**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**New programme to fund research into challenges facing Armed Forces families**

The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust (The Trust) are launching a brand new, exciting programme under the Armed Forces Families Fund. The Research Grants programme, now open for applications, is a new and innovative programme which seeks to fund high quality research that can help to develop understanding of the key challenges faced by Armed Forces families. Particular focus will be on educational attainment for Service pupils, child welfare and the welfare needs of Service families.

**What’s the aim of the programme?**

The Research Grant programme aims to develop a stronger understanding of the specific needs and challenges facing Armed Forces families.

The Trust will award up to six grants towards research that both adds to the wider understanding of complex educational or welfare issues affecting Armed Forces families, and proposes solutions.

This is a targeted and strategic programme that aims to develop a stronger understanding of the specific needs and challenges faced by Armed Forces families. Applications under the programme must address at least one of 6 key challenges. These challenges include Service children with SEND, impact on education and welfare considerations; and how service families access information.

The Trust are interested in your ideas about how you would approach and explore each research challenge and would encourage collaborative approaches.

Successful applications will need to demonstrate how their research project will contribute to wider understanding of these complex issues and be able to show that any data gathered would be robust.

**What’s available and who can apply?**

Grants of up to £60,000 are available for projects being delivered over a period of up to 18 months. UK based charities and UK based universities can apply.

Applications must be submitted by 6 October 2023.

Full details of this Fund are available on the Trust’s dedicated programme page alongside useful guidance and further information on eligibility.

**Keep up to date with funding opportunities**

For the latest updates and announcements on Covenant Fund programmes, and any other funding opportunities the Trust has available throughout the year, sign up to their e-newsletter via their website [www.covenantfund.org.uk](http://www.covenantfund.org.uk)

**ENDS**

**Notes for Editors**

The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust is a charity and an MOD sponsored NDPB that manages the grant programmes funded by the Covenant Fund. They also run wider funding programmes that support the Armed Forces community.

The Trust makes grants that have an impact on the lives of Armed Forces communities, including serving personnel, Armed Forces families, the bereaved, veterans, and their families.

The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise by the nation ensuring that those who serve or who have served in the Armed Forces, and their families, are treated fairly.

All the grants that we award support the values of the Covenant.

For more information on the Armed Forces Covenant, visit the Covenant website [www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk](http://www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk)

**Media contact:**Sonia Howe, Director of Policy Sonia.howe@covenantfund.org.uk