

Launchpad Impact Report

For the Year Ending 30 June 2022



Supporting our Veterans

Company Registration Number: 08633047 | Charity Registration Number: 1153185



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Reference and Administrative Details

Registered charity name	AF&V Launchpad Limited
Charity registration number	1153185
Company registration number	08633047
Registered office	Enterprise House, Harmire Enterprise Park, Barnard Castle, County Durham, DL12 8XT
Our Trustees	Nicholas Tubbs (Chair and Co-Founder) Major Kenneth McMillan MBE (Co-Founder) Lucinda Perriam (Deputy Chair) Lieutenant Colonel Richard Dixon-Warren Dr Philip Mixer QVRM DL Sharon Stainsby-Thompson Colonel Mark Underhill OBE DL
CEO and Co-Founder	Major General David Shaw CBE
Manager of Avondale House	Phil Thompson
Manager of Speke House	Samantha Jackson
Manager of Hollyacre House	Phil Thompson
Charity Secretary	Amanda Crompton

Foreword

I am pleased to report that Launchpad has housed and provided essential support to aid their transition to 120 veterans this year and 575 since its inception in 2013.

Over the past five years, on average 41% of our residents gained employment and 61% moved on successfully; these are impressive figures as 89% of our residents came from a homeless background over the same period.

The major development this year has been the purchase of Hollyacre House in Sacriston, just outside Durham. Hollyacre House was taken over as a going concern and Launchpad employed four members of staff from the previous owner and provided continuity of support to eight veterans in-situ. Hollyacre House will have accommodation for up to 18 veterans following conversions in 2023. The three Launchpad houses, Speke House in Liverpool, Avondale House in Newcastle upon Tyne, and Hollyacre House enable us to provide 101 flats to veterans and their partners.

I would also like to thank the many funding organisations and volunteers that have supported Launchpad. The wonderful work and donations carried out by corporate staff including AstraZeneca, Morrisons, Asda, Esh Group, BAE Systems and Nationwide Building Society has made a significant difference for the veterans in each house. Thank you!

We rely on working collaboratively with many other organisations, so I would like to extend heartfelt thanks from the Trustees and the staff of Launchpad to the staff in these organisations for their support. It really is a joint effort.

Finally, I must point out how wonderfully dedicated Launchpad's staff are to both Launchpad and the veterans who reside in our three houses. Their job is frequently challenging, difficult and emotionally draining, however, they also enjoy seeing really positive developments in most of their resident veterans and it is this that drives us all to do as well as we can. I salute the wonderful staff of Launchpad.

I hope you enjoy reading some of our case studies and achievements this year.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick' with a stylized flourish underneath.

Nicolas Tubbs,
Chair & Co-Founder



Supporting our veterans

Please consider making a donation by supporting our veterans

<https://veteranslaunchpad.org.uk/campaigns/support-our-veterans/>

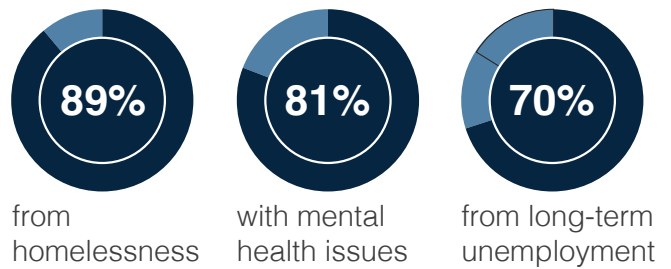
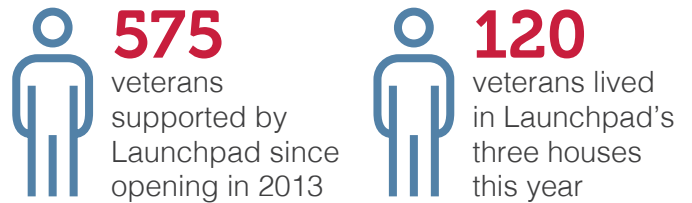
Achievements and Performance in YE June 2022

Launchpad has looked after over 575 veterans since opening in 2013.

120 veterans lived in Launchpad's three houses this year, 89% from homelessness, 81% with mental health issues and 70% from long-term unemployment.

When last measured post-COVID, the statistics that most indicate positive outcomes, 'Employment on Move-on' and 'Successful Move-on' were 32% and 61% respectively.

Key outcome statistics for the year are as follows:



Category	Avondale House	Hollyacre House <small>(11 May-30 June 2022)</small>	Speke House	Total No. (% of whole)
Residents during year	39	10	71	120
Residents at year-end	26	9	46	81 (39 moved on)
Residents from a homeless background	37	7	63	107
Residents gaining employment in the year	12	1	23	36
Residents from HMP	13	4	8	25
Successful move-ons from Launchpad (5-year average)	79/128 (62%)	1/1 (100%)	109/183 (60%)	189/312 (61%)
Employment on move-on (5-year average)	48/128 (38%)	0/1	51/183 (28%)	99/312 (32%)

Hollyacre House, Durham



In May 2022, the charity purchased Hollyacre House in Sacriston, Durham.

The house will provide accommodation and support for up to 18 veterans in self-contained flats and includes communal facilities such as a lounge, kitchen, IT suite and gym.

David Shaw, CEO commented:

“Hollyacre House becomes our third veterans’ house in the North of England and staff and residents are making great progress engaging with the local community and businesses across the County since we took over.

“We are engaging and working with partners from housing, education, training and employment, mental health and wellbeing and community groups who are all united in one purpose - to support our veterans on their journey to move on to live independently.”



Our Strategy

Launchpad provides veterans with accommodation (their own refurbished, one-bedroom flat) and communal facilities, for which they pay rent, either using housing benefit or income or savings, in most cases for up to two years.

Working with other organisations, Launchpad provides welfare and mental health support, as well as signposting to experts, as necessary; then Launchpad helps the veterans acquire jobs, via training where required, and permanent housing.

Furthermore, the charity provides confidence-boosting, character-building and social development activities, working with other partners, to aid veterans' transition and integration into civilian communities.

Launchpad aims to get its veterans into employment and permanent housing, thus contributing to society, within two years. The charity uses the Outcomes Star tool to monitor veterans' development.



Service Delivery

Each veteran is assessed on arrival and a specific developmental plan is put in place. It will take into account the individual's health, wellbeing and ambitions.

One of the major benefits of living in one of Launchpad's houses is the ability for veterans to mix with individuals who have been through similar experiences while in the military; they usually feel part of a team again and can help and support one another.

Through a mix of voluntary social events and physical activities, many referred to as diversionary activities, the veterans gain confidence and social skills.

We work with many other agencies and charities to provide support to our residents including, when the individual is ready, training and employment, followed by housing advice.

When the veteran is ready, or when he or she decides, we help them move on to independent living. Unfortunately, some veterans move on prematurely, but they still benefit from their stay at Launchpad, however brief it is.

Post-Pandemic Activity



The year has been dominated by recovery from the pandemic while continuing recommended precautions to keep staff and residents safe.

As the limitations caused by the pandemic receded, more and more partner organisations came back on operation, both virtually and face-to-face. This was a significant relief to the residents, in particular, as they had been in relative isolation. Some of the effects of the pandemic, which are still being experienced, included a reduction in accommodation which Launchpad's residents could move into; thus the level of over-two year residents is higher than in previous years.

Diversionsary Projects

Each house also runs diversionary projects to give residents confidence and develop their wellbeing.

Examples of the activities are as follows: cycling, swimming, walking, angling, social meals (before the pandemic and when distancing allowed), ten-pin bowling, fitness sessions and rock climbing.





Arlo Bailey, Speke House

“I dread to think what would have happened if I had not found Speke House, I would probably be dead as I wasn't able to access mental health support and housing is in high demand.”

Arlo, served for five years with the Irish Guards and completed a 7-month tour of Kosovo.

When he left the Army, he found the transition to civilian life relatively smooth and secured employment in a number of different roles. He even spent time working in Greece and when he returned back in the UK, he enrolled in college to gain his GCSEs and completed an access course and degree in forensic science.

After returning from Kosovo, he asked the Army for support with his mental health but didn't receive the support he thought he needed. He said, “At that time, you were just expected to get on with things. I visited my GP for mental health support in 2007 and I was told it would take several years to be able to talk to anyone.”

He suffered from multiple injuries whilst serving in Kosovo and was diagnosed with service-related PTSD. His service took a toll on his physical health and he regularly suffers with pain and discomfort in his knees, back, shoulders and hips.

Prior to moving into Speke House (in October 2021), he was living between his mum's house and a tent and applied for housing with the local council but didn't receive any help. He said: “I was living in a tent and my PTSD was out of control which also put pressure on my relationship with my mum, so I went to Veterans HQ and they told me about Speke House.”

Since moving in, he is thriving and engages in weekly therapy sessions. His confidence has grown and he has a stronger relationship with his mum. He also attends the organised breakfast mornings one or two times a week.

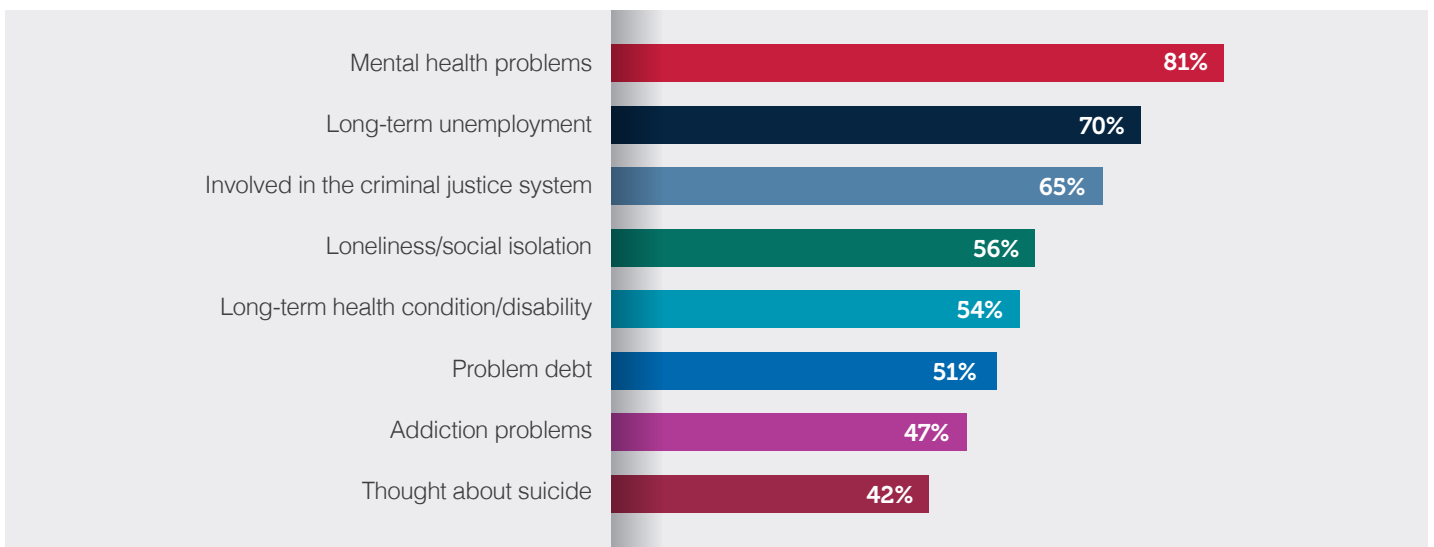
We use in-depth, annual resident surveys to track progress across a wide range of measures including skills, employability, self-confidence, and optimism. In our 2022 evaluation of 43 veterans supported by Launchpad, veterans reported the following outcomes:

Outcomes reported by veterans at Launchpad in 2022



We also ask veterans to tell us about their experiences before coming to Launchpad. The veterans responding to our annual survey in 2022 reported the following experiences:

Prior experiences reported by veterans at Launchpad in 2022





Engaging with the community for Remembrance Day

Staff and residents living at Avondale House visited Year 6 children from Byker Primary School to talk to them about the importance of Remembrance Day and what it means to our veteran community.

In the week leading up to their visit, residents attended a mental health walk at St. Mary's Lighthouse and collected stones from the beach for the pupils to use as part of an arts and crafts session.

Thanks to community funding from Byker Community Trust, part of Karbon Homes, all the children enjoyed painting the stones with poppies and messages of thanks. The stones were taken to St. Michael's Church for a Remembrance Service for our veterans, some of the school children and some of our corporate partners.

The children laid their poppies at the memorial where they were left for the community to read and look at.

At the end of the service, the children were invited back to Avondale House to meet staff and residents, have a visit of the garden and enjoy a light lunch.



Working in Partnership

Launchpad depends on partner organisations to effect the holistic support we bring to the residents. Key partners, whom we would like to thank for their excellent work during this financial period, are as follows:

Avondale House	
Welfare	We Are With You, Unique Fitness, Veterans Response, SSAFA, Angling Trust, The Soldiers Charity, Operation Veterans, NE Counselling Service, CRISIS Skylight, Plumber Court, WWTW Project Nova, OT Placements, Northumbria University, Newcastle City Council, Northern Learning Trust, Newcastle Veterans Cycle Hub, Gateshead Walking Club, Widows Sons
Mental Health	Op Courage, MIND, Combat Stress, Veterans at Ease, TILS, Anxious Minds, Talking Therapies, Mental Health Concern, Samaritans, CRUISE, NHS Community Mental Health Team, Plummer Court, Humankind, Gateshead FC Foundation
Diversionary Activities	Crisis Skylight, RBL, St Michaels Community Centre, Recyke y'bike, St Michaels Church, Byker Primary School, Northern Weightlifting, Byker Community Trust
Training/Employment	GEON Construction, Learning Curve, CRISIS Skylight, Finchale Group, Newcastle Rail Network, Sodexo, Amazon, RE:GEN, Newcastle University, Sunderland University, People Plus, Building Heroes
Education and Training	Walker HIVE, Northumbria University, Lifeworks, Bell Group (P&D), Learning Curve, Finchale Group, CRISIS Skylight, Re-Co-Co, Newcastle University, Sunderland University, SAVANT
Housing	Gateshead Council, AFOS (Northumberland, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Durham, Gateshead), HAC, Private Landlords, My Space, Changing Lives, Riverside, Veterans Gateway, Shelter, Byker Community Trust/Karbon Homes
Others	Money Matters, Veterans UK, CAB, SSAFA, RBL, ABF, EE, National Energy, Northumbria Police





Speke House

Welfare	Sanctuary, We Are With You, Veterans' Welfare, Veterans Aid, RBL, SSAFA, Op Courage, Combat Stress, Tom Harrison House, Rise, Everton in the Community, Project Nova, CFO (Probation Community Group)
Mental Health	Sanctuary, NHS Talk Liverpool, Moss House, Local GP/CPN support, Op Courage, Combat Stress, ALCAS, Warrior programme
Diversions Activities	Everton in the Community, Battle Back Centre, LFC Foundation, Plant a Tree Foundation
Training/Employment	STEC/ Speke Training and Education Centre, DWP, Liverpool in Work, Inside Connections, Veterans into Logistics
Housing	Property Pool Plus, South Liverpool Homes, CC Housing, Riverside
Others	Sefton Veterans, Liverpool Veterans, LMF (Local Mayoral Fund), Morrisons, ASDA, Neighbourly, AstraZeneca

Hollyacre House

Welfare	WWTW Project Nova, Live Well NE, RBL, The Soldiers Charity, East Durham Veterans
Mental Health	Sunderland University OT Placements, Chester-le-Street Mental Health Clinic, Anxious Minds, Veterans at Ease, VTILS, NHS Veterans Mental Health Complex Treatment Services, GP Secondary Mental Health, Tees, Esk and Wear Valley Foundation NHS Trust
Diversions Activities	To be established having officially taken ownership 11 May 2022
Training/Employment	ESH Group, RFEA, BAE
Education and Training	Learning Curve, Finchale Group, Veterans Woodcraft, Newton Aycliffe Veterans Hub, Woodshed Sacriston
Housing	AFOS, Durham Key Options
Others	To be established having officially taken ownership 11 May 2022

Financial Review

Income for the year totalled **£1,053,263** (2021 - £995,995) which included restricted grant income of £249,527 (2021 - £238,922) and unrestricted income of £803,736 (2021 - £757,073) arising from rents, service charges, bank interest and donations.

Expenditure for the year totalled **£990,183** (2021 - £872,536) of which £200,082 (2021 - £164,974) was restricted expenditure leaving unrestricted expenditure of £790,101 (2021 - £707,562).

There was an overall surplus of **£63,080** for the year (2021 - £123,459) which topped up our Reserves.

Net assets at 30th June 2022 totalled **£1,431,925** (2021 - £1,368,845). This included fixed assets of £1,113,679, debtors of £64,962, cash at bank of £588,450, short term liabilities of £103,437 and long term liabilities of £231,729.

Launchpad's principal sources of income in the last year have been:

- Rental income
- ABF The Soldiers' Charity
- The Veterans' Foundation
- Queen Mary's Roehampton Trust
- Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- Drapers Charitable Trust
- Leathersellers
- Forces Support
- The Clothworkers Foundation
- Steve Morgan Foundation
- Nationwide Community Grants Programme

We express our thanks to those funding organisations who have supported Launchpad. All expenditure has been used to sustain the activities of the charity, according to its objects. Funding pays for rent on Avondale House to Karbon Homes, salaries, running costs, capital expenditure and veterans' activities. We have yet to build up sufficient reserves to require investment objectives, other than to maximise bank interest.

Reserves Policy

Our aim is to build up sufficient reserves to cover the following:

- Unforeseen emergency (eg repairs) - £50K
- Temporary staff costs - £10K
- Income ceased, or halted unexpectedly - £50K
- Large future plans (SH repairs, setting up hub) - £80K
- Short-term cover between grants - £50K
- Closure - redundancy £18K, 3 months running costs - £258K

This currently amounts to **£498,000**. Actual reserves excluding fixed assets were £403,651 at 30 June 2022.

Statement of Financial Activities

(including income and expenditure account)

Year Ended 30 June 2022

	2022			2021
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments				
Donations and legacies	193,079	249,527	442,606	447,092
Charitable activities	597,409	–	597,409	539,109
Investment income	3,698	–	3,698	3,003
Other income	9,550	–	9,550	6,791
Total income	<u>803,736</u>	<u>249,527</u>	<u>1,053,263</u>	<u>995,995</u>
Expenditure				
Expenditure on charitable activities	790,101	200,082	990,183	872,536
Total expenditure	<u>790,101</u>	<u>200,082</u>	<u>990,183</u>	<u>872,536</u>
Net income	<u>13,635</u>	<u>49,445</u>	<u>63,080</u>	<u>123,459</u>
Transfers between funds	67,858	(67,858)	–	–
Net movement in funds	<u>81,493</u>	<u>(18,413)</u>	<u>63,080</u>	<u>123,459</u>
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	1,204,108	164,737	1,368,845	1,245,386
Total funds carried forward	<u>1,285,601</u>	<u>146,324</u>	<u>1,431,925</u>	<u>1,368,845</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Statement of Financial Position



Year Ended 30 June 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Tangible fixed assets	1,113,679	748,667
Current Assets		
Debtors	64,962	32,367
Cash at bank and in hand	588,450	642,132
	653,412	674,499
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	103,437	54,321
Net Current Assets	549,975	620,178
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	1,663,654	1,368,845
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	231,729	–
Net Assets	1,431,925	1,368,845
Funds of the Charity		
Restricted funds	146,324	164,737
Unrestricted funds	1,285,601	1,204,108
Total charity funds	1,431,925	1,368,845

For the year ending 30 June 2022 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies but, as the charity's income for this year was over £1m, an audit was carried out in accordance with charity law.

Supporting our Veterans

Call us free: 0300 11 11 238

Apply or donate at: www.veteranslaunchpad.org.uk

