

# Legion Links

## Volunteer Project Introduction

### Legion Links Team

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# Project Overview

The Legion Links project is funded by a two-year grant from the **Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust**.



Legion Links will build upon RBL's existing work by creating a new **national network of social groups** offering support to carers in the Armed Forces community.

The project will launch **twenty social groups** across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

These groups will deliver a **programme of support** which connects people with a shared experience and background, helping individuals feel less lonely and isolated because of their caring role.

Groups will launch in cycles according to the following schedule:

- August 2021
- October 2021
- April 2022



# Volunteers

**Volunteers will play a vital role** in the project by assisting with the administration, preparation and delivery of the groups.

Each of the twenty Legion Links groups will be coordinated and led by a team of volunteers, consisting of two new roles:

- **Support Group Facilitators**
- **Support Group Administrators**

Each group is likely to consist of approximately two Support Group Facilitators and one Support Group Administrator. Over a two-year period, the project will recruit approximately 40 – 60 volunteers.

Volunteers will be recruited according to the following schedule:

- June 2021
- September 2021
- February 2022



# Programme of Support

The programme of support offered by Legion Links will be adaptable and will consider the restrictions of Covid-19. At present, we hope to use a mix of socially distanced face-to-face groups combined with virtual groups to take account of local and national guidance. The programme of activities for each group will be created by the volunteers in partnership with the group members, so that it is fully inclusive and accessible.

## The support package will include:



### One-to-One Support

Participants will receive regular one-to-one conversations with a Legion representative.



### Face-to-Face Support Groups

Monthly face-to-face support group sessions, tailored to the interests of the members.



### Virtual Support Groups

Virtual support groups will be provided as an alternative to or in conjunction with face-to-face sessions.



### External Events and Activities

External activities at venues such as local museums and the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA).

# Volunteer Support

Legion Links volunteers will be provided with a comprehensive programme of formal and informal support and supervision throughout their volunteer journey. The programme of support offered to volunteers will remain flexible, and will be adapted in line with the requirements and recommendations of volunteers.

## Point of Contact

The Project Officer will be the point of contact for volunteers regarding all aspects of their formal and informal support and supervision.

## Training and Induction

All Legion Links volunteers will take part in a formal recruitment process consisting of interviews, induction and training.

## Formal One-to-One Support

- An introductory one-to-one for the volunteer and Project Officer to get to know each other.
- Annual one-to-one reviews

## Informal One-to-One Support

In addition to formal one-to-ones, volunteers will also be provided with continuous and ongoing informal one-to-one support as required.

## Peer-Led Support

Informal peer-led support is an important aspect of the Legion Links volunteer support programme, this will include the following opportunities:

- Virtual introductory meet and greets with the other volunteers
- Regular virtual catch ups with all volunteers
- A Volunteer Hub to share updates, stories and ask questions
- Annual face-to-face meet-up