

Job Description

ROLE:	Armed Forces Lead
SALARY:	c. £30,000 per annum, dependent on experience.
HOURS:	Full time, 35 per week
LOCATION:	Home working, with extensive travel required and occasional overnight stays
ANNUAL LEAVE:	25 days plus Bank holidays
CLOSING DATE:	03/03/25
INTERVIEW DATE:	Telephone interviews w/c 10/03/25, second interviews w/c 24/03/25



MEN'S SHEDS & UK MEN'S SHEDS ASSOCIATION

The United Kingdom Men's Sheds Association (UKMSA) exists to help men (and women) to be healthy and happy through inspiring, growing, and enabling Shed Communities across the United Kingdom.

The Shed movement is growing and this is an exciting time to join UKMSA as we work to support and promote Sheds for the improvement of health and wellbeing, adding years to life and life to years.

Funded by support from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust's Embedding Prevention Veterans Suicide (EPVS) programme, we seek a full time Armed Forces Lead to support the creation of new Men's Sheds nationally, focussed particularly on those soon to leave the Armed Forces, reservists and veterans.

We already have many veterans who are Shedders (people who participate at Men's Sheds nationwide) and have shared their stories of how much Sheds mean to them and how they have changed their lives for the better. There are several areas across the UK where the concentration of Sheds is relatively low. We are now seeking a rapid growth in the number of Sheds in these areas, targeted at this group, which will have a significant and direct impact on reducing suicide, loneliness and improving wellbeing.

This pilot project will run for 2 years, in which time we expect this role to work with those communities affected to develop a national Armed Forces and Veteran's Sheds Strategy (including a Veteran's Accreditation Scheme for existing Sheds); work with volunteers and the wider community to seed around 20 sustainable Sheds across the UK to target those who are shortly due to face resettlement out of the Armed Forces as well as current veterans; create and support over 200 Armed Forces friendly Sheds through development of resources and training with a focus on suicide prevention; develop and support those wishing to start a Shed; capture case studies and data to evidence impact and develop the case for further men's Sheds in the Armed Forces and veteran communities.

This is an exciting pilot for UKMSA. It will be supported not only by our own organisation, but also by our strong partnerships, including the Royal British Legion (RBL).

Men's Sheds create community connection, increased social contact, the sharing of skills and a continuation of the camaraderie experienced in the Armed Forces. This role will see you primarily engaging with communities to help others develop new Sheds in a way we know to be effective.

You will be responsible for delivering information about the concept of Men's Sheds including their positive impact to members and the community; the history of the Shed Movement to groups and individuals in order to build relationships & establish interest; form Shed Steering Groups and initiate the development of new Sheds across target areas, with a particular focus on those about to leave the Armed Forces and existing veterans.

You will map current community assets and support the development of Sheds within existing groups and organisations that are seeking to expand their offer, reaching more underserved people in their community.

You will inform, signpost and guide groups through the process of starting a Shed, utilising current and developing new resources and working with existing UKMSA staff, volunteers and other Sheds where practical.

The Armed Forces Lead is a role critical to our growth and development across this underserved community and will see the UKMSA move towards our Mission of a Shed for every person that wishes to access one.

This is a home-based role with frequent travel across the area, with occasional overnight stays and some national meetings. It will require a successful DBS check.

If you are interested in joining us, please visit <https://menssheds.org.uk/about/work-with-us/> and send your C.V. with a covering letter detailing your suitability for the role to vacancies@ukmsa.org.uk

Please apply as soon as possible as we will be arranging to meet potential candidates at the earliest opportunity.

PURPOSE

The development and growth of Men's Sheds is made possible through a network of volunteers and partnerships across the UK. This role will develop new Sheds targeted at those due to leave the Armed Forces working with appropriate organisations to sign post individuals, as well as existing veterans and reservists. It will co-ordinate and manage partnerships with other organisations and charities to support the growth and development of the movement. This role is focused on supporting the growth and development of new Men's Sheds, while ensuring existing Sheds thrive, enhancing our reach and the reach of Sheds. Our partnerships underpin the development programmes for the charity.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- Develop and implement a national Armed Forces and Veteran's Sheds Strategy, that will sit within our wider strategic plan and encompass planned activities in the pilot project.
- Continue the development of a Veterans Accreditation Scheme for existing Sheds and roll this out across the network.
- Actively engage with target communities to promote the Shed Movement.
- Target, initiate and support others in the delivery of multiple new Sheds.
- Initiate and support the formation of local groups, particularly for those about to leave the Armed Forces, reservists and veterans that are interested in developing into Sheds.
- Work with other community stakeholders such as third sector groups, the NHS, local authorities and community groups that would like to develop their own men's Sheds targeted at this group.
- Initiate and develop strong working relationships with relevant stakeholders across the beneficiaries of the Armed Forces Covenant Trust Fund, the Royal British Legion and others that can support the development of new Sheds.
- Identify key locations and support the development of Sheds focussed on this community, together with the creation of tailored resources.
- Establish a sub-group of UKMSA's Health and Wellbeing Group focussed on this community, recruiting existing Sheddors and relevant partners to populate it, acting as an expert resource rich in lived experience.
- Support UKMSA's Health and Wellbeing work, including reaching targeted goals to increase suicide awareness training targeted at this group, to existing and new Sheds.
- Identify competent members of the Shed community that may wish to volunteer for the UKMSA.
- Deliver monthly progress reports against all identified objectives.
- Design and collect data to support the effective evaluation of the pilot periodically, including case studies, realigning activities as needed.
- Work with the UKMSA Comms team to highlight and amplify the stories of Veteran/Armed Forces Community Sheddors.
- Ensure the sharing of relevant information, campaigns or events from our Armed Forces Community partners and stakeholders to the wider Shedding Community.
- Attend any relevant events on behalf of UKMSA.
- Attend regular team meetings and update on targeted development work.

Essential Skills/Experience

- Considerable lived experience of the Armed Forces
- An understanding of the challenges faced by those leaving the Armed Forces and knowledge of existing support available to veterans.
- Initiative to quickly develop and manage multiple project streams, at different stages of completion.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to work across different sectors to build effective relationships with a variety of stakeholders.

- Excellent organisational & communication skills with proven experience working across multiple tasks/projects to deadlines.
- The ability to inspire and empower others to achieve their aims.
- The ability to speak to large groups of people.
- An understanding of gendered health inequalities and the challenges faced by men in regards to suicide and accessing mental and physical health support.
- The ability to write reports and maintain records as needed.
- Self-motivated to work from home/remotely.
- Own vehicle and a valid driving license for frequent travel across the working area.

Desirable Skills/Experience

- Experience of community development work or working with volunteer led groups.
- Knowledge and understanding of the Men's Shed Movement.
- Experience in gathering case studies to demonstrate impact.
- Experience working or volunteering with marginalised groups or communities.

Equality, diversity, and equal opportunities

UKMSA is fully committed to and promotes equality and diversity in all aspects of the organisation and its work. As part of their employment, all staff are expected to understand, comply with and promote the UKMSA's Equal Opportunities policy.

Eligibility: Proof of eligibility to work in the UK is required.