



# The Royal British Legion's support services

The Royal British Legion has been helping Service people past and present for 90 years, and although their needs have changed over that time the need for our work is as vital as ever. We spend nearly £1.4 million a week carrying out our welfare support, and our services are flexible and wide-ranging. From helping a young widow through an inquest to ensuring that an older veteran can stay independent in their own home, we're here to help.

The Legion is committed to helping serving and ex-Service people in need, and welfare is at the heart of our organisation.

## Having trouble making ends meet?

If you're having trouble paying the bills, or think you might be entitled to benefits that you're not yet receiving, the Legion might be able to help.

### **Benefits and Money Advice**

Benefits and Money Advice is for you if you're having problems surviving on low incomes or are struggling with personal debt. Our advisers can help you with a benefit or tax credit claim and can help to reduce your debts. We can also offer you specialist disability advice and representation at tribunals where a claim is being disputed.

Legionline: 08457 725 725  
[bma@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:bma@britishlegion.org.uk)



## Need a break from the strains of everyday life?

If you're not normally able to take a holiday due to poor health or disability, because you have a caring responsibility or simply because you can't afford it, the Legion might be able to help.

### Poppy Breaks

The Legion can arrange free breaks away from home for people recovering from an illness, bereavement or other life-affecting event. We can also provide breaks for disadvantaged young people and families in need of a holiday.

Legionline: 08457 725 725  
info@britishlegion.org.uk

## Injured by Service in the Armed Forces?

If you've been injured as a result of Service in the Armed Forces, or your partner has died as a result of Service, the Legion can help you claim compensation.

### War Pensions and Armed Forces Compensation Scheme Advice

The Legion can help you with first claims and appeals to both the War Pensions Scheme and the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme. These schemes are open to you if you've been injured or are ill because of Service, or if you are the partner of someone who has died as a result of Service in the Armed Forces.

Legionline: 08457 725 725  
claims@britishlegion.org.uk

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## Need help with the little jobs around the house?

If you're struggling to do the little jobs around the house because of your age or a disability, the Legion might be able to help.

### Handy Van Service

Our handy vans provide a maintenance service that can help you with jobs like minor repairs around the home or fitting essential devices like community alarms and smoke detectors.

No job is too small for our handy vans – whether you're helped by our own trusted and trained people or through the Legion's partnerships with specialist agencies.

Legionline: 08457 725 725  
homesupportadmin@  
britishlegion.org.uk

## Having trouble getting work?

If you've left the Armed Forces and you're struggling to get a job, then the Legion can help. We also help partners of serving and ex-Service personnel to improve their skills and find employment.

### **Civvy Street**

The Legion's Civvy Street website can provide you with information, advice and guidance on finding the right job for you. Civvy Street can also help with vocational training grants to help you get the skills you need to further your career.

[www.civvystreet.org](http://www.civvystreet.org)  
Helpline: 0800 169 4073

### **Be the Boss**

If you want to build up an existing business, or even start one from scratch, the Legion can help you. Our new Be the Boss scheme provides information, funding and mentoring for ex-Service personnel who want to work for themselves. The scheme is open to anyone who has left the Armed Forces since 7 October 2001.

For more information visit the Civvy Street website (see above) or email:

[betheboss@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:betheboss@britishlegion.org.uk)

## Need help with an immediate crisis?

If you're going through a sudden crisis and need help to meet unexpected expenses, the Legion can be there for you. Each year we help thousands of people through immediate crises by providing small hardship grants.

### **Immediate Needs Grants Scheme**

The Immediate Needs Grants Scheme can provide a broad range of assistance. The Scheme does not provide cash, but can provide essentials for you and your household in times of need. Grants can include funeral costs, furniture and white household goods, vouchers for food and clothes, mobility vehicles and help getting into rented accommodation.

Legionline: 08457 725 725  
[info@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:info@britishlegion.org.uk)



## Do you need advice on military inquests?

If you're the family member of someone who has died in Service, the Legion understands that you need additional support and guidance. We know that you may also need legal advice.

### Independent Inquest Advice

Independent Inquest Advice is a free, independent, professional service that is available throughout the UK to the bereaved families of all Service personnel, including Reservists on active Service.

Our experienced advisers can be with you every step of the way through the Service Inquiry and Inquest (Fatal Accident Inquiry in Scotland) process, and can also refer you to specialist lawyers and outside agencies.

Legionline: 08457 725 725  
iia@britishlegion.org.uk

## Thinking of moving into a home with care?

The Legion provides long- and short-term care to hundreds of older people each year, so if you're thinking of moving to somewhere safe and secure we might be able to help.

We have homes in Kent, Norfolk, North Yorkshire, Warwickshire, East Sussex and Somerset.

### Poppy Homes

The Legion has six Poppy Homes, each providing round-the-clock nursing and personal care. Some of our Poppy Homes also provide day care and dementia care, and one home has a wing designed to provide care to younger people with physical disabilities.

If you choose to move to a Poppy Home you will be cared for as an individual, with a care plan specific to your needs, in an environment that's designed to feel like home. We will nurture your interests and help you to develop new ones, and because our homes are exclusively for ex-Service personnel and their dependants you will find a real feeling of camaraderie.

Legionline: 08457 725 725  
info@britishlegion.org.uk





### **Important information**

Our support services are only available to those meeting the Legion's eligibility criteria. In brief, this includes anyone who has served for at least seven days as a Regular or Reservist in the UK Armed Forces, their families and carers.

Our eligibility criteria include the immediate family members of serving and ex-Service personnel, which includes partners and children. We can also assist estranged or divorced partners who are not yet in a significant new relationship.

Some of our support services are also subject to financial assessment or means testing. These services are Poppy Breaks, Civvy Street (training grants only) and the Immediate Needs Grants Scheme.

Residents in our Poppy Homes are subject to fees, but places are open to both local authority and private fee-payers.

**Legionline:** 08457 725 725

Legionline is the Legion's information service and helpline.

Open Monday to Friday, 9am – 4pm.

All calls are charged at local rates.

## **Shoulder to shoulder with all who Serve**

**Contact us:**  
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199 Borough High Street  
London  
SE1 1AA

**Telephone 020 3207 2100**

Registered charity number 219279

**[www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk)**

