



Defining the Needs of and Assisting UK Aged Merchant Navy Veterans

“After several years of lobbying for proper recognition for Merchant Navy Veterans, Seafarers UK was pleased when the Veterans’ Minister agreed that they should be brought under the terms of the Armed Forces Covenant. However, there is little point in recognition without action, and we are now delighted that we have been given the resources to research and support this community of unsung and forgotten heroes. We hope that they will soon stand alongside their military brethren in the eyes of the public, and their deeds will remind the nation of the huge debt that we owe the Merchant Navy, yesterday and today”

Commodore Barry Bryant, Seafarers UK

You will be aware that we have been awarded a grant by the Aged Veterans Fund, initiated by the Chancellor using LIBOR money to carry out a research project to improve our understanding of the Merchant Navy Veterans community, and to evaluate two specialist services designed to support this specific group of seafarers. This project will be delivered by Seafarers UK and Nautilus with the support of a wider group of organisations with an interest in understanding and meeting the needs of this group, and our academic research partner, the Institute of Public Care at Oxford Brookes University.

The project will deliver the following aims:

- To better define and understand the size, location, health and social care needs of the Merchant Navy Veterans’ community and their spouses/partners.
- To raise the public profile of UK Merchant Navy Veterans.
- To establish and evaluate two approaches to providing specialist support:
 - The provision of four new homes for veteran merchant mariners at Mariners’ Park in Wallasey
 - The provision of a caseworker service in Hull, Merseyside, Southampton and Glasgow to support veteran mariners in their own homes
- To establish a set of strategic priorities arising from this research to inform future service development.

Who are we interested in?

We are interested in people born before 1st January 1950 who were members of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and the Merchant Navy and served on a civilian vessel whilst it was supporting HM Armed Forces. In addition, we are interested in their spouses,

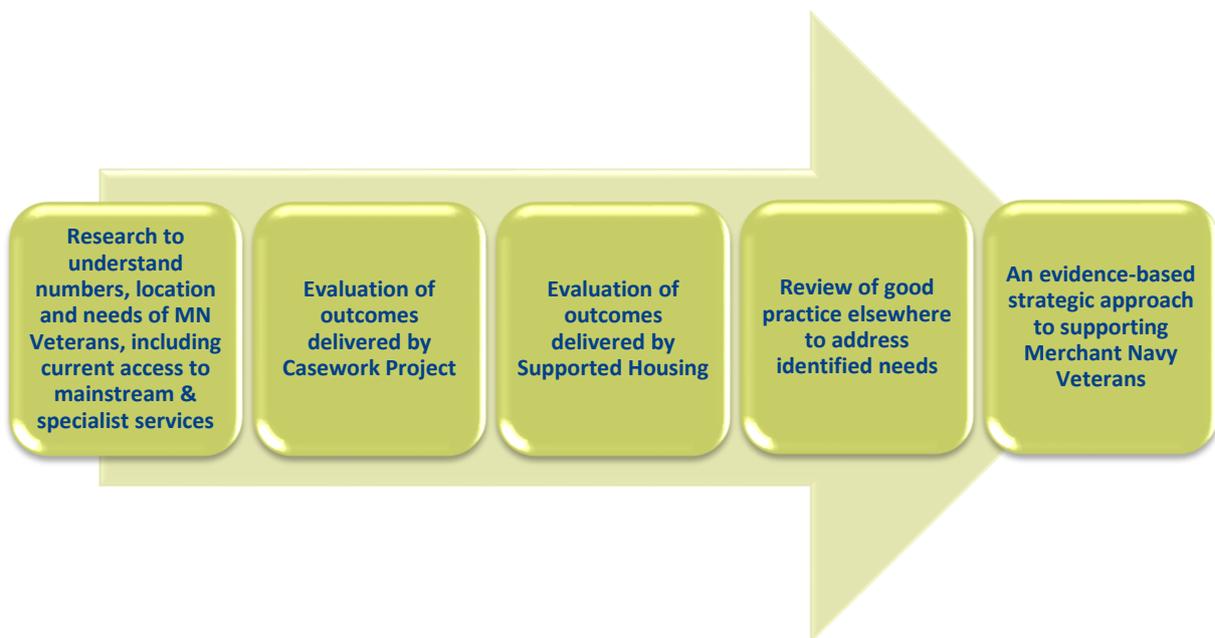
partners and dependants. Despite the present age qualification, we also hope that information arising from this project will eventually assist all MN Veterans.

Who will be involved in the project?

The project will be undertaken over a three year period, and will involve many different organisations and individuals in that time in different ways – its success will depend on this wide ranging involvement and we will be seeking your advice and support in ensuring we reach as many Merchant Navy Veterans and organisations supporting them as possible.

What will the project involve?

There are a number of stages to the project as set out below.



What happens next?

We will start the project by carrying out research to understand more about Merchant Navy Veterans, and this will include:

- Telephone interviews with a number of organisations across the sector.
- The distribution of an electronic and paper survey to MN Veterans.
- Some face to face interviews with MN Veterans to explore in more depth their experience of accessing and using both mainstream and specialist services.

How can you help?

We will need you and your organisation to raise awareness of the project and to encourage and support people to complete the survey when it is distributed. This may mean you working with your service users and residents to understand whether they would qualify as veterans as we realise this may not be information you currently hold on them.

We will also approach a number of you to help arrange the face to face interviews.

How can I find out more?

We will use the [Seafarers UK website](#) to provide regular information about the project, and we will also contact individuals and organisations direct to ask for their help.

If you have any questions, please do contact:

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