



Brooke House

Health & Wellbeing Centre

VPPP 2024-2027 Empowering Veterans and Families: Creating Connections, Building Futures (Thrive Together) Programme

Application Guidance Document

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1. Introduction to Brooke House

Brooke House was established in 2018 with funding from HM Treasury, we are a registered Charity and Company limited by guarantee working with veterans drawn from across Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

OUR VISION

- To improve the health of past and present members of the uniformed services, their families and carers.

OUR MISSION

- to provide a range of interventions that are outcomes-focused, evidence-based and follow a model of recovery
- to develop and deliver innovative, evidenced-based traditional and complementary therapies, in order to promote the health and wellbeing of serving and retired members of the British Armed Forces, the Police, Prison Officers, their families and carers, across Northern Ireland and to veterans residing in the Republic of Ireland.

The Brooke House Health and Wellbeing Centre seeks to support and improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of uniformed services, retired Police Officers, Military veterans, and their families, who have been physically injured, psychologically impacted and/or bereaved as a result of their service.

Brooke House aims to provide multi-disciplinary, evidenced-based and outcomes-focused, high-impact support for the care and recovery of the uniformed services, retired Police Officers, Military veterans, who have been physically injured, psychologically impacted and/or bereaved as a result of their service. and their families, complementing other therapeutic services and providing an environment where they may develop together.

We aim to provide a bespoke treatment and care package based on specific need through a range of support services, some of which will be delivered within Colebrooke Park and others at various locations through Northern Ireland. Clients can self-refer by completing a client referral form or be referred by Statutory Services, the Community and Voluntary Sector or Armed Forces Charities and Associations. Brooke House is not a crisis service.

For more details on Brooke House and the support and services we provide, please visit our website <http://www.brookehouse.co.uk>

2. Background to VPPP 2024-2027 Empowering Veterans and Families: Creating Connections, Building Futures (Thrive Together) Programme

The VPPP (Veterans' Places, Pathways and People) programme ran 2021-2023. Following the progress made so far under the VPPP programme, and with further backing from the Government with an additional £10 million pledged in November 2023, to continue the programme over the next three years, the Trust has worked to leverage this success with continued delivery and capacity building amongst the sector.

VPPP 2024-2027

Empowering Veterans and Families: Creating Connections, Building Futures (Thrive Together) Programme

The next three years funding will be delivered in stages detailed below.

Phase 1: Strategy and Planning (to November 2024)

Phase 2: Delivery (January 25- June 2026)

- Implementation of strategic plans; with clear milestones
- Strong cross sector collaboration and pathway development

Phase 3: Embedding and sustaining (July 2026 - March 2027)

- Transition to post funding environment
- Tapered funding in this period

From April 2024 10 regional lead organisations have been conducting consultations and designing strategic plans in preparation for the next phase of the programme. Brooke House, identified as one of ten lead regional organisations across the UK by the Armed Forces Covenant Trust, has undertaken consultations and are developing a strategic plan outlining delivery of the next phase of the VPPP 2024-2027 Empowering Veterans and Families: Creating Connections, Building Futures, (Thrive Together).

The new phase of the programme is designed to build on the delivery work that was at the heart of the original VPPP programme, and whilst some delivery will continue, the focus is more on the strategic elements for making longer term changes and investment in infrastructure to ensure sustainability past the end point of the additional funding, to empower veterans and their families to be able to build stronger futures by creating sustainable connections to interlinked organisations - enhancing access to support via regional and nationwide organisation collaboration with a delivery element to meet the needs identified through consultation.

For Veterans and their families this means

- An evolving nationwide network of physical and mental health support.
- Military charities and other organisations working together to ensure there are easy to access and joined-up pathways both into and out of services, statutory and non-statutory.
- An open door with a warm welcome to activities that promote wellbeing such as therapeutic interventions, sporting or artistic endeavours, or those of a horticultural nature which all encourage personal interactions and increase overall wellbeing.

For organisations the new programme aims to enhance the wellbeing of veterans and their families through sustainable support programme of networks and community integration. Whilst maintaining direct support provisions, there is a stronger focus on collaboration and long-term impact further emphasising sustainability and enduring legacy.

By promoting strategic and cooperative endeavours, the objective is to establish more robust and interconnected support systems. This ensures Veterans and their families have consistent, long-lasting and easily accessible joined up pathways to the support services, both statutory and non-statutory, that they need to thrive.

The goal, over period from 2024-2027 is to solidify advancements, forge lasting collaborations, foster enduring partnerships and ensure Veteran services remain self-sustaining. Empowering futures through sustainable solutions.

Brooke House is inviting applications from organisations working in partnership within a given area to provide locality-based services to veterans and their families.

Eligible area

The eligible area for the Programme is:

- Northern Ireland;

Organisations located elsewhere (including GB) are also eligible to submit an application, provided they can demonstrate how the project will support veterans within Northern Ireland.

Please note: Applications **must** be submitted on the Application Form which is available via request to info@brookehouse.co.uk . Guidance notes will available on our website and will be provided with the application form.

Closing date for Applications is Thursday 14th November 2024 at noon.

3. Overview of the Thrive Together NI Project

Reflecting the strategic aim to build strong cross sector collaboration and pathway development, it is proposed that a locality-based hub is developed in all 11 Council Areas. Each hub will incorporate all veteran's charities and community groups that support veterans in the locality. It should have substantial trained volunteer input to supporting veterans and their families. The hubs will have a steering group that will work to collaborate on service delivery. Over the period of the project they will also build on established relationships with the veteran's champion in each council area and develop linkages with other statutory service providers, such as veterans charities, health, housing and education. They will provide a safe place, social and practical support to veterans and their families.

As demonstrated above, a crucial element of the Thrive Together project will be to demonstrate enhanced and well-developed partnership and collaboration across the sector, to ensure the delivery of holistic support to veterans.

The locality based hubs will be supported by a central facility to be developed.

4. Ineligible Costs

- Capital
- Employed* staff costs (excluding travel & subsistence)
- Nominal charges

*sessional project staff may be considered

5. Process

An independent panel appointed by Brooke House will make the ultimate decision on the selection of successful applicants. Decisions will be based on the information provided within the application form.

There will be a two-stage selection process:

Stage 1 Contains two parts -.

- Part A – Eligibility Check
- Part B – Assessment

Stage 2

- The allocation of resources to ensure a distribution which meets the needs of veterans (e.g., geographical considerations, community considerations etc).

It is the role of the independent panel to ensure that resources are allocated against identified needs in a transparent, fair, and effective way. The panel will also ensure that interventions are equitably targeted as per the identified needs and priorities.

In doing so, the panel will take account population dispersal and geographies across the eligible area, combined with proposed approaches to meet the needs identified within each locality. Therefore, the panel may not be in a position to approve all services requested within the applications received.

Information to support the independent panel arriving at a decision should be clearly demonstrated within the application form.

The Panel will not take into consideration any background knowledge of your organisation or supplementary information provided that is not requested as part of the application form.

Applicants should be aware that the panel reserves the right to fund only specific strands or parts of proposals that are most appropriate for the priorities agreed and resources available. Under such circumstances, Brooke House will engage with organisations to come to an agreed approach/allocation.

The panel retains final discretion on all allocations of funding in relation to the project application.

All successful applications will be required to successfully complete a pre-contract check prior to confirmation of any award.

6. Eligibility Criteria (Stage 1 – Part A)

All organisations are required to:

- Have a constitution or set of rules which are dated and signed as adopted by the date the proposal is submitted.
- Provide an accurate list of current Committee/Board members.
- Provide copies of your organisation's Charity Accounts/Financial Statements covering the last 12 months available. (Final accounts approved and authorised by your Board/committee)
- Provide an up to date (within the last 6 months) bank statement in the legal name of the organisation.
- Provide copies of insurance certificates to ensure adequate indemnity

- Provide a Signed Declaration

Please note: The inability to produce the information requested by the closing date of **12 noon Thursday 14th November 2024**, will result in disqualification from the process.

7. Assessment Criteria (Stage 1 – Part B)

All applications which have passed the eligibility criteria will then be scored against the following assessment criteria in which a minimum mark of 6 is required in each criterion:

Criteria	Marks	Weighting	Score Available
1: Need and Demand	0-10	(x3)	30
2: Experience and Capacity to deliver	0-10	(x1)	10
3: Management/Governance Arrangements	0-10	(x2)	20
4. Duplication & Displacement	0 -10	(x2)	20
5. Exit Strategy	0-10	(x2)	20
Total marks available			100

Further details on each of the assessment criteria outlined above is included within the application pack which is available from info@brookehouse.co.uk

8. Resource/ Budget allocation (Stage 2)

Allocation of resources will be based on evidence of need and in a manner which ensures that there is an appropriate geographic/community spread according to need.

9. Decision Making Process

Applications will be screened for eligibility and assessment criteria scored. Applications which are ineligible will not be scored. The independent panel will review scored applications and will make the final decision on successful applications and allocation of resources. All successful applications will be subject to a pre-contract check prior to confirmation of any award.

10. Timeline

The timeline for the application process is as follows:

Call opens:	31 st October 2024
Closing Date (Deadline):	14 th November 2024 12 00noon
Decision Making Process	18 th /19 th November 2024
Decisions communicated	Early December 2024*
Services contracted to commence*:	Late 2024/Early 2025

*The communication of decisions will be subject to confirmation from Armed Forces Covenant Trust Fund.

Applications must be completed using the application forms provided by Brooke House. Completed applications and supporting documents should be returned to Brooke House or emailed to the following email address: info@brookehouse.co.uk

Please note: We recommend that you request a read receipt to ensure that your email has been received. Please contact us to confirm receipt if you do not receive an email confirmation within 2 working days of submission .

Hard copy applications can also be submitted to the following address:

**Brooke House
Colebrooke Park
26 Colebrooke Park Road
Brookeborough
County Fermanagh, BT94 4DW**

By post: applicants are advised to send these via recorded delivery and ensure correct postage is affixed. We will not accept items where there is a cost for underpaid postage or where there is a delay in the postal system.

By hand: Our reception staff will provide a receipt to confirm the document has been received on delivery of applications by hand.

Late applications and or related documentation will not be accepted. This is applicable to both electronic and hard copy documentation.

11. Appeal

Unsuccessful applicants who wish to appeal the outcome of the selection process may do so within 10 working days of the decision using the Appeal Process, details are available from Brooke House,