



# Research resources

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POLICY AND RESEARCH SUPPORT FROM DSC



helping you  
to help others

# What do you want to know?



## Contact us:

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Website: [www.dsc.org.uk/research](http://www.dsc.org.uk/research)



Whether it's making sense of the information you already have, finding out what more you could do for beneficiaries, evaluating specific projects or areas of work, or identifying new opportunities, DSC's award winning research can help.

## Why DSC?

We have over 40 years of research experience, and the other work we do supporting tens of thousands of charities means we know how to use it. Being a charity ourselves, we understand the challenges involved in getting quality information about the work you do.

Whether the need for solid and useable data is coming from your leadership team, your trustees or a funder, we can help you to get the right information and present it in the right way for you.

*'It was the first time we had ever surveyed our members and the results were thoughtfully analysed, and comprehensively presented; it was a very worthwhile exercise and we have changed the way we work as a result.'*

**Cobseo**



# Award winning expertise...

## Stuart Cole - 2021 FiMT Research Award winner



Stuart's work during the pandemic helped secure £10 million in support to armed forces charities. The award also recognised his work providing insightful survey analysis of Cobseo charities, along with leading DSC's sector-level analysis of UK armed forces charities.

*'Thousands of copies of the reports on which Stuart led have been downloaded or handed out, reaching the most senior policy makers and service providers in the country. The impact of his work was already widely felt and, when the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic hit the sector, his team stepped up to provide important evidence which led directly to vital support being provided.'*

**Air Vice-Marshal Ray Lock CBE, Chief Executive, Forces in Mind Trust**



Get in touch to see how Stuart and the research team can help you to help others



## Evaluation

Whether it's a funded project, an established programme of work or a grant programme, we can help you to see where and how well it's working, what impact you are having, and how you might be able to achieve more with what you are putting in. We have worked successfully with grant making trusts, corporate funders, membership bodies, and a wide range of charities and other not-for-profit organisations. Our experience and assessment framework means we can evaluate the impact you are having quickly and effectively.



## Mapping

We've been researching specific sub-sectors and parts of the voluntary sector since our first publications looked at grant making trusts in the 1970s. More recently our Sector Insight reports have looked in detail at grant-makers, company giving, and armed forces charities in particular. Whether it's a sub-sector based on who or what you support, or your geographical remit, we can map where you operate, who you reach, who else is out there doing similar or overlapping work, and give you a better understanding of the environment you are working in.



## Independent perspective

Sometimes, all you need is an independent perspective on what you may already know. We have huge experience in designing research and survey questions that will ensure you get valid and clean responses you can trust, and that will hold up to scrutiny from trustees, funders and other stakeholders. We can work with you to ensure the methodology of your own research is sound, or carry out work specifically to give an independent and expert view.

# Our process



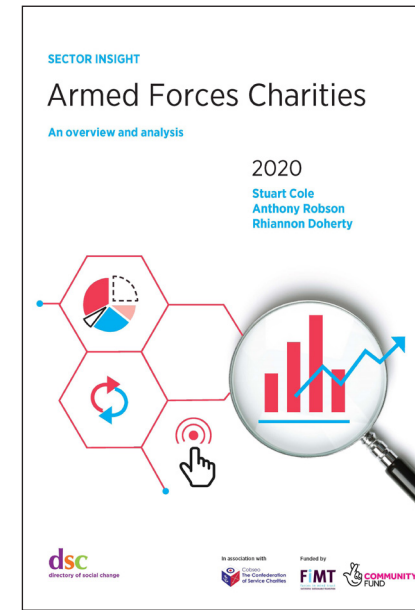
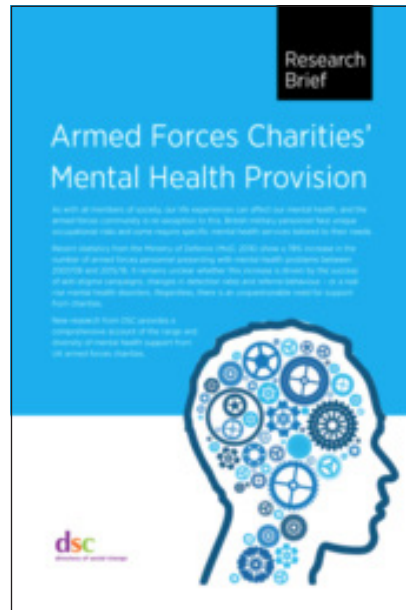
We'll turn your organisational objectives into a set of clear research questions. Then we'll identify any relevant data that already exists, and what new information needs to be gathered in order to answer them.

We'll work with you to produce an outline research proposal, taking into account how complex the project is, the balance between research and analytical work required, and the amount of time and budget available.

Our research team will get on with the work of gathering, interpreting, and preparing to present findings back to you. Your involvement in this stage will depend on the nature of the project – if it's a small project or mainly desk-based analysis or survey work you won't see much of us until it's done. If it's a larger more involving piece of work or we're running workshops and sessions with your beneficiaries for example, you might be more involved in this stage.

The finished research will be presented back to you – usually in the form of a report, but depending on the work this may also involve us submitting data, presenting to senior staff or trustees, or working with you on how to practically apply and use what we've presented to you.

# Research influencing policy and practice



*'There is no better organisation than DSC to undertake this project, and we look forward to our continued partnership.'*

**Forces in Mind Trust,  
Chief Executive, Ray Lock**



*'A huge thank you for the excellent research, and resultant report, that has proved instrumental in spurring on our change process and improving how we operate as a grant maker. I am very excited about our direction of travel.'*

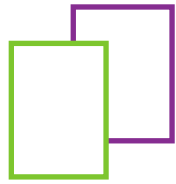
**Deborah Layde, Seafarers UK**



# How we can help...



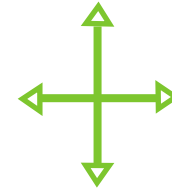
Data gathering



Independent reports



Consultations



Strategic plan-



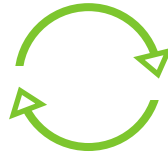
Data analysis



Mapping



Impact assessment



Programme reviews



Strength reviews



Surveys