

Priority area: Supporting improvement that empowers the system and individual

Challenge 2: How can we better identify and support those who struggle to navigate transition through earlier, more tailored and proactive approaches?

Overview

This challenge focuses on shifting from a system that relies on individuals to recognise their own needs, prepare early for transition and find support and information independently. It aims to move to a system that proactively identifies those most at risk of poor transition outcomes earlier. The system should provide support that is timely, tailored to individual need and easier to access.

We are particularly interested in proposals that apply existing evidence to improve how transition support is targeted, delivered, coordinated and sustained in practice.

In the short term, this includes improving how transition support is targeted, promoted and delivered for those most at risk to poor transition outcomes. It also includes improving how higher support needs are identified and responded to during transition. In the longer term, this will help to create a more proactive and preventative transition system. Support will be aligned to individual needs and circumstances, rather than relying on individuals or families to navigate support independently.

The challenge

Some personnel and families face barriers to recognising need, seeking help or navigating complex systems. Whilst many transition successfully, those most at risk are often least able to access and engage with support with current support systems often too passive, late and generic.

The challenge is to reduce reliance on self-navigation, particularly for those personnel and families least likely to exercise personal agency during transition, by embedding earlier identification, proactive engagement and tailored support. This will ultimately improve individual outcomes throughout transition.

How can we better identify and support those who struggle to navigate transition through earlier, more tailored and proactive approaches?

 The evidence <i>What do we know?</i>	 The challenge <i>What needs to change?</i>	 The change <i>What does success look like?</i>	 The benefit <i>What will people experience?</i>
- Transition support often reaches individuals and families too late and is not always tailored to those who need it most. - Support can be difficult to navigate and inconsistent. <u>Organisations</u> also do not always work together effectively. This can make it harder to identify and support those most at risk.	From: Reliance on individuals to identify their own needs and find support. ↓ To: Earlier identification of those most at risk, with support that is easier to access.	- Earlier and more effective identification of at risk-individuals. - More proactive, tailored and easier to navigate pathways. - Earlier engagement with support and transition preparation before discharge or crisis point. - Improved continuity of support and transition outcomes.	Those most at risk during transition receive support earlier and are helped to access the services they need. This reduces the likelihood of poor transition outcomes.

What we are looking for

We are interested in proposals that use existing evidence to improve practice, pathways and systems to better support individuals. This may include proposals that:

- Improve how individuals with greater or more complex transition needs are identified earlier and more consistently.
- Use existing evidence on the cohorts least well placed to self-navigate during transition, including what is already known about the barriers and facilitators that shape their engagement with support, to inform practical changes in targeting, pathways and support delivery.
- Test practical and scalable approaches that improve how support is tailored, navigated, promoted, and sustained.
- Develop or embed more proactive transition pathways including guided, in reach, peer-supported or integrated models.
- Strengthen earlier and more effective transition preparation during service, particularly where this improves transition readiness across life skills, finances, housing, wellbeing or employment.
- Address systemic barriers such as stigma, organisational in-service culture and limited opportunity to prepare for transition.

We welcome applications that bring together Armed Forces and mainstream organisations to develop, test or deliver solutions collaboratively.

What we are not looking for

We are not looking for projects where the main purpose is research, evidence generation or increasing understanding of the issue. Projects must demonstrate a clear route to implementation and practical change. In addition, we are not looking for proposals that:

- Focus solely on identifying at-risk groups without improving how support is delivered or navigated in practice.
- Provide direct support services without wider systems influence or scalability.
- Duplicate existing transition support provision without demonstrating what is new, different or transferable.
- Seek continuation funding for existing support services.
- Produce recommendations without testing or embedding practical change.

What success looks like

We invite proposals that can demonstrate practice and measurable change. This may include:

- Earlier and more effective identification of at-risk individuals, with existing evidence being translated into clearer, more actionable support models for those least well placed to self-navigate.
- More proactive, tailored and navigable pathways embedded into practice and understood by those most likely to benefit.
- Earlier engagement with support and transition preparation, supported by stronger local in-service encouragement and more active promotion of transition activity before discharge or crisis point.

- Improved transition outcomes, including confidence and readiness as well as continuity of support.
- Improved continuity of support during transition between defence, statutory services and third-sector/charity support organisations.
- Scalable approaches that improve wider system capability and inform policy, commissioning or practice.

We recognise that not all projects will scale nationally within the lifetime of the grant. However, proposals should demonstrate credible potential for wider transferability.

Grant award

Applications for up to £250,000 are invited to apply

How to apply

Please provide an outline of the project for which you are seeking funding, this should not exceed two sides of A4. The application will be assessed by our team, and if we believe that it meets the objectives of the challenge, we may invite you to submit a full application.