



ARMY CENTRAL FUND

Supporting
The British Army

2023 IMPACT REPORT

WELCOME

The Army Central Fund is the British Army's own grant-making charity. On average it disperses over £2.5M a year to support the serving community. Operating as an independent charity, it exists for the Army and belongs to everyone in the Army. Its aim is to make life better for serving Regular and Army Reserve personnel, and their immediate families.

CORE ACTIVITIES

Army Welfare Funds are the biggest single recipient of funding from the charity. The annual Command Grant, currently £760,000, is managed through a structure of grant committees. Hundreds of small grants are made directly to units to improve welfare facilities and recreational activities. Major annual grants are also awarded towards the running costs of the Army Families Federation and the Army Sport Control Board.

MAJOR AWARDS

The Army Central Fund can support large Army-wide projects. It has recently awarded £7M to build a new Soldiers' Centre at the Army Training Centre, Pirbright and £1M towards the Neurological Gym at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, Stanford Hall. In recent years, the Charity contributed to the new Army Inshore Sailing Centre at Thorney Island and funded the Army Roll of Honour.

PROJECTS

What may be less well-known is that the Army Central Fund also awards grants to national and military charities to enable them to provide specialist support across the Army. This funding can help those in most need, such as a SSAFA-run break for a family with a child with additional needs, a course at the Warrior Programme to help an individual develop their resilience, help from an Aurora advocate for a victim of domestic violence, or support from the Defence Medical Welfare Service for a patient in an NHS hospital.

All this, and much more, is provided without any subscriptions, sponsorship, government grants or fundraising. It is also an extremely cost-effective charity. Over 97% of its income is distributed in grants.

OUR VISION:

A better quality of life for serving British Army personnel and their families.

OUR MISSION:

To contribute to an enhanced lived experience for serving British Army personnel and their immediate families, through the award of financial grants.

ARMY CENTRAL FUND

Supporting The British Army

HISTORY

The charity was established in 1948 by merging various military welfare funds, some of which date back to the First World War.

Over the years it has received further donations, contributions from commercial contracts, and recently, the balance of remaining welfare funds from British Forces Germany on drawdown. This money has been carefully invested over the years, and has continued to grow.

TODAY

The ACF's investments and other donations (such as the Army's share of the Defence Discount Card scheme) now sustain an annual grants programme. This allows the investment capital to be preserved so that the Charity will continue providing support to future generations.

CULTURE AND VALUES

We seek to uphold the highest ethical standards. We are governed under a Charity Commission Scheme and follow the Commission's regulations and guidance. We are members of Cobseo, The Confederation of Service Charities.

Our financial statements are externally audited, and are published on the Charity Commission for England and Wales website (Charity Number 245700). Our key charity policies are published on our website: www.armycentralfund.org.uk

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

We are committed to eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and making diversity and inclusion central to all that we do. Our grant-making programme is designed to provide activities and facilities that are accessible to the whole Army community. Working with the charities and organisations that we fund our aim is to provide support to all who are eligible, including minorities.



KEY FACTS

WHAT WE DO

Our role is to award grants. We are not a frontline charity directly supporting individuals but we do fund other organisations so that they can provide charitable support to the Army.

This includes:



WOUNDED, INJURED & MENTAL HEALTH

- DMRC Stanford Hall (over £1M)
- Norton House for family visits
- Hospital welfare
- Wellbeing and resilience support
- Small grants to WIS therapy activities



FAMILY SUPPORT

- Spousal Employment
- Domestic Violence support
- Community volunteers
- Community activities



CHILDREN'S WELFARE

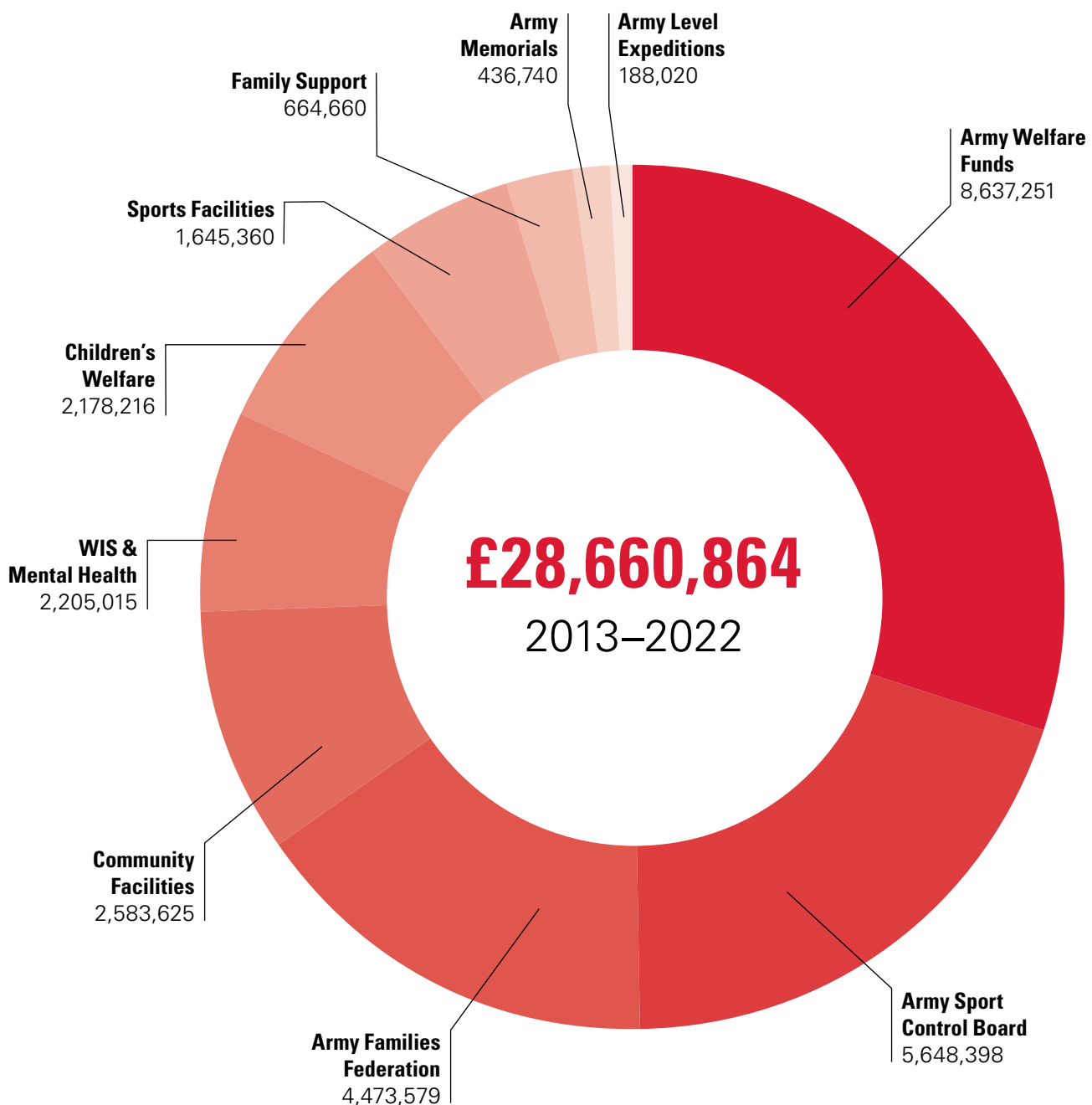
- Parenting support
- Summer Camps and Breaks
- Youth activities
- Playpark refurbishments



COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SPORT

- New Pirbright Soldiers Centre
- Multi-Use Games Areas
- Upgrading Junior Ranks Clubs
- Improving Community Centres

10 YEARS OF GRANTS



CHARITY EFFECTIVENESS

97.7%

...of the charity's expenditure over the last ten years comprised grants to support the Army. Only 2.3% (under £66,000 a year) has been spent on running costs (accounting and audit fees, legal fees, governance costs, salaries and office costs). This represents exceptional effectiveness.

“SSAFA can only fulfil its role to help the Army community with the support and funding of organisations such as the Army Central Fund. Without this assistance, our ability to do this vital work for serving personnel and their families would be severely limited.”

Lieutenant General Sir Andrew Gregory, CEO at SSAFA

CORE GRANTS

ARMY WELFARE FUNDS

The ACF makes two major annual grants directly to Army organisations. In 2023, £760,000 was awarded to the Army Welfare Grants Committee for unit projects and over £670,000 to the Army Sport Control Board towards the costs of running Army Sport. Both grants come with delegated powers and detailed criteria. This arrangement ensures the funds are managed to best effect.

“Ever wondered where the new Gym audio system came from? What about the picnic tables outside the accommodation or the replacement sails for the Regimental yacht?”

The answer may well be that they were all funded from the ACF annual Command Grant, which is administered through HQ Regional Command.

The projects supported are wide in scope. They range from mountain bikes to community centre improvements to welfare minibuses to almost anything else welfare- or sport-related. Applications from joint units are supported by Royal Navy and Royal Air Force charities. Awards are coordinated with the Nuffield Trust.

A recent example of welfare funds working together was at the Services' Cotswold Centre, a tri-service welfare facility near Corsham, managed by the Army on behalf of Defence. The old outdoor play area had been closed as the equipment was unsafe. With no public funds available to repair or replace the equipment, the unit approached military charities for their support. The equipment was replaced with substantial contributions from the ACF, the RNRM Charity and the RAF Central Fund. The new equipment is immensely popular and has made a significant difference to facilities for children staying at Corsham.

See Page 15 for advice on making an application.



CORE GRANTS

ARMY SPORT

Sport prepares soldiers for operations by enhancing physical and mental fitness, resilience, leadership, and teamwork. It fosters cohesion, pride, humility, the ability to thrive under pressure and the courage to overcome fear. Sport sharpens the competitive edge and inspires a will to win that enables us to meet our core purpose, to protect the nation by being ready to fight and win wars on land. Sport contributes to the 'Offer' to our people; plays an important part in Army life, including recruiting and retention; and can provide excellent public visibility of the Army.

The ACF annual operating grant contributes to the running costs and salaries of the workforce of the Army Sport Control Board. The ASCB plans and delivers 16 major sports and supports a further 28 that are led and managed by volunteers. Soldiers participate at all competitive levels from Unit through Corps, Army and UK Armed Forces, with the very best competing on the world stage. There is significant sporting talent amongst our ranks, with 170 of our soldiers being chosen to compete at national level.

“In addition to the operating grant, ACF supports the development of sporting facilities. The recently opened Wavell Road sports pavilion in Catterick is a good example of the ASCB and ACF working together to provide a much needed sporting and recreational facility for the Garrison community.”

Find out more information about Army Sport at:
www.armysportcontrolboard.com



PROJECTS

FAMILIES, CHILDREN & COMMUNITY

The Army Central Fund enables military organisations and charities to provide practical support to Army families wherever they are living.

Help can range from funding children's activities to providing care for those facing difficult family challenges. Where there is a need or opportunity, we will try to help.

Examples of some of the charities and events that we have supported recently are:

£20,000

FOR VOLUNTEER TRAINING AND CHOIR SUPPORT.

The Military Wives Choirs connect over 2,000 women in the military community and create a support network through the power of singing; coming together to increase wellbeing and celebrate a communal understanding that comes from its members' shared experiences.

www.militarywiveschoirs.org

militarywives
Choirs[®]

£53,000

FOR HOME-START SUPPORT TO ARMY FAMILIES.

Home-Start UK has received an annual grant from the ACF for over 20 years. This long-standing partnership provides support to Army families with young children.

During 2022, 220 Army families accessed a Home-Start service. Parenting young children isn't always easy, and Home-Start helps those who are struggling to cope. Trained volunteers visit family homes weekly offering 1:1 practical assistance and emotional support, helping parents to gain confidence.



Some Home-Starts near Army garrisons also host group events allowing families to make friends and feel less alone. The annual ACF grant is accessible to every Home-Start in the UK and separate support is provided in Cyprus.

www.home-start.org.uk

**HOME
START**



£60,000

A YEAR TO OUT OF SCHOOL ADVENTURES IN CONJUNCTION WITH ABF THE SOLDIERS' CHARITY (£200,000 A YEAR).

The AWS Out of School Adventures programme delivers high quality activities for children and young people during the school holidays.

This support is essential for Army families who can experience frequent moves, some at short notice, and often with the absence of the serving parent. Families can be located in isolated units where access to provision for children and young people is either limited or non-existent. The highlight of this programme is the residential adventurous activities that develop confidence, self-esteem, social-skills and wellbeing.

The Army Central Fund has also provided funding for community-based activities and initiatives for children and young people through youth clubs and community projects. This support helps the Army community to thrive, it addresses social isolation, and positively impacts on wellbeing.

www.army.mod.uk/people

**ARMY
WELFARE
SERVICE**

£30,000

CONTRIBUTION TO BUILDING COSTS.

The Fold Family Centre is a rural escape near Catterick Garrison.

It provides craft and land-based activities for serving personnel and families. Alongside ABF The Soldiers' Charity, ACF have supported the centre from its early days.

www.rmt.org/clervaux-fold



clervauxfold



£40,000

TO SSAFA SHORT BREAKS.

These breaks are for serving – including reservist – families who have a child with an additional need or disability.

The ACF grant helps fund Army families to attend these popular and lively events.

The breaks provide opportunities for families to spend time together and for children with an additional need or disability to take part in activities with their whole family, helping to develop their confidence and to socialise with others.

www.ssafa.org.uk

ssafa | the
Armed Forces
charity

BUILDING PROJECTS

Pirbright Soldiers Centre

The largest single project grant ever made by the Army Central Fund (£7M) has been awarded to build a new Soldiers Centre at the Army Training Centre, Pirbright. It will provide an outstanding welfare hub for recruits undergoing training and contribute to improving the facilities at the Army's main training centre.



MOD Stafford Community Centre

A smaller scale refurbishment.



Projects UK and Worldwide

Cyprus Episkopi Pool improvements



Falkland Islands Bowling Alley



Bulford Beeches Centre Playpark



Chicksands Cinema



PROJECTS

HELPING THOSE IN MOST NEED

ACF grants fall in two broad categories; they are either for collective benefit of the whole community, typically by improving facilities, or they support those in need.

The charity does not directly fund individuals but it provides grants to organisations that help our people.

For example:

£80,000

TO FULLY FUND TWO ADVOCATE POSTS FOR ARMY CASEWORK.

Aurora New Dawn supports victims of domestic abuse, sexual violence and stalking, and works with the Army Welfare Service to provide the service to serving personnel and family members.

The Armed Forces Advocates understand Service life, and use their experience and knowledge to provide independent support to survivors. Through practical, emotional and financial advice, they help victims to understand that they can escape their situation and safely build a new life.

In addition to their focus on victims, Aurora New Dawn works with the Army to help influence a shift in culture and to provide practical advice to Unit Welfare Officers, the Royal Military Police and others who work with victims.

www.aurorand.org.uk



£50,000

TO FUND PLACES FOR SERVING ARMY PERSONNEL.

Warrior delivers mental strength and resilience training to current and former members of the Armed Forces community. Since 2018, over 470 serving Army personnel and family members have benefited from the training. The ACF grant funds 25 places a year for the Army. (Family member places are funded from other sources). Support is focused on those whose performance is affected by stress and anxiety, or who required additional support on return to work following medical intervention.

The impact is extremely positive with individuals gaining confidence and motivation; and increased emotional intelligence. One recent participant wrote: "I can't find fault with the programme. It's an overwhelmingly positive experience... I'm more than happy to talk about what Warrior's done for me – it's fantastic."

www.warriorprogramme.org.uk

thewarriorprogramme

£65,000

NORTON HOUSE, SUPPORTED ANNUALLY SINCE 2016.

SSAFA's Norton House provides accommodation for the friends and family of servicemen and women who are undergoing treatment for illness or injury at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, Stanford Hall.

The service continued through the Covid-19 pandemic and has enhanced the wellbeing of hundreds of members of the Army family by enabling them to be together at a critical time.

www.ssafa.org.uk



£15,000

TO FORCESLINE.

Forcesline is SSAFA's confidential helpline. It experienced its busiest year yet in 2022. There was a 21% increase in contacts and the nature of the calls became more challenging as the cost of living soared and the private rental crisis grew.

To meet this additional demand, ACF awarded an extra grant to SSAFA to contribute to the costs of this important service.

www.ssafa.org.uk



CORE GRANTS

ARMY FAMILIES FEDERATION

The Army Central Fund has been a major supporter of the Army Families Federation since its formation. The 2023 ACF grant was £513,000, which met around 38% of AFF's annual running costs.

AFF is an independent charity that supports Army personnel and their families, wherever they are based. It provides guidance and information directly to family members on all aspects of life as an Army family, helping them to navigate the policies and processes that affect them. It aims to resolve their issues and to help them make informed decisions so they can better manage the challenges of Service life.

AFF also listens to soldiers and their families about what is affecting their family life – through surveys, social media engagement and analysis of casework. It then highlights issues to the chain of command and service providers, and works with them to ensure that policies and processes are meeting changing needs, and are communicated effectively.

With access to policymakers in Defence and wider Government, AFF works to deliver positive changes in support of Service family life. Using independent evidence and the expertise of its specialist teams, it seeks to shape debate from a position of knowledge and provides a voice for Army families.

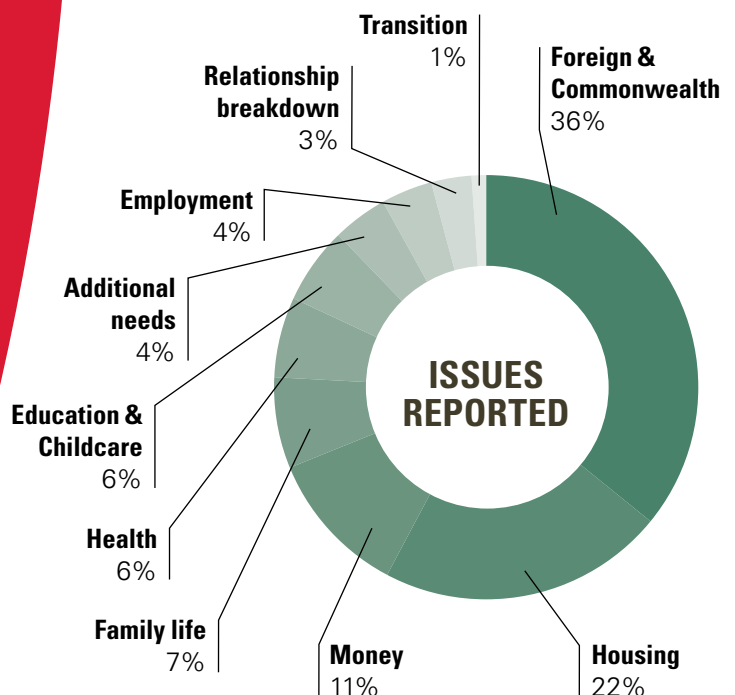
AFF also works closely with the RAF and Naval Families Federations, acknowledging that different services have different needs. As Army families tend to be more mobile and are the main users of Service Family Accommodation, housing issues have always formed a sizable proportion of AFF's work – both providing direct support to families in resolving their issues and in advocating for their needs.

The Foreign & Commonwealth team – made up of qualified immigration advisers – provides person-specific advice and guidance direct to serving personnel and their families. They also support units, the chain of command and support organisations which are seeking qualified immigration advice.

www.aff.org.uk



aff | army families federation



PROJECTS

WOUNDED, INJURED & SICK

The Army Central Fund works with the Army and other charities to supplement Ministry of Defence provision for wounded, injured and sick personnel and their family members. Examples include:

£90,000

A YEAR TO SUPPORT SERVING PERSONNEL AND FAMILIES.

DMWS provides welfare support to the Armed Forces community for those undergoing a physical and/or mental health treatment, or when issues related to health and welfare are a concern.



The objective is to tackle any barriers to improving mental and physical wellbeing, such as stress and anxiety, social isolation, mental health, relationship issues, housing, and finance. The ACF grant covers three project areas: the South of England, Catterick, and a phone response service covering the rest of UK. DMWS help ranges from straightforward to complex and examples include supporting a serving soldier through his cancer treatment and recovery;

working with a young family having difficulty accessing treatment and engaging with the chain of command to arrange for a soldier to be posted nearer to his family to help support their child with special educational needs.

DMWS Welfare Officers work across the NHS to offer emotional and practical support to serving personnel and families throughout diagnosis, treatment and any subsequent adjustment needed.

www.dmws.org.uk



£4,500

FOR UP TO £50 A HEAD TO PART-FUND 90 COURSE VACANCIES ARRANGED THROUGH RECOVERY UNITS.

On Course Foundation supports the recovery of wounded, injured and sick Service personnel through confidence building golf events and opportunities for employment in the golf industry.

www.oucoursefoundation.com



£12,000

FOR RAISED PLANTERS.

HighGround provides the Horticultural Therapy service at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, Stanford Hall. Patients are referred by their Occupational Therapist and undertake horticultural tasks such as seed sowing and pruning. This improves fine motor skills, stamina and balance and increases social interaction. These activities are supervised by HighGround's Horticultural Therapist.

www.highground-uk.org



£5,000

CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS COURSE COSTS.

This grant enables Army personnel on recovery programmes to attend selected Royal Navy Recovery Courses. This widens the range of available activities and events and helps them stay motivated, mix with like-minded individuals, and to recover more swiftly. The courses include yoga and wellbeing retreats, chainsaw courses, and sailing weeks. Places can be accessed through Recovery Units.



HOW TO GET HELP

APPLICATIONS

Each application is considered on its individual merits. We look for strong applications that will lead to great projects. Here is some general guidance:



STRONGER APPLICATIONS

- Support to those in need or to provide benefit across the whole Army.
- To help address inequalities, grants to support minority communities in the Army are encouraged.
- Contributions from your own funds and other sources.
- Something that has been successful elsewhere.
- A one-off grant that addresses a need and will provide enduring benefits.



WEAKER APPLICATIONS

- Activities that other charities or statutory bodies already provide.
- Applicants with significant unused financial reserves.
- Having no track record to support your proposal.
- Looking to us to support core running costs or salaries.
- Proposals for a large sum that will only benefit a small number.

CHARITY APPLICATIONS

Please see the advice on the process given on our website www.armycentralfund.org.uk and then contact the Secretary via grants@armycentralfund.org.uk. There are two ACF grants meetings each year, in May and November. The respective closing dates for applications are 30th March and 30th September.

ARMY AND JOINT FORCE APPLICATIONS

The route to getting funds is first, to apply. Army Command Standing Order 3206 (Army Welfare Funds) gives guidance on the welfare grants process, the application form is Annex A to the ACSO. Refer to the Welfare Funds SharePoint site for guidance on how to submit your application or email via the group mailbox (link below). Applications must be supported by the unit CO or, in the case of applications from sports associations, from the chairperson, and must include their name and position. Each application will be considered for support from Army Central Fund, Nuffield Trust, and the other smaller funds coordinated under this process. The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust and the NAAFI Fund have a separate application processes.

Once an application has been submitted it will be processed through your Regional (RPoC) or equivalent Grant Committee and, if required, forwarded to Regional Command and Army Welfare Grants Committees. If it is not supported, then feedback will be given along with guidance and signposting to other potential sources of funding. Please note that funds are not allocated for adventurous training, expeditions, battlefield studies or overseas sports visits. Individuals, veteran organisations and Cadets (ACF and CCF) are not eligible for ACF funding.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

modgovuk.sharepoint.com/teams/14540/Pers/FamilySupport/SitePages/ProvideWelfareGrants.aspx

RC-Pers-WelFunds-0Mailbox@mod.gov.uk

ARMY CENTRAL FUND

Supporting
The British Army

CONTACT DETAILS

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Wiltshire
SN9 6BE

Email: grants@armycentralfund.org.uk

www.armycentralfund.org.uk

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Registered Charity Number

(England and Wales) 245700

Corporate Trustee

The Army Central Fund Trustee Ltd (11820705)

For more information see the Annual Report
on the Charity Commission website.

GOVERNANCE

The Board (in June 2023)

Major General Paul Griffiths CB

Air Vice-Marshal The Hon David Murray CVO OBE DL

Major General Aidan Smyth QVRMTD

Brigadier Edward Chamberlain

Brigadier Anna Luedicke CBE

Colonel Alison Brown OBE

Guy Davies Esq

WO1 Jamie Clarke MBE

SECRETARY

Lieutenant Colonel Julian Panton MBE

INVESTMENT MANAGERS

BlackRock

PITCH
Property Income Trust For Charities

CCLA
GOOD INVESTMENT

Bankers



Legal Advisers

Wilsons
Solicitors

Treasurer



Member

