

## SSAFA | Samaritans Partnership: Evidence Review & Gap Analysis

Commissioners	Samaritans: (Joe Walcott, Military Programme Lead)
Budget	Variable: £10k max inc. VAT
Proposals submitted	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> May 2022 (10am)
Completion date	w/c 1 <sup>st</sup> August 2022 (to be confirmed on contract)

### Background & Context

Samaritans provides a vital lifeline for people in crisis and distress across the UK & ROI through our 20,000 Listening Volunteers, who provide emotional support through our 116 123 phonenumber, as well as by email, letter and, increasingly, online chat. Our helpline is free and available 24/7, 365 days a year.

Samaritans Military Programme leads on all internal work pertaining to the UK's military community. Samaritans receives around 8,000 to 10,000 contacts a year from the Armed Forces community with over 70% of these being veterans. As well as providing our Listening service, awareness materials, online webchat and a Veterans App, we work with local communities to support suicide prevention and promote mental and emotional wellbeing.

### SSAFA | Samaritans Partnership – Veteran Suicide Reduction

Samaritans and SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity ([www.ssafa.org.uk](http://www.ssafa.org.uk)), one of the UK's leading military charities, are exploring a formal partnership to reduce veteran suicide. This exploratory work has been funded by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust and represents a level of collaboration that is ground-breaking for both parties with regards to this field.

Of particular focus, is on how we can both enhance our ability to reach the 'hard to reach' veterans within our communities so that we can better support their needs. Both organisations will look at how we can better support the veteran community using our existing services; but also, we will be proposing more ambitious second and third tier deliverables.

### The Project

At the heart of this project, Samaritans and SSAFA will be conducting an introspective look into what we do, how we do it and what we could do to improve and/or enhance our respective services so that we better support the veteran community, together. We will be engaging with veterans who are part of Samaritans Lived Experience Panel and SSAFA's veterans network to better understand what veterans would want / are looking for if a joint service could be funded.

## Remit, guidelines, and requirements

We are seeking organisations or individuals with experience in the military mental health sphere and in conducting evidence reviews and gap analyses. Applicants will need to demonstrate experience in supporting or delivering varied methodologies to evaluate success against agreed measures. Though it is expected the work will take place remotely, we are looking for an organisation / individual with a presence in the UK's military mental health sphere.

The commissioned organisation or individuals will undertake an evidence review of existing literature pertaining to veteran suicide/mental health in the UK and conduct a gap analysis to identify gaps in service provisions. We invite bids with creative approaches.

The purpose of the evidence review & gap analysis is to;

1. Provide insight into the different structures and approaches used in the provision of veteran suicide reduction and mental health support services.
2. Build on internal understanding of the drivers, similarities, and differences between veteran and general population suicide as well as how best to configure our respective services to meet and support beneficiary needs.
3. Support in the development of our evidence-backed coproduced strategy report.

## Research questions

We are interested in the research questions listed below and will expect to refine or develop these further with the commissioned organisations or individuals.

### 1. Evidence Review:

- What are the geographic and demographic(s) differences associated with veterans who are most likely to express suicidal ideation? (e.g. early service leavers, combat veterans, service leavers aged 18-30)
- What are the main drivers and risk factors behind incidents of suicide amongst the veteran community?
- What are the main barriers to help-seeking for veterans?
- What attitudes towards mental health, emotional wellbeing and suicidality exist?
- What existing (or proposed) support service(s) are making the most impact?
- Which type of intervention is most effective at suicide prevention? (e.g. face to face, peer support, phone, community outreach)
- Are there examples of successful strategic collaboration models, pertaining to veteran suicide reduction, which we could learn from and incorporate?

### 2. Gap analysis:

- What are the current service offerings pertaining to veteran suicide reduction and mental health support in the UK (including SSAFA and Samaritans)?
- Where are the gaps in current service provisions?

- What are the needs of the veteran community (pertaining to suicidality) and where they are not being met?

We anticipate the evidence review and gap analysis will be provided in the form of a final report or slide deck, as well as a presentation which summarises key findings and recommendations.

## Ethical Considerations

The commissioned organisation / individual must consider and adhere to [Samaritans Research Ethics Policy](#). Ethical issues will therefore need full consideration throughout the project/evaluation. Those commissioned will be expected to follow Samaritans' research ethics process in line with research governance in Samaritans; this may involve applying for ethical approval to Samaritans Research Ethics Board (SREB). It will be necessary to develop clear inclusion/exclusion criteria to minimise the risk to participants as part of this process. Ethical issues will therefore need full consideration.

Alongside this we will need to review the external supplier's data protection policy and ensure alignment with Samaritans'.

## Budget

The maximum budget for this work is set at £10,000 including VAT (if you are VAT registered) and all expenses. Criteria for payments will be agreed via contracts.

If applicants wish to discuss the budget, or any other element of the Invitation to Tender, please see the contact details outlined below.

## Timeline

The timescales outlined below are a broad guide for applicants, who will be expected to produce a more detailed plan.

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Action:</b>
May 30 <sup>th</sup> (10am)	Applications close
June 7 <sup>th</sup>	Applicants notified
w/c 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Contract & PO
w/c 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Discussion / planning session(s) with Project Manager, study application and ethics review
w/c 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Draft report submitted to Samaritans for comment
w/c 25 <sup>th</sup> July	Final report draft / presentation
w/c 1 <sup>st</sup> August	Final report and agreed deliverables

## **Accessibility**

We welcome applications from organisations and individuals with lived experience of marginalisation and exclusion. We will make every effort to ensure the application process and working relationship is as accessible as possible. If you require this invitation and any other documents and communications in a different format, or have any other accessibility requirements for the tender process and work, please let us know.

## **Contract**

The successful applicant(s) will be required to enter a contract with Samaritans, within Samaritans' standard terms and conditions. This will include conditions such as:

1. Completion of the services within the timeframe specified.
2. Reduction of payment or non-payment for work not completed.
3. The work cannot be sub-contracted to a third party without the prior written consent of Samaritans.
4. Agreed input from Samaritans during delivery of training and support, and for reviewing and editing of guidance products.
5. Terms related to intellectual property.

Once the contract is agreed and signed, the successful applicant(s) and Samaritans will be required to adhere to all terms and conditions.

## **How to Apply**

Bids are welcome from organisations, individuals, agencies, and multi-agency collaborations.

To be considered for this work, please submit a document outlining the following:

### **Essential:**

- Background of you/your organisation and the individuals who will be delivering the work.
- Your proposed approach to delivery.
- Previous experience and examples of delivering similar work. Include anything specifically relevant to this project.
- Proven experience of UK military mental health expertise, including an understanding of the challenges faced by those who are handling sensitive data.
- A commitment to Equity, Diversity & Inclusion, including any experience of working with marginalised and disadvantaged groups and individuals.
- Proposed timelines, considering the milestones outlined above.
- Breakdown of costs.

All points listed above must be addressed in the proposal submitted. While the proposals should be comprehensive, they should also be concise, and ideally no more than 6 pages. All proposals must be submitted in writing by 10am **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May**. Samaritans may contact the applicant to clarify aspects of the submission. Samaritans reserves the right to invite shortlisted applicants to an interview to discuss their proposal in detail. However, the decision may be taken based on the written submission. The successful candidate/organisation will be notified no later than Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June.

**Please send your proposal to Sheila Dhalla at [s.dhalla@samaritans.org](mailto:s.dhalla@samaritans.org) and Joe Walcott at [j.walcott@samaritans.org](mailto:j.walcott@samaritans.org) by 10.00am on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022.**

**For any further information please contact Sheila Dhalla and Joe Walcott using the email addresses above**