



COMMUNITY FUND FUND

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Application No 02

Organisation:	Burnley MP
Contact:	Oliver Ryan

Application Details

Project Name: Safe Pathways for Veterans

Project Location & District: Bancroft House, Burnley and Northwest Prisons

Project Duration: 12 Months

Proposed Start Date: 1st October 2025

Commissioners Priorities:

- Anti-social behaviour
- Crime prevention
- Violence against women and girls

Project Summary:

This project supports vulnerable veterans, including prison leavers and those with complex needs, by providing structured pathways to reintegration. It addresses homelessness, poor mental health, and social isolation—factors linked to increased crime and anti-social behaviour—through tailored support and community engagement.

Project Brief:

The *Safe Pathways for Veterans Project* by Healthier Heroes CIC is a regionally scalable initiative aimed at supporting ex-service personnel in or at risk of entering the criminal justice system, particularly in Burnley and across North-West prisons. Responding to high reoffending rates and a lack of veteran-specific rehabilitation services, the project offers a unique, therapeutic, veteran-led model focused on mentoring, identity, and reintegration. It involves strong partnership working with Lancashire Constabulary, IOM teams, probation services, and veteran networks, and is best suited for PCC funding due to alignment with community safety priorities. Engagement is driven by peer mentors and flexible, person-centred interventions, with continued post-release support. The project is evidence-based, collaborative, and designed to fill a critical gap in existing provision.

Summary of Activities:

- One-to-one and group mental health support with a qualified psychotherapist
- Prison-to-community peer support and housing management
- Wellbeing and diversionary activities (fitness, life skills, peer mentoring)
- Safeguarding checks and structured reintegration planning

Issue Identified:

Veterans in Burnley face significant challenges transitioning to civilian life, including unstable housing, untreated trauma, and lack of support—leading to increased risk of reoffending and anti-social behaviour.

No. Of Individuals Expected to Engage:

6 veterans (initial cohort)

Referral Pathways:

- National Probation Service
- HMPPS
- Armed Forces Covenant Team
- Direct engagement through needs assessments

Community Impact:

- National Probation Service
- HMPPS
- Armed Forces Covenant Team
- Direct engagement through needs assessments

Partners Involved:

- National Probation Service
- HMPPS
- Crystal Blue Counselling
- Inner Peak Wellbeing
- Health, Happiness & Healing

Amount Requested From PCC: £10,000

Overall Cost & Breakdown:

Total Project Cost: £13,209

Breakdown:

- Psychotherapy: £4,800
- Prison-to-community support: £2,160
- Travel: £1,404
- Workshop materials: £945
- Management/Admin: £1,500
- Volunteer peer mentors (in-kind): £2,400

Evaluation Suggestions:

- Quarterly monitoring reports
- Resident feedback surveys and case studies
- Tenancy retention rate (target: 80%)
- Reduction in anti-social behaviour incidents (target: 60%)
- Sustainability through housing benefit income and external funding

Priority Supported:

Tackle Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls

Partner Consultation

Office of the Police and Crime
Commissioner for Lancashire

Healthier Heroes has likely received funding before; reviewing their past evaluations would help assess impact.
The number of beneficiaries seems low, but intensive support can justify higher costs. Clarity is needed on how participants are selected.

<p>ASB, Prevention and Problem-Solving Command</p>	<p>If the service targets individuals with frequent emergency service contact (e.g. police, NWAS, A&E), it could offer strong value for money—this needs confirming.</p> <p>Is support limited to ex-service offenders, or will it extend more broadly?</p> <p>What evidence supports the need in Burnley? Will the project benefit areas beyond where the organisation is based?</p> <p>How will the project work with local policing and other partners? Should this be funded by the PCC, or is it more appropriate for probation services? Much of the delivery seems prison-based—what's already in place?</p> <p>How will they engage individuals who are resistant or have previously disengaged?</p> <p>I'm familiar with the work of Healthier Heroes from my time working in Burnley, and I can confidently say they are a valuable resource—particularly for individuals at risk of homelessness or reoffending following release from prison. Their approach is well-established and proven effective, so I have no concerns regarding the quality or impact of their proposed activities.</p> <p>However, I do have some reservations about the funding request, especially the £4,800 allocated for psychotherapy sessions. I would also welcome further clarification on their existing links with the Police, specifically the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) team. A formal connection with IOM would be particularly beneficial, given their role in supporting individuals transitioning out of the prison system.</p>
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