maintaining two key principles. First, to retain, to the greatest extent possible, our all-of-one-company ethos; seeking to ensure pay parity within pay bands was retained, and no gap appeared between departments, or individual members of staff. Second, to seek to retain our position as broadly comparable with other similar charities, noting the impact of pay settlements across the sector had impacted adversely on our relative position in that regard. And in a wider sense, both principles were set in the context of the economic

situation that, whilst less severe than the last two years, continued to apply pressure to all members of staff.

Against that context, the Board again this year concluded there was merit in applying blanket increases within bands rather than pan-Charity; and in so doing, this allowed the Charity to target slightly higher settlements at those more junior pay bands furthest from the Croner sector median. This resulted in an outcome that saw pay rises of between 1% and 6% depending upon which pay band an individual was in, with an average across the charity of a 4.76% increase.

In accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP), the Army Benevolent Fund discloses all payments to trustees (our trustees do not receive remuneration but are reimbursed for valid transport and subsistence expenses) and the number of staff in receipt of more than £60,000 in salary and other benefits (note 10).

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of the Army Benevolent Fund for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the trustees to prepare the financial statements for each financial year.

Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable group, for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- + Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- + Observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP.
- + Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- + State whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- + Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Army Benevolent Fund will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice' applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) – (Charities SORP), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Companies Act 2006.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- + There is no relevant material audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- + Trustees have taken the necessary steps to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Report of the Trustees, which incorporates the requirements of the Strategic Report and the Directors' Report as set out in the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013, was approved by the Board, in their capacity as Trustees and company directors, and signed on its behalf on 23rd July 2025.



Sarah Booth
Chair

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Opinion on the financial statements

We have audited the financial statements of the Army Benevolent Fund ("the Parent Charitable Company") and its subsidiaries ("the Group") for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the consolidated statement of financial activities, the charity statement of financial activities, the consolidated and charity balance sheet, the consolidated cash flow statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- + give a true and fair view of the state of the Group's and of the Parent Charitable Company's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of the Group's incoming resources and application of resources and the Parent Charitable Company's incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- + have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- + have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulations 6 and 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, as amended.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We remain independent of the Group and the Parent Charitable Company in accordance with the ethical requirements relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Conclusions related to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Group and the Parent Charitable Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Other companies act 2006 reporting

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- + the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the Directors' Report and the Strategic report prepared for the purposes of Company Law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- + the Strategic report and the Directors' Report, which are included in the Trustees' Report, have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Group and the Parent Charitable Company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatement in the Strategic report or the Trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- + proper and adequate accounting records have not been kept by the Parent Charitable Company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- + the Parent Charitable Company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- + certain disclosures of Directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- + we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Group's and the Parent Charitable Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Group or the Parent

Charitable Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with the Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Extent to which the audit was capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Non-compliance with laws and regulations

Based on:

- + Our understanding of the Group and Parent Charitable Company and the sector in which it operates;
- + Discussion with management and those charged with governance, including Audit & Risk Committee, legal counsel and internal audit; and
- + Obtaining an understanding of the Group's and the Parent Charitable Company's policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations;

We considered the significant laws and regulations to be the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), the Charities SORP (FRS 102), Charities Act 2011, Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee

CONTINUED

Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and UK tax legislation.

The Group is also subject to laws and regulations where the consequence of non-compliance could have a material effect on the amount or disclosures in the financial statements, for example through the imposition of fines or litigations. We identified such laws and regulations to be Health and Safety Act 1974, Data Protection Act 2018, Employment Rights Act 1996, and the Bribery Act 2010.

Our procedures in respect of the above included:

- + Review of financial statement disclosures and agreeing to supporting documentation;
- + Review of minutes of meeting of those charged with governance for any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- + Review of correspondence with regulatory and tax authorities for any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- + Review of legal expenditure accounts to understand the nature of expenditure incurred.

Fraud

We assessed the susceptibility of the financial statements to material misstatement, including fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included:

- + Enquiry with management and those charged with governance regarding any known or suspected instances of fraud;
- + Obtaining an understanding of the Group's and Parent Charitable Company's policies and procedures relating to:
 - Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud; and
 - Internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud.
 - Review of minutes of meeting of those charged with governance for any known or suspected instances of fraud;
 - Discussion amongst the engagement team as to how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements;
 - Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.

Fit and full of life, Olivia enjoyed the opportunities afforded by a career in the Army, until she was diagnosed with MS, which left her blind in her right eye and struggling with her mobility. Since completing an adaptive training course run by Climb2Recovery, which the ABF funds, she has found a new purpose, a sense of belonging, and a wonderful group of friends, all of which have been very positive for her physical and mental health.



Based on our risk assessment, we considered the areas most susceptible to fraud to be journals and key estimates and judgements.

Our procedures in respect of the above included:

- + Testing a sample of journal entries throughout the year, which met a defined risk criteria, by agreeing to supporting documentation;
- + Assessing significant estimates and judgements made by management for bias, including the recognition of legacy income and the allocation of costs;
- + Testing the existence and accuracy of income recognised in the year.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we are to become aware of it.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the Financial Reporting Council's ("FRC's") website at: frc.org.uk/ auditors responsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Charitable Company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and to the Charitable Company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. Our audit has been undertaken so that we might state to the Charitable Company's members and trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charitable Company, the Charitable Company's members as a body and the Charitable Company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



UHY Hacker Young

Tracey Moore BFP ACA

(Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of

UHY Hacker Young

Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditors

Thames House, Roman Square, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4BJ

25 July 2025

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Consolidated statement of financial activities for the year to 31 March 2025

		Unrestricted Funds General (note 19)	Designated (note 20)	Restricted Funds (note 21)	Endowment Funds (note 22)	Total 2025	Total 2024
	NOTES	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies							
The public							
Donations and Appeals Income		3,343	–	–	–	3,343	2,829
Legacies		28,215	–	–	–	28,215	5,241
		31,558	–	–	–	31,558	8,070
Army personnel							
From individuals in Army Units		96	–	–	–	96	55
Regimental and Corps Benevolent Funds		857	–	–	–	857	986
Army Dependants Trust		800	–	–	–	800	917
		1,753	–	–	–	1,753	1,958
Investments	3	1,993	40	244	–	2,277	2,487
Other trading activities		3,152	–	–	–	3,152	2,744
Total Income		38,456	40	244	–	38,740	15,259
Expenditure on:							
Trading activities	4	2,582	–	–	–	2,582	2,464
Other costs of raising funds	5	4,251	–	–	–	4,251	4,003
		6,833	–	–	–	6,833	6,467
Charitable activities							
Grants to Regiments and Corps for the benefit of individuals	6	2,835	11	226	25	3,097	3,385
Grants to other charities	7	3,555	529	219	–	4,303	3,751
		6,390	540	445	25	7,400	7,136
Grant making and other support costs	8	1,713	21	27	–	1,761	2,012
		8,103	561	472	25	9,161	9,148
Total expenditure		14,936	561	472	25	15,994	15,615
Net income/(expenditure) before net (losses)/gains on investments		23,520	(521)	(228)	(25)	22,746	(356)
Net (losses)/gains on investments	13	(1,983)	–	(179)	–	(2,162)	5,401
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		21,537	(521)	(407)	(25)	20,584	5,045
Net interest in the results for the year in associates	14	1	–	–	–	1	1
Net movement in funds		21,538	(521)	(407)	(25)	20,585	5,046
Fund balances at 1 April		83,237	7,840	6,604	225	97,906	92,860
Fund balances at 31 March		104,775	7,319	6,197	200	118,491	97,906

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Charity statement of financial activities for the year to 31 March 2025

		Unrestricted Funds General (note 19)	Designated (note 20)	Restricted Funds (note 21)	Endowment Funds (note 22)	Total 2025	Total 2024
	NOTES	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies							
The public							
Donations and Appeals Income		3,343	–	–	–	3,343	2,829
Legacies		28,215	–	–	–	28,215	5,241
		31,558	–	–	–	31,558	8,070
Army personnel							
From individuals in Army Units		96	–	–	–	96	55
Regimental and Corps Benevolent Funds		857	–	–	–	857	986
Army Dependants Trust		800	–	–	–	800	917
		1,753	–	–	–	1,753	1,958
Investments	3	1,993	40	244	–	2,277	2,487
Other trading activities		3,095	–	–	–	3,095	2,678
Total Income		38,399	40	244	–	38,683	15,193
Expenditure on:							
Trading activities	4	2,537	–	–	–	2,537	2,399
Other costs of raising funds	5	4,251	–	–	–	4,251	4,003
		6,788	–	–	–	6,788	6,402
Charitable activities							
Grants to Regiments and Corps for the benefit of individuals	6	2,835	11	226	25	3,097	3,385
Grants to other charities	7	3,555	529	219	–	4,303	3,751
		6,390	540	445	25	7,400	7,136
Grant making and other support costs	8	1,706	21	27	–	1,754	2,006
		8,096	561	472	25	9,154	9,142
Total expenditure		14,884	561	472	25	15,942	15,544
Net income/(expenditure) before net (losses)/gains on investments		23,515	(521)	(228)	(25)	22,741	(351)
Net (losses)/gains on investments	13	(1,983)	–	(179)	–	(2,162)	5,401
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		21,532	(521)	(407)	(25)	20,579	5,050
Net interest in the results for the year in associates	14	1	–	–	–	1	1
Net movement in funds		21,533	(521)	(407)	(25)	20,580	5,051
Fund balances at 1 April		83,218	7,840	6,604	225	97,887	92,836
Fund balances at 31 March		104,751	7,319	6,197	200	118,467	97,887

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Consolidated summary income and expenditure account for the year to 31 March 2025

	All income funds 2025	All income funds 2024
	£'000	£'000
Income	38,684	14,944
(Losses)/gains on invetsments	(2,162)	5,401
Gross income in the reporting period	36,522	20,345
Expenditure	15,917	15,519
Total expenditure in the reporting period	15,917	15,519
Net income before tax for the reporting period	20,605	4,826
Tax payable	–	–
Net income for the financial year	20,605	4,826

The income and expenditure account is derived from the Statement of Financial Activities with movements in endowment funds excluded to comply with company law. All activities relate to continuing operations.

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Group and charity balance sheets as at 31 March 2025

		GROUP		CHARITY	
		2025	2024	2025	2024
	NOTES	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	11	184	–	184	–
Tangible assets	12	161	21	161	21
Investments	13	76,763	78,330	76,763	78,330
Associate undertaking	14	12	11	12	11
		<u>77,120</u>	<u>78,362</u>	<u>77,120</u>	<u>78,362</u>
Current assets					
Stocks		5	8	–	–
Other debtors	15	19,884	6,536	19,916	6,522
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>22,807</u>	<u>14,687</u>	<u>22,748</u>	<u>14,682</u>
		42,696	21,231	42,664	21,204
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(1,325)	(1,595)	(1,317)	(1,587)
Net current assets		<u>41,371</u>	<u>19,636</u>	<u>41,347</u>	<u>19,617</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>118,491</u>	<u>97,998</u>	<u>118,467</u>	<u>97,979</u>
Provisions for liabilities	17	–	(92)	–	(92)
Net assets	18	<u>118,491</u>	<u>97,906</u>	<u>118,467</u>	<u>97,887</u>
Income funds					
Endowment funds	22	200	225	200	225
Restricted funds	21	6,197	6,604	6,197	6,604
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	20	7,319	7,840	7,319	7,840
General funds	19	<u>104,775</u>	<u>83,237</u>	<u>104,751</u>	<u>83,218</u>
Total funds		<u>118,491</u>	<u>97,906</u>	<u>118,467</u>	<u>97,887</u>

Represented by:

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on their behalf



Sarah Booth
Chair



Anthony Scott Chartered FSCI
Honorary Treasurer

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Consolidated statement of cash flows for the year to 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	6,794	(5,557)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	1,289	1,077
Purchase of equipment	(357)	–
Proceeds from the sale of investments	500	11,000
Purchase of investments	(106)	(98)
Net cash provided by investing activities	1,326	11,979
Change in cash in the reporting period	8,120	6,422
Cash at the beginning of the reporting period	14,687	8,265
Cash at the end of the reporting period	22,807	14,687

Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	20,584	5,045
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	34	32
Losses/(gains) on Investments	2,162	(5,401)
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	3	(1)
(Increase) in debtors	(13,349)	(3,221)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(363)	476
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(2,277)	(2,487)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	6,794	(5,557)

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Consolidated statement of cash flows for the year to 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Analysis of cash		
Cash in hand	2,338	7,276
Notice deposits (less than three months)	20,469	7,411
Total cash	22,807	14,687

	At 1st April 2024	Cashflows	At 31 March 2025
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Analysis of changes in net debt			
Cash in hand	7,276	(4,938)	2,338
Notice deposits (less than three months)	7,411	13,058	20,469
Total cash	14,687	8,120	22,807

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

ACCOUNTING CONVENTION

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note, in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) including the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the Charity and rounded to the nearest £1,000.

Army Benevolent Fund ('the Charity') has taken advantage of the exemption to prepare a charity-only Statement of Cash Flows on the basis that it is a qualifying entity. The consolidated Statement of Cash Flows, within the financial statements, includes the Charity's cash flows.

The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

CONSOLIDATION

The financial statements consolidate Army Benevolent Fund and its trading subsidiary company, Soldiers' Trading Limited on a line-by-line basis.

INCOME

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations and income from fundraising events are recorded in the financial statements when receivable. Income received from events is recognised in the period in which the event takes place. Income from legacies is taken into the Statement of Financial Activities when received or when receipt is probable, and the value can be measured with sufficient reliability. Where legacies have been notified to the Charity, or the Charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material. Investment income is recognised when receivable. Grants are included as income when these are receivable.

COSTS OF RAISING FUNDS

Costs of raising funds comprise those incurred in seeking voluntary income and costs incurred in generating income from trading activities. Fundraising costs include advertising, producing publications, printing, and mailing fundraising material, associated staff costs and an appropriate allocation of support costs.

CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

Grants payable in furtherance of the Charity's objects are recognised as expenditure in the year in which the grant is formally approved by the Charity and has been communicated to the recipient, except to the extent that it is subject to conditions that enable the Charity to revoke the award. Any refunds of grants are credited to the line in which they were originally allocated in the financial statements.

GRANT MAKING AND OTHER SUPPORT COSTS

Grant making costs are those costs incurred in support of the Charity's primary objective of paying grants to those in need. Other support to charities reflects the support given to other charities in terms of management and staff time; other associated infrastructure costs and in certain circumstances subsidies for accommodation costs for office space occupied at Mountbarrow House. Governance costs represent those costs associated with the governance arrangements of the Charity which relate to the general running of the Charity. Such costs include external audit fees, legal costs, related trustee costs and costs associated with compliance with statutory requirements.

INVESTMENTS IN ASSOCIATES

Investments in associates are measured in accordance with Section 14 of FRS 102. As such, investments in associates are initially recognised at the transaction price and are subsequently adjusted to reflect the Charity's share of the surplus, other comprehensive income, and equity of the associate.

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

INVESTMENTS

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year. The investment portfolio does not acquire put options, derivatives, or other complex financial instruments. The main form of financial risk faced by the Charity is that of volatility in equity markets and investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular sectors or sub sectors. All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value if acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains and losses are combined in the Statement of Financial Activities. Dividends from accumulating units are recognised as investment income and reinvested for capital growth.

Rental income is recognised in the period to which it relates.

INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS AND AMORTISATION

Intangible assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, intangible assets are measured at cost less any accumulated amortisation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Amortisation is provided on intangible assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life. The asset is amortised over eight years.

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised and included at cost, including any incidental expenses relating to the acquisition. Depreciation is provided for all tangible fixed assets so as to write off their cost in equal instalments over their expected useful lives as follows:

Computer equipment	3 years
Operating software	8 years
Office furniture and fittings	3-5 years
Leasehold improvements	Over the term of the lease

The carrying values of tangible fixed assets are reviewed for impairment if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable.

GOING CONCERN

The trustees have assessed whether there are material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees have made this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of the approval of the financial statements.

The trustees receive forecasts and financial projections that detail variations in the level and timing of future income and funding and have considered the short- and longer-term financial projections and other risks that may affect the Charity. They have considered the key risks that could negatively impact the going concern of the Army Benevolent Fund and have considered budgets and forecasts, cashflow projections, reserves levels and contingency and recovery plans. These continue to be regularly monitored by the trustees and senior management team.

The trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The trustees believe that, whilst uncertainty exists, this does not pose a material uncertainty that would cast doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern. The Charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

DEBTORS

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

STOCK

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks.

CREDITORS AND PROVISIONS

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the Charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in a transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

OPERATING LEASES

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred over the period of the lease.

PENSION COSTS

Eligible employees are automatically enrolled into a Group Personal Pension scheme which is operated on a contributory basis. The assets of the Group Personal Pension Scheme are held separately from those of the Charity and contributions payable by the Charity are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they are payable.

FOREIGN CURRENCY

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are recorded at the exchange rates ruling at the date of the transaction.

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are converted to Sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. The financial statements of overseas operations are translated to Sterling at the approximate rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. All differences are recorded in the Statement of Financial Activities.

VOLUNTEERS

The Charity benefits greatly from the involvement and enthusiastic support of its volunteers. These include our president, trustees, and regional fundraising groups. In accordance with FRS 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the economic contribution of general volunteers is not included in the financial statements.

ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

Judgements and estimates are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience as well as other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The Group makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results.

The matters considered below are considered to be the most important in understanding the judgements that are involved in preparing the financial statements and the uncertainties that could impact the amounts reported in the results of operations, financial position and cash flows.

A. COST ALLOCATION

Support costs not attributable to a single charitable activity are allocated or apportioned on a basis consistent with identified cost drivers for that cost category. Cost drivers utilised include head count, staff time allocation, and effort and judgement is exercised in applying cost drivers to cost categories.

B. LEGACY INCOME ACCRUAL

Legacy income is recognised in accordance with the income recognition policy. In calculating the level of legacy accrual, management is required to exercise estimation and judgement, particularly in determining the amount and probability of receipt.

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

2. SUBSIDIARY COMPANY'S RESULTS

SOLDIERS' TRADING LIMITED

Included in Donations and appeals income in Income, is general purpose trading income arising in Soldiers' Trading Limited. The results were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Turnover	67	82
Cost of Sales	(40)	(59)
Gross Profit	27	23
Administrative expenses	(12)	(12)
Profit on ordinary activities	15	11
Tax on profit	–	–
Profit after tax and for the financial year	15	11
Opening retained earnings	19	24
Payment to parent charity under Gift Aid	(11)	(16)
Closing retained earnings	23	19

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

3. INVESTMENT INCOME – GROUP AND CHARITY

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	General	Designated			
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Dividends and Distributions	989	–	244	1,233	1,601
Bank interest	780	40	–	820	442
	1,769	40	244	2,053	2,043
Rental Income	224	–	–	224	444
Total	1,993	40	244	2,277	2,487

4. TRADING ACTIVITIES

	GROUP		CHARITY	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fundraising Trading costs	1,864	1,479	1,819	1,414
Central and administrative costs	718	985	718	985
Total	2,582	2,464	2,537	2,399

5. OTHER COSTS OF RAISING FUNDS – GROUP AND CHARITY

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Other Costs of raising funds	2,666	2,583
Advertisements and promotion	608	632
Central and administrative costs	977	788
Total	4,251	4,003

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

6. GRANTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF INDIVIDUALS

All grants made for the benefit of soldiers, former soldiers and their immediate families are paid through their parent regimental or corps charities. The total value of these grants made during the year was £3,097k (2024: £3,385k).

7. GRANTS TO OTHER CHARITIES AND ORGANISATIONS

The Charity, on behalf of the partnership of Army charitable funds, makes grants to national charities and occasionally other organisations which support soldiers, former soldiers, and their immediate families.

By the nature of Service charities and other charities supporting serving and former soldiers, many of Army Benevolent Fund's trustees and senior management work closely with, or serve as trustees for, some of the charities listed below that receive grants from us. Where this applies, the trustee or member of the management team will not take part in the grant making decision process.

The total values of the grants made during the year for the Group and Charity were:

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
GRANTS FROM GENERAL FUNDS:		
ELDERLY		
Age In Spain	10	15
Age UK Lancashire	11	–
Age UK Waltham Forest	10	–
Broughton House	120	120
Care for Veterans (Queen Alexandra Hospital Home)	149	110
Erskine Hospital	150	150
Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League	177	195
Royal Hospital Chelsea	50	50
Royal Star & Garter Home	80	70
	757	710
	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING		
Buildforce	-	2
Building Heroes Education Foundation	2	-
Climb 2 Recovery	-	15
The Heritage Crafts Association (Heritage Crafts)	9	14
Mission Motorsport	5	27
On Course Foundation	6	5
PATT Foundation	-	10
Prisoners Education Trust	18	20
Recruit for Spouses	21	14
Forces Employment Charity (formerly Regular Forces Employment Association)	170	100
The Open University	10	10
The Poppy Factory	40	30
Turn to Starboard (T2S)	18	24
X-Forces	30	20
	329	291

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

7. GRANTS TO OTHER CHARITIES AND ORGANISATIONS (CONTINUED)

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
GRANTS FROM GENERAL FUNDS (CONTINUED):		
FAMILY		
Army Families Federation	56	45
Army Welfare Service	200	200
Army Widows' Association	26	35
COBSEO, The Confederation of Service Charities	28	28
Dandelion Military Families CIC	2	–
Families Activity Breaks	43	30
Forces Children Scotland (formerly known as RCET)	25	–
Give Us Time	10	10
Hong Kong LEP Trust	12	12
Little Troopers/ My Daddy is a Soldier Adventures	10	–
Lord Kitchener Memorial Holiday Centre	–	10
Make Some Noise	–	10
National Gulf Veterans & Families Association	40	20
Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham - Fisher House	10	10
Reading Force	18	20
Re-Vitalise	30	–
Ruskin Mill Land Trust	–	4
Scotty's Little Soldiers	35	30
Shared Parenting Scotland	6	–
SSAFA Central Office	220	135
SSAFA CMS Costs	77	102
St Nicholas CofE Primary School PTA	–	5
Veterans Scotland	15	15
Veterans with Dogs	15	–
YMCA Brunel Group (Little Ducklings)	–	5
	878	726
	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
HOUSING		
Alabaré Christian Care & Support	–	20
Armed Forces & Veterans Launchpad	70	25
Haig Homes	90	150
Help for Homeless Veterans	10	–
Lord Leycester Hospital	–	18
Royal British Legion Industries	245	68
Scottish Veterans Residences	30	–
Sir Oswald Stoll Foundation (Stoll)	48	–
The Royal Homes Wimbledon (SSAFA)	–	28
	493	309

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

7. GRANTS TO OTHER CHARITIES AND ORGANISATIONS (CONTINUED)

	2025	2024
GRANTS FROM GENERAL FUNDS (CONTINUED):	£'000	£'000
WELLBEING		
Abberton Rural Training	–	15
AFC Fylde Community Foundation	10	–
Anxious Minds	10	–
Armed Forces Equine Charity (formerly Tedworth Equestrian)	20	–
Aurora New Dawn	35	–
Bay Veteran's Association	5	–
Bound by Veterans	10	–
Brooke House Health and Wellbeing centre	8	14
Change Mental Health Ltd	10	3
Combat Stress	15	143
Community Drug and Alcohol Recovery Services (CDARS)	5	–
Dads Unlimited	–	15
Dig In North West	–	9
Defence Medical Welfare Service (DMWS)	225	150
Dundee Therapy Garden	25	16
East Durham Veterans Trust	12	10
Fares4Free	27	30
Fighting With Pride (FWP)	–	35
Firstlight Trust	–	20
Glen Art/Bravehound	15	10
Hospice UK	–	10
Highground	10	10
HorseBack UK	20	20
Hounds for Heroes	10	10
Humankind (Waythrough Charity)	10	–
Icarus	20	–
Improving Lives Plymouth	–	10
James' Place Charity	20	–
Jersey Joint Services Veterans Assoc (JJSVA)	7	12
Lothian Veterans Centre	20	10
Military Wives Choirs Foundation	–	10
Music in Hospitals and Care	5	–
Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice	–	5
PTSD Resolution CIO	5	–
Queen's Regimental Association	–	30
Root Cause Project (CIC)	5	2
SafeLives	142	–
Service Dogs UK	22	20
Smart Savings CIC	8	10
South Kent Mind	–	4
Spinal Injuries Association	42	30
Step Together Volunteering	20	30

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

7. GRANTS TO OTHER CHARITIES AND ORGANISATIONS (CONTINUED)

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
GRANTS FROM GENERAL FUNDS (CONTINUED):		
WELLBEING (CONTINUED)		
Style for Soldiers	10	10
Taxi Charity for Military Veterans	10	8
The Bridge for Heroes	30	20
The Gwennili Trust	10	10
The Not Forgotten Association	50	50
The Warrior Programme	40	30
Thistle Health and Wellbeing	20	–
Together Co	5	8
Veterans' Growth	20	10
Veterans Outdoors	5	10
The Vine Centre	5	5
Walking with The Wounded	25	10
Waterloo Uncovered	20	12
We Are With You (formerly Addaction)	50	47
	1,098	923
	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Total Grants from General Funds	3,555	2,959
	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
GRANTS FROM DESIGNATED FUNDS:		
EMPLOYMENT EDUCATION AND TRAINING		
Buildforce	–	7
Climb 2 Recovery	25	–
Mission Motorsport	20	–
Forces Employment Charity (formerly Regular Forces Employment Association)	10	45
The Poppy Factory	55	30
	110	82
	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
FAMILY		
Forces Children Scotland (formerly known as RCET)	5	–
National Gulf Veterans & Families Association	5	10
SSAFA Central Office	10	65
	20	75

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

7. GRANTS TO OTHER CHARITIES AND ORGANISATIONS (CONTINUED)

	2025	2024
GRANTS FROM DESIGNATED FUNDS (CONTINUED):	£'000	£'000
HOUSING		
Armed Forces & Veterans Launchpad	5	5
Haig Homes	60	25
Lord Leycester Hospital	11	2
Royal British Legion Industries (RBLI)	5	–
Sir Oswald Stoll Foundation (Stoll)	–	10
	81	42
	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
WELLBEING		
Change Mental Health Ltd	–	1
Combat Stress	223	100
Dig In North West	–	2
Defence Medical Welfare Service (DMWS)	–	40
Fares4Free	5	–
Glen Art / Bravehound	–	5
Highground	10	5
Icarus	10	–
Lothian Veterans Centre	–	4
PTSD Resolution CIO	10	–
Step Together Volunteering	10	–
Style for Soldiers	10	10
Taxi Charity for Military Veterans	–	2
The Bridge for Heroes	–	5
The Not Forgotten Association	25	10
The Warrior Programme	5	10
Veterans' Growth	–	5
Veterans Outdoors	5	–
Walking With The Wounded	5	10
Waterloo Uncovered	–	2
	318	211
	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Total Grants from Designated Funds	529	410

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

7. GRANTS TO OTHER CHARITIES AND ORGANISATIONS (CONTINUED)

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
GRANTS FROM RESTRICTED FUNDS:		
EMPLOYMENT EDUCATION AND TRAINING		
Buildforce	–	4
Building Heroes Education Foundation	4	–
Forces Employment Charity (formerly Regular Forces Employment Association)	115	125
Mission Motorsport	5	–
The Heritage Crafts Association (Heritage Crafts)	5	–
The Poppy Factory	5	40
X-Forces	–	16
	134	185
	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
FAMILY		
National Gulf Veterans & Families Association	–	10
SSAFA Central Office	15	30
	15	40
	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
WELLBEING		
Change Mental Health Ltd	–	2
Combat Stress	37	32
Defence Medical Welfare Service (DMWS)	–	10
Dig In North West	–	4
Dundee Therapy Garden	–	4
Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel Trust	8	–
Fares4Free	5	–
Highground	–	5
Lothian Veterans Centre	–	4
Taxi Charity for Military Veterans	5	5
The Bridge for Heroes	–	5
The Not Forgotten Association	5	20
Veterans' Growth	–	5
Walking With The Wounded	5	5
The Warrior Programme	5	10
Waterloo Uncovered	–	6
	70	117

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

7. GRANTS TO OTHER CHARITIES AND ORGANISATIONS (CONTINUED)

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
GRANTS FROM RESTRICTED FUNDS (CONTINUED):		
HOUSING		
Armed Forces & Veterans Launchpad	–	5
Haig Homes	–	25
Sir Oswald Stoll Foundation (Stoll)	–	10
	–	40
	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Total Grants from Restricted Funds	219	382
	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Grants from General Funds	3,555	2,959
Grants from Designated Funds	529	410
Grants from Restricted Funds	219	382
	4,303	3,751

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

8. GRANT MAKING AND OTHER SUPPORT COSTS

	GROUP		CHARITY	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Support costs				
Central and administrative	299	417	299	411
Support costs	890	993	890	993
Other costs	67	63	67	63
Advertisement and promotion	327	340	327	340
Governance costs				
Central and administrative	144	168	144	174
Auditor's remuneration (note 8b)	31	27	24	21
Trustee expenses	3	4	3	4
	1,761	2,012	1,754	2,006

8b INCOME / EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR

This is stated after charging:

	GROUP		CHARITY	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Auditor's remuneration - audit services	30	26	23	20
Auditor's remuneration - taxation advisory services	1	1	1	1
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	34	32	34	32
Payments under operating leases:				
- land and buildings	439	693	439	693
- other assets	114	102	114	102
	618	854	611	848

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

9. STAFF COSTS - GROUP AND CHARITY

	2025	2024
TOTAL STAFF COSTS COMPRISED:	£'000	£'000
Wages and salaries	3,795	3,569
Social security costs	378	350
Pensions contributions	190	180
	4,363	4,099

The Charity employed an average staff of 84 (11 part-time) (2024: 83 including 10 part-time) of whom 55 (2024: 53) were employed at the Charity's head office. A small number of these individuals were on short-term contracts to cover vacant posts and also from time to time we engage a limited number of contract and agency staff. There is £11k included in staff costs related to settlement (2024: £2k).

The number of employees whose employee benefits exceeded £60,000 was:

	2025	2024
	NO.	NO.
£60,001 - £70,000	7	6
£70,001 - £80,000	1	1
£80,001 - £90,000	1	-
£90,001 - £100,000	2	3
£140,001 - £150,000	1	1

Pension contributions of £58k (2024: £45k) were made on behalf of eligible higher paid employees.

The key management personnel for the Charity comprise the trustees and the executive board (senior management board). The trustees received no remuneration or benefits-in-kind

during the year (2024: £nil). They were reimbursed expenses during the year as stated in note 10.

The total remuneration, including employer's pension contributions and employer's National Insurance contributions paid to the executive board, amounted to £721k (2024: £699k).

10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

No trustees have been remunerated for their role as a trustee. Eight trustees were reimbursed £3k for travel expenses which had been directly incurred during the year under review (2024: £4k to seven trustees).

During the year, trustees made donations to the charity totalling £5k (2024: £nil). Business interests of one of the trustees donated £10k to the charity (2024: £nil). These donations were received without conditions.

Trustees and members of key management of the Army Benevolent Fund hold trustee positions and have connections with other organisations with military

connections. Grants may be made to these charities by the Army Benevolent Fund. These are made in accordance with the charity's normal processes and within the parameters of its conflicts of interests policy.

During the year ending 31 March 2025, the Charity charged its subsidiary £5k for management fees relating to Soldiers' Trading Limited's activities (2024: £5k). Soldiers' Trading Limited donated £11k to Army Benevolent Fund from its profits (2024: £16k). At 31 March 2025, there was a balance of £34k (2024: £16k) owed to the Army Benevolent Fund by Soldiers' Trading Limited.

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

11. INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS – GROUP AND CHARITY

	Computer software	
	2025	2024
COST	£'000	£'000
At 1 April	–	–
Additions during the year	192	–
At 31 March	192	–
Amortisation		
At 1 April	–	–
Charge for the year	8	–
At 31 March	184	–
Net book value at 31 March	184	–

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS – GROUP AND CHARITY

	Leasehold Improvements		Office furniture, fittings & equipment		Total	Total
	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024
COST	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
At 1 April	134	134	285	324	419	458
Additions during the year	163	–	2	–	165	–
Disposals during the year	(7)	–	–	(39)	(7)	(39)
At 31 March	290	134	287	285	577	419
Depreciation						
At 1 April	132	115	265	289	397	405
Charge for the year	19	17	7	15	26	32
Disposals for the year	(7)	–	–	(39)	(7)	(39)
At 31 March	144	132	272	265	416	398
Net book value at 31 March	146	2	15	20	161	21

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

13. INVESTMENTS – GROUP AND CHARITY

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total
	General	Designated		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Market value 1 April 2024	73,404	–	4,926	78,330
Purchase of investments	1,095	–	–	1,095
Sale of investments	–	–	(500)	(500)
Net losses on investments	(1,983)	–	(179)	(2,162)
Market value 31 March 2025	72,516	–	4,247	76,763
Cost				
At 31 March 2025	54,723	–	2,051	56,774
At 31 March 2024	53,628	–	2,269	55,897

All of the investments listed above are held by the Charity, including 100% of the issued share capital of Soldiers' Trading Limited. Both the cost and valuation of this shareholding is £1.

The investment portfolio comprises the following at market value:

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total
	General	Designated		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
BLACKROCK – ARMED FORCES CHARITIES GROWTH AND INCOME FUND				
Income units	–	–	4,247	4,247
Accumulation units	30,641	–	–	30,641
CCLA – COIF				
Accumulation units	41,875	–	–	41,875
Market value 31 March 2025	72,516	–	4,247	76,763

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

14. ASSOCIATES

The Soldiers' Fund (TSF) was incorporated as a tax-exempt charity in the United States in 2012, its primary purpose being to raise funds for British Army personnel, past and present, and their families in times of need. As Army Benevolent Fund can appoint three of the eleven directors of TSF, it is treated as an associate undertaking for the purposes of the consolidated financial statements. The Charity's share of TSF's surplus as at 31 March 2025 was £1k (2024: surplus, £1k). The Charity's share of TSF's net assets was £12k (2024: £11k).

15. OTHER DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	GROUP		CHARITY	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Prepayments and accrued income	19,784	6,298	19,784	6,291
Other debtors	100	238	98	215
Due from subsidiary	—	—	34	16
Total	19,884	6,536	19,916	6,522

16. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	GROUP		CHARITY	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Deferred income				
At 1 April	830	375	830	375
Arising during the year	1,484	1,362	1,484	1,362
Released during the year	(1,403)	(907)	(1,403)	(907)
At 31 March	911	830	911	830
Trade creditors	170	378	170	377
Accrued expenses	272	328	230	306
Other creditors	(28)	59	6	74
Total	1,325	1,595	1,317	1,587

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

17. PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES – GROUP AND CHARITY

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
At 1 April	92	110
Amounts provided for	–	–
Amounts released	(92)	(18)
At 31 March	–	92

The Charity has renewed an eight-year lease to January 2032 with the current landlord. The new lease signed on 28 June 2024 sets out that no dilapidation will be payable by the Charity.

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Tangible Fixed Assets 2025	Investments and Associates 2025	Net Current Assets 2025	Group Total 2025
GROUP	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
General Funds	345	72,529	31,901	104,775
Designated Funds				
Afghanistan Fund	–	–	5,333	5,333
Current Operations Fund	–	–	1,986	1,986
	–	–	7,319	7,319
Restricted Funds				
Commandos Benevolent	–	–	247	247
DEFLOG VQ Trust	–	–	692	692
Falklands Fund	–	2,690	637	3,327
George Purse Trust Fund	–	1,556	375	1,931
	–	4,246	1,951	6,197
Expendable endowment	–	–	200	200
Edward Gostling Fund	345	76,775	41,371	118,491

	Tangible Fixed Assets 2024	Investments and Associates 2024	Net Current Assets 2024	Group Total 2024
GROUP	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
General Funds	21	73,415	9,801	83,237
Designated Funds				
Afghanistan Fund	–	–	5,593	5,593
Current Operations Fund	–	–	2,247	2,247
Relocation Fund	–	–	–	–
	–	–	7,840	7,840
Restricted Funds				
Commandos Benevolent	–	–	247	247
DEFLOG VQ Trust	–	–	926	926
Falklands Fund	–	3,297	100	3,397
George Purse Trust Fund	–	1,629	405	2,034
Gulf Fund	–	–	–	–
	–	4,926	1,678	6,604
Expendable endowment	–	–	225	225
Edward Gostling Fund	–	–	225	225
	21	78,341	19,544	97,906

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS (CONTINUED)

	Tangible Fixed Assets 2025	Investments and Associates 2025	Net Current Assets 2025	Charity Total 2025
CHARITY	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
General Funds	345	72,529	31,877	104,751
Designated Funds				
Afghanistan Fund	–	–	5,333	5,333
Current Operations Fund	–	–	1,986	1,986
	–	–	7,319	7,319
Restricted Funds				
Commandos Benevolent	–	–	247	247
DEFLOG VQ Trust	–	–	692	692
Falklands Fund	–	2,690	637	3,327
George Purse Trust Fund	–	1,556	375	1,931
	–	4,246	1,951	6,197
Expendable endowment	–	–	200	200
Edward Gostling Fund	345	76,775	41,347	118,467

	Tangible Fixed Assets 2024	Investments and Associates 2024	Net Current Assets 2024	Charity Total 2024
CHARITY	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
General Funds	21	73,415	9,782	83,218
Designated Funds				
Afghanistan Fund	–	–	5,593	5,593
Current Operations Fund	–	–	2,247	2,247
Relocation Fund	–	–	–	–
	–	–	7,840	7,840
Restricted Funds				
Commandos Benevolent	–	–	247	247
DEFLOG VQ Trust	–	–	926	926
Falklands Fund	–	3,297	100	3,397
George Purse Trust Fund	–	1,629	405	2,034
Gulf Fund	–	–	–	–
	–	4,926	1,678	6,604
Expendable endowment	–	–	225	225
Edward Gostling Fund	–	–	225	225
	21	78,341	19,525	97,887

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

19. GENERAL FUNDS FINANCIAL ACTIVITY – GROUP AND CHARITY

GENERAL FUNDS	GROUP		CHARITY	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
At 1 April	83,237	65,673	83,218	65,649
Income and interest in associate	38,457	14,672	38,400	14,606
Expenditure	(14,936)	(14,420)	(14,884)	(14,349)
(Losses)/gains	(1,983)	5,312	(1,983)	5,312
Transfer from the Designated Fund	–	12,000	–	12,000
At 31 March	104,775	83,237	104,751	83,218

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

20. DESIGNATED FUNDS FINANCIAL ACTIVITY – GROUP AND CHARITY

	Afghanistan Fund 2025	Current Operations Fund 2025	Total 2025
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income			
Income from charitable activities	–	–	–
Income from investments	40	–	40
Total income	40	–	40
Expenditure			
Grants to other charities	(279)	(250)	(529)
Grants for the benefit of individuals	(11)	–	(11)
Grant making and other support costs	(10)	(11)	(21)
Total expenditure	(300)	(261)	(561)
Net (expenditure) before net gains/ (losses) on investments	(260)	(261)	(521)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	–	–	–
Net (expenditure) for the year	(260)	(261)	(521)
Net movement in funds	(260)	(261)	(521)
Fund balances at 1 April	5,593	2,247	7,840
Fund balances at 31 March	5,333	1,986	7,319

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

20. DESIGNATED FUNDS FINANCIAL ACTIVITY – GROUP AND CHARITY (CONTINUED)

	Afghanistan Fund 2024	Current Operations Fund 2024	Relocation Fund 2024	Total 2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income				
Income from charitable activities	–	–	–	–
Income from investments	37	–	–	37
Total income	37	–	–	37
Expenditure				
Grants to other charities	(410)	–	–	(410)
Grants for the benefit of individuals	(23)	–	–	(23)
Grant making and other support costs	(10)	–	–	(10)
Total expenditure	(443)	–	–	(443)
Net (expenditure) before net gains/ (losses) on investments	(406)	–	–	(406)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	–	–	–	–
Net (expenditure) for the year	(406)	–	–	(406)
Transfer to the General Fund	–	–	(12,000)	(12,000)
Net movement in funds	(406)	–	(12,000)	(12,406)
Fund balances at 1 April	5,999	2,247	12,000	20,246
Fund balances at 31 March	5,593	2,247	–	7,840

Designated Funds, within Unrestricted Funds, are set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes and time. The Designated Funds now consist of the Current Operations Fund (COF), the Afghanistan Fund and the Relocation Fund (RF).

+ The Current Operations Fund was established in 2007 to provide a continuing fund for soldiers, former soldiers, and their dependants in times of need who are suffering distress as a result of military operations being undertaken at that time and all subsequent military operations. It will continue in place until such time as all eligible beneficiaries no longer survive.

+ The Afghanistan Fund was set up to support Army families affected by the Afghanistan campaign. Similarly, this will be time limited.

+ The Relocation Fund of £12 million, earmarked for the purchase of the Charity's head office, was transferred to the general funds in 2024 following the infrastructure review. The Charity has renewed an eight-year lease to January 2032 with the current landlord.

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

21. RESTRICTED FUNDS FINANCIAL ACTIVITY – GROUP AND CHARITY

	Commandos Benevolent Fund	DEFLOG VQ Fund	Falklands Fund	George Purse Trust	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income					
Income from charitable activities	–	–	–	–	–
Income from investments	–	–	160	84	244
Total income	–	–	160	84	244
Expenditure					
Grants to other charities	–	(114)	(105)	–	(219)
Grants for the benefit of individuals	(1)	(119)	(4)	(102)	(226)
Grant making and other support costs	–	–	(16)	(11)	(27)
Total expenditure	(1)	(233)	(125)	(113)	(472)
Net (expenditure) before net (losses) on investments	(1)	(233)	35	(29)	(228)
Net (losses) on investments	–	–	(107)	(72)	(179)
Net (expenditure) for the year	(1)	(233)	(72)	(101)	(407)
Net movement in funds	(1)	(233)	(72)	(101)	(407)
Fund balances at 1 April	247	926	3,397	2,034	6,604
Fund balances at 31 March	246	693	3,325	1,933	6,197

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

21. RESTRICTED FUNDS FINANCIAL ACTIVITY – GROUP AND CHARITY (CONTINUED)

	Commandos Benevolent Fund	DEFLOG VQ Fund	Falklands Fund	George Purse Trust	Gulf Fund	Various Legacies	The Band Trust	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income								
Income from charitable activities	–	–	–	–	–	10	100	110
Income from investments	–	–	128	63	–	–	–	191
Total income	–	–	128	63	–	10	100	301
Expenditure								
Grants to other charities	–	(121)	(139)	–	(123)	–	–	(383)
Grants for the benefit of individuals	(7)	(106)	(8)	(77)	(11)	(10)	(100)	(319)
Grant making and other support costs	–	–	(15)	(5)	(5)	–	–	(25)
Total expenditure	(7)	(227)	(162)	(82)	(139)	(10)	(100)	(727)
Net (expenditure) before net gains on investments	(7)	(227)	(34)	(19)	(139)	–	–	(426)
Net gains on investments	–	–	59	30	–	–	–	89
Net (expenditure)/income for the year	(7)	(227)	25	11	(139)	–	–	(337)
Net movement in funds	(7)	(227)	25	11	(139)	–	–	(337)
Fund balances at 1 April	254	1,153	3,372	2,023	139	–	–	6,941
Fund balances at 31 March	247	926	3,397	2,034	–	–	–	6,604

The Restricted Funds consist of:

- + The Army Commandos' Benevolent Fund gave the bulk of its winding up funds as a grant to the Amy Benevolent Fund for the assistance of any such persons who have served in the Commandos and in making grants to charitable organisations which directly or indirectly benefits the persons or dependents of persons who have served in the Commandos. There have been no cases presented this year where an individual met the criteria for eligibility for funding from the Commandos fund.
- + The DEFLOG VQ Trust was set up from the funds received from The DEFLOG VQ Trust, which folded into the Army Benevolent Fund four years ago. The funds are restricted to advance education and training and to relieve unemployment; and relieve the needs of people who are at risk of becoming socially excluded, through the promotion of social inclusion.
- + The Falklands Fund, which exists to meet the needs of soldiers, former soldiers and their dependants who have suffered distress as a result of the Falklands conflict.
- + The George Purse Trust Fund which exists to make grants that would not otherwise be provided out of Charity Unrestricted funds to support the welfare needs of ex-Army personnel, dependants and carers residing in the former boundaries of the counties of Glamorgan and Monmouthshire.
- + The Gulf Trust (Army and Civilian) Fund was set up to meet the needs of soldiers, civilian personnel attached to or accompanying the Armed Forces and their dependants who have suffered distress as a result of the Gulf conflict and any continuing operations. The fund was fully expended in 2024.
- + The Charity received three legacies which were restricted to meet the needs of soldiers, former soldiers and their dependants in defined locations. This was fully expended in 2024.
- + The Band Trust contributed £100k towards mobility related assistance as part of our Independent Living Programme. The fund was fully expended in 2024.

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

22. ENDOWMENT FUNDS FINANCIAL ACTIVITY – GROUP AND CHARITY

	Edward Gostling Fund 2025	Total 2025	Edward Gostling Fund 2024	Total 2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income				
Income from charitable activities	–	–	250	250
Income from investments	–	–	–	–
Total income	–	–	250	250
Expenditure				
Grants to other charities	–	–	–	–
Grants for the benefit of individuals	(25)	(25)	(25)	(25)
Grant making and other support costs	–	–	–	–
Total expenditure	(25)	(25)	(25)	(25)
Net (expenditure)/income before net gains/(losses) on investments	(25)	(25)	225	225
Net gains/(losses) on investments	–	–	–	–
Net income for the year	(25)	(25)	225	225
Transfer to the General Fund	–	–	–	–
Net movement in funds	(25)	(25)	225	225
Fund balances at 1 April	225	225	–	–
Fund balances at 31 March	200	200	225	225

The expendable endowment was a donation of £250,000 from the Edward Gostling Foundation. The fund will be used to provide grants to soldiers, former soldiers and their families over a period of ten years from 2024 to enable independent living.

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

23. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

	GROUP		CHARITY	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Financial assets				
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure	76,763	78,330	76,763	78,330

Financial assets measured at fair value comprise listed investments.

24. PENSION COSTS

Army Benevolent Fund Group Pension Plan

Employer contributions to the auto enrolment scheme during the year to 31 March 2025 amounted to £190k (2024: £180k).

There was no outstanding pension contribution as at 31 March 2025 (2024: £30k).

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

25. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

At 31 March 2025 the Charity had future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases for each of the following periods:

	Land and buildings 2025	Office machinery 2025	Vehicles 2025	Total 2025
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Not later than one year	286	13	73	372
Later than one year and not later than five years	843	14	145	1,002
Later than five years	515	–	–	515
	1,644	27	218	1,889

	Land and buildings 2024	Office machinery 2024	Vehicles 2024	Total 2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Not later than one year	720	13	–	733
Later than one year and not later than five years	168	4	–	172
Later than five years	–	–	–	–
	888	17	–	905

The lease between the Army Benevolent Fund and Grosvenor Estate Belgravia covers part of the first and second floors, and the entire third floor at Mountbarrow House.

26. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

	GROUP		CHARITY	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Contractual commitments	25	–	25	–

At 31 March 2025, the Army Benevolent Fund had capital commitments in respect of its CRM software.

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

27. COMPARATIVE CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

		Total 2025	Unrestricted Funds General (note 19)	Designated (note 20)	Restricted Funds (note 21)	Endowment Funds (note 22)	Total 2024
	NOTES	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies							
The public							
Donations and Appeals Income		3,343	2,479	–	100	250	2,829
Legacies		28,215	5,231	–	10	–	5,241
		<u>31,558</u>	<u>7,710</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>8,070</u>
Army personnel							
From individuals in Army Units		96	55	–	–	–	55
Regimental and Corps Benevolent Funds		857	986	–	–	–	986
Army Dependants Trust		800	917	–	–	–	917
		<u>1,753</u>	<u>1,958</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>1,958</u>
Investments	3	2,277	2,259	37	191	–	2,487
Other trading activities		3,152	2,744	–	–	–	2,744
Total Income		<u>38,740</u>	<u>14,671</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>301</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>15,259</u>
Expenditure on:							
Trading activities	4	2,582	2,464	–	–	–	2,464
Other costs of raising funds	5	4,251	4,003	–	–	–	4,003
		<u>6,833</u>	<u>6,467</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>6,467</u>
Charitable activities							
Grants to Regiments and Corps for the benefit of individuals	6	3,097	3,018	23	319	25	3,385
Grants to other charities	7	4,303	2,959	410	382	–	3,751
		<u>7,400</u>	<u>5,977</u>	<u>433</u>	<u>701</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>7,136</u>
Grant making and other support costs	8	1,761	1,976	10	26	–	2,012
		<u>9,161</u>	<u>7,953</u>	<u>443</u>	<u>727</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>9,148</u>
Total expenditure		<u>15,994</u>	<u>14,420</u>	<u>443</u>	<u>727</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>15,615</u>
Net income/(expenditure) before (losses)/gains on investments							
	13	22,746	251	(406)	(426)	225	(356)
Net (losses)/gains on investments		(2,162)	5,312	–	89	–	5,401
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		<u>20,584</u>	<u>5,563</u>	<u>(406)</u>	<u>(337)</u>	<u>225</u>	<u>5,045</u>
Transfer between funds	19,20	–	12,000	(12,000)	–	–	–
Net interest in the results for the year in associates							
	14	1	1	–	–	–	1
Net movement in funds		<u>20,585</u>	<u>17,564</u>	<u>(12,406)</u>	<u>(337)</u>	<u>225</u>	<u>5,046</u>
Fund balances at 1 April		<u>97,906</u>	<u>65,673</u>	<u>20,246</u>	<u>6,941</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>92,860</u>
Fund balances at 31 March		<u>118,491</u>	<u>83,237</u>	<u>7,840</u>	<u>6,604</u>	<u>225</u>	<u>97,906</u>

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

SOLICITORS

BDB Pitmans LLP

One Bartholomew Close
London
EC1A 7BL

STATUTORY AUDITOR

UHY Hacker Young

Thames House
Roman Square
Sittingbourne
Kent
ME10 4BJ

PRINCIPAL BANKERS

Barclays Bank PLC

1 Churchill Place
London
E14 5HP

INVESTMENT MANAGERS

BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited

12 Throgmorton Avenue
London
EC2N 2DL

CCLA Investment Management Limited

One Angel Lane
London
EC4R 3AB

TRADING SUBSIDIARY COMPANY

Soldiers' Trading Limited

(Registered No. 07243995)

The trading subsidiary company registered office is at:
Mountbarrow House
6-20 Elizabeth Street
London
SW1W 9RB

HEAD OFFICE

Army Benevolent Fund,
Mountbarrow House, 6-20 Elizabeth
Street, London SW1W 9RB

T. 020 7901 8900

E. supportercare@armybenevolentfund.org

EAST ANGLIA

Army Benevolent Fund, Building PO4,
Room 6, Merville Barracks, Circular Road
South, Colchester, Essex CO2 7UT

T. 01206 817 105

E. eastanglia@armybenevolentfund.org

EAST MIDLANDS

Army Benevolent Fund,
Chetwynd Barracks, Chilwell, Beeston,
Nottingham NG9 5HA

T. 01159 572 103

E. eastmidlands@armybenevolentfund.org

LONDON

Army Benevolent Fund, Wellington
Barracks, London SW1e 6HQ

T. 0203 903 6030

E. london@armybenevolentfund.org

NORTHERN IRELAND

Army Benevolent Fund, Building 115,
Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn BT28 3NP

T. 02892 678 112

E. ni@armybenevolentfund.org

NORTH EAST

Army Benevolent Fund, Hipswell Lodge,
Smuts Road, Catterick Garrison,
North Yorkshire DL9 3AX

T. 01748 874 127

E. northeast@armybenevolentfund.org

NORTH WEST

Army Benevolent Fund, Fulwood
Barracks, Preston PR2 8AA

T. 01772 260 356

E. northwest@armybenevolentfund.org

SCOTLAND

Army Benevolent Fund, The Castle,
Edinburgh EH1 2YT

T. 0131 376 4008

E. scotland@armybenevolentfund.org

SOUTH EAST

Army Benevolent Fund, Robertson House,
Camberley, Surrey, GU15 4NP

T. 01276 412 961

E. southeast@armybenevolentfund.org

SOUTH WEST

Bulford Office
Army Benevolent Fund, Bldg 750,
Picton Barracks, Bulford Camp,
Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 9NY

T. 01980 672 337 (Bulford office)

E. southwest@armybenevolentfund.org

Exeter Office

Army Benevolent Fund, Wyvern
Barracks, Exeter, Devon EX2 6AR

T. 01392 496 412 (Exeter office)

E. southwest@armybenevolentfund.org

WALES

Army Benevolent Fund, Maindy Barracks,
Whitchurch Road, Cardiff CF14 3YE

T. 02920 377 080

E. wales@armybenevolentfund.org

WEST MIDLANDS

Army Benevolent Fund, Building V5,
Venning Barracks, Donnington,
Telford, Shropshire TF2 8JT

T. 01952 674 369

E. westmidlands@armybenevolentfund.org



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