



## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
	01	08	2023		31	07	2024
From				To			

### Section A

### Reference and administration details

Charity name

Armed Forces Community Support Hub

Other names charity is known by

Armed Forces Community Support

Registered charity number (if any)

1168398

Charity's principal address

Veteran Support Centre

(Off Alder Lane)

Warrington

Postcode

WA2 8AG

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	David Chandler	Lead Trustee		
2				
3				
4				

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Edward John Arnold - CEO

### Section B

### Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document  
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

Constitution

How the charity is constituted  
(eg. trust, association, company)

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustee selection methods  
(eg. Appointed by, elected by)

Appointed at a quorate meeting of the trustees properly notified as per our constitution and considered to have the skills which would be an asset to the charity.

## Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

All of our policies are constantly updated and promulgated to all staff and volunteers to read. All policies are then signed by staff and volunteers to ensure good governance.

Our Trustee induction policies have been updated and a comprehensive folder containing all relevant paperwork and guidance is issued to any individual that wishes to apply to be a Trustee within the Charity.

Although currently we only have one Trustee we have been actively recruiting for new individuals to take on the reigns.

We work closely with Local Government and recognised relevant organisations to assist us to provide our services to our clients.

An area of risk identified resulted in the purchase and recording of DBS certificates for everyone. All staff and volunteers are fully DBS checked, and copies of all certificates are now held securely.

## Section C

## Objectives and activities

**Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document**

### Armed Forces Community Support Hub Objectives

The Armed Forces Community Support Hub is built upon a unique working partnership between, Warrington Borough Council, Cheshire West and Chester Council, Citizens Advice, The Royal British Legion, ASDIC, SSAFA, DMWS, AFCTF, NHS, Cheshire Police, CGL, Pathways to Recovery.

We promote social inclusion, wellbeing, and reintegration back into civilian life after service utilising peer support and well-being projects. We are here to assist the need of individuals and family members living in Warrington and Cheshire who are currently serving or who have served in the Armed Forces.



**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

We deliver 2 weekly Veterans Breakfast Club in Warrington at the Veteran Support Centre(Coffee Mornings)

Weekly "Naafi Break Drop-Ins" located within the Cheshire West and Chester area. Naafi Breaks are spread over three locations to ensure maximum attendance and availability to veterans and their families.

Numerous trips have been organised for the veterans to the National Arboretum and other significant military locations as well social trips.

Veteran volunteers always play a major role in the support of the charity. It has always been peer-support led and is the fundamental part of the transition back into the Community for many. All veterans have signed terms of agreements and a Code of Conduct as guided by our policies and procedures.

The Veterans peer support group meet each week face to face or via online to discuss any issues or concerns they have or any ideas on what our next project would be to support further clients. Any outcomes that require CEO approval would then be presented and if needed further agreement from the Lead Trustee if the idea requires funding.

Should the volunteer group wish to purchase new items for the good and benefit of the group the CEO could grant the request (subject to financial limits imposed). If further or larger amounts of funds is required, then the CEO would request funds through the Lead Trustee.

All newly appointed volunteers and veterans requiring assistance complete a Needs Assessment to identify any issues. Early intervention reduces further deterioration and promotes mental health recovery.

#### **Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

The contribution made by our volunteers is paramount to the daily running and provision of services to our veterans' community. Without our volunteers we would have difficulty in providing our services.

We have focussed mainly this year on either self-funding or projects not requiring external funding. We strive to be self sufficient without burdening the already stretched funding organisations. Our passion to support veterans is driven by the support we receive from veterans who have either utilised our services or wish to assist others.

Our secondary aim is to support the local communities in which we are located. Having their support is crucial to the centre remaining open and allowing the veterans to re-join communities in which they have previously felt excluded.



### Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

During this reporting period we have identified and assisted 10 veterans who were designated as homeless into supported living accommodation during this reporting year. This has been through the continued support of outside agencies who support veterans e.g. The Royal British Legion, Night Stop and local government assistance. Although our successful numbers are low compared to other larger organisations every veteran housed is one less having to endure life on the streets.

213 Veteran referrals have been received and recorded through our services following Needs Assessments which has provided guidance and support/assistance to veterans, dependants and families.

This year again, our Bicycle Recycle project has been our biggest success. Working in conjunction with Cycling UK who have supported us for two of our bike projects during this reporting period we have been able to sustain the project. We have supported 21 veterans with free bicycles but, due to the success and supply of bicycles from our local community we have also managed to supply repaired bicycles back to the community who have been referred from local community agencies for assistance. We have also been able to supply (via local government services) several bicycles to local families who due to circumstances could not afford to purchase bicycles from their own funds

Our latest project in which we are very keen to explore has been our Laser crafting project where the veterans are learning and understanding how to craft items from Wood, Plastic, Glass etc into items which we can sell at our fundraising events. This has become popular with the clients who are learning a new skill and taking more time out of their own homes to interact with like minded individuals and the public as a whole.

We still maintain a close link with NHS medical services and our continued commissioning from Greater Manchester Mental Health has assisted us greatly in providing wrap around support for them and their clients.

Now in our 6<sup>th</sup> year of commissioning from Cheshire West and Chester Council we continue to provide support to veterans and dependants within the CWaC area.

The Veterans Support Centre has developed greatly within this reporting period and we are keen to utilise the building more not just for the veterans and their families but to the wider general public as a whole.

We have continued to utilise our minibus to provide support and assistance to veterans who engage with us. However, the age and condition of the bus and the increasing costs of maintaining her have now seen her removed from service and has now been sold on for parts. This is an unfortunate situation as the bus was a stalwart within both the veteran community and the local community as a whole. However, the bus was utilised for the following:

Social trips and events for both Veterans and their families.  
Social trips for local non-funded community agencies for social trips.  
Moving Military Veterans personal belongings in and out of storage  
House Removals



<b>Section E</b>	<b>Financial review</b>	
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<b>Brief statement of the charity’s policy on reserves</b>	We have continued to fundraise throughout this reporting year to maintain funds sufficient to cover our operational costs for three months minimum.
<b>Details of any funds materially in deficit</b>	n/a

**Further financial review details (Optional information)**

<p>You <b>may choose</b> to include additional information, where relevant about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the charity’s principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);</li> <li>how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity.</li> <li>investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.</li> </ul>	<p>The charities principal source of funding this reporting period has been from Veterans in Mind (NHS) and Cheshire West and Chester Council.</p> <p>We are working more towards self-funded projects which can sustain the charity such as the bike project and our new Laser craft project. For future years.</p>
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<b>Section F</b>	<b>Other optional information</b>	
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<b>Section G</b>	<b>Declaration</b>	
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The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees’ report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity’s trustees

<b>Signature(s)</b>		
<b>Full name(s)</b>	Edward John Arnold	
<b>Position (e.g., Secretary, Chair, etc)</b>	CEO	
<b>Date</b>	21 May 2025	

**Armed Forces Community Support Hub**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**For Year End 31st July 2024**

Heading	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year Ended 31.07.2024 Total Funds	Period 01.08.2022 - 31.07.2023 Total Funds
Income & Endowments from Donations and Legacies		70009		70008.77	67948.57
Bank interest received		84.77			
Expenditure On					
Charitable activities General		75355		75355.3	113696.6
Net income (Expenditure)		-5262			
Transfer between funds					
NET MOVEMENT OF FUNDS				-5346.53	-45748.03
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		13028		13028.45	13028.45
Cash in hand		62.6			17.39
Total funds					
Carried Forward		7767			13028.45

**Detailed statement of financial Activities**  
**Income and Endowments**  
**Year Ended 31.07.2024**

**For the Year 31st July 2024**

**Year Ended 31.07.2023**

Donations & Legacies	70009	67948.57
Interest Received	84.77	
Total incoming resources	70094	67948.57
Payments		
Charitable Activities	23914	1350
Payroll	19900	6000
Insurance	164.9	3375.24
Telephone/internet	1642	1967.93
Postage & Stationary	107.4	570.8
Rent/Building Maintenance	12581	18514.22
Computer Equipment	4486	494.94
Hospitally		
Volunteers Expenses	1985	614.85
Fuel	5330	4473.78
Storage Unit	4466	8482.67
Subscriptions	778.4	
Living History Project		3184.66
Bike Project		25000
Veterans Foundation Project		30000
CWAC Breakfast Club		9667.51

Total Resources Expended	75355	113696.6
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Armed Forces Community Support Hub  
Balance Sheet  
At 31st July 2024

Heading	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year Ended 31.07.2024 Total Funds	Period 01.08.2022 - 31.07.2023 Total Funds
Fixed Assets					
Marquees/Gazebo				3106	3106
Mini Bus				2000	2000
Total	0	0	0	5106	5106
Accumulated Depreciation				-5106	
Total	0	0	0	0	5106
Bank Current Account				4726.98	7367.84
Bank Deposit Account				3005.2	5655.54
Cash				62.6	17.39
Other Creditors				-27.89	-12.32
				7766.89	13028.45

# INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WARRINGTON

ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY SUPPORT REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1168398

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Armed Forces Community Support for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024 (The Trust).

## Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the Charity Trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (The Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the Trusts accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

## Independent Examiners Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act, or
2. The Accounts do not accord with those records.

I confirm that there are no matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts.

Woods & Cooper, Chartered Accountants & Chartered Tax Advisers

23 Farnworth Street

Widnes

WA8 9LH

Signed: Woods & Cooper

Date: 7/4/25

Chair of Trustees: David Chandler

Signed: D Chandler

Date: 21/05/25