

Enabling timely, accountable support for Naval families through Aspire



Clare Scherer MBE, Chief Executive, Naval Children's Charity

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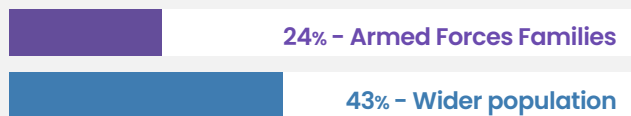
The challenge: when timing matters, traditional funding models fall short

For young people from Naval families, the transition into higher education can bring immediate financial pressure. Higher living costs, disrupted family income and limited access to informal support can create significant barriers. The Naval Children's Charity established its University Bursary Scheme to provide targeted help with living costs, accommodation and essential learning resources.

However, like many national charities operating with lean teams, the organisation faced a challenge: delivering support quickly and with confidence, without adding administrative strain. This bursary process offers wider visibility over when funds were accessed, how they were used and the impact achieved. In this context we recognise speed of delivery is critical to student wellbeing and continuation in higher education, particularly for those from Armed Forces families where financial risk is often more acute.



Progression to Higher Education: Armed Forces Families vs Wider Population



Students from Armed Forces families are significantly less likely to progress into higher education than the wider population.

“When young people from Armed Forces families face financial pressure at university, timing matters. Aspire has transformed how quickly we can respond, allowing support to reach students when it will make the greatest difference – not weeks later, but when it is actually needed.”

Clare Scherer MBE, Chief Executive, Naval Children's Charity



The resolution: delivering support at pace, with purpose

To address these challenges, the Naval Children's Charity partnered with JS Group to deliver its University Bursaries using Aspire. The platform enables funds to be distributed rapidly and securely, while maintaining strong governance and oversight. By digitising and streamlining payment processes, Aspire removes unnecessary administrative complexity, reduces reliance on manual intervention, and **provides clear, real-time insight into how bursary funding is used.**

This shift has allowed the Charity to operate more efficiently and to focus its resources on strategic delivery rather than process management. **Crucially, Aspire combines speed with accountability,** ensuring that support reaches students at the point of need while giving the organisation the confidence to evidence outcomes and steward funds responsibly.

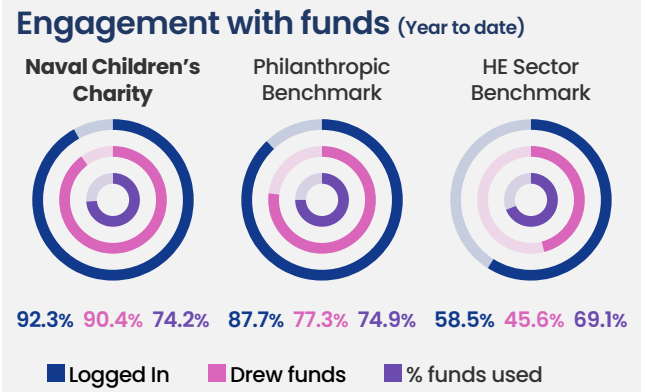


As a national charity, we are acutely aware of the need to use our resources wisely. Aspire has significantly reduced the administrative burden involved in delivering bursaries, freeing up our team to focus on what really matters – supporting children and young people.”

Clare Scherer MBE, Chief Executive, Naval Children's Charity

How Aspire supports the Naval Children's Charity

Aspire provides the Naval Children's Charity with a practical, controlled way to turn **bursary intent into timely, targeted action**. Rather than simply facilitating payments, the platform supports the end-to-end delivery of financial support, from allocation to insight, in a way that reflects the Charity's responsibilities to beneficiaries, funders and trustees. Through Aspire, bursary awards can be issued with clarity and confidence, ensuring funds are accessed quickly and used as intended. **Detailed reporting** shows when support is drawn down and how it is used, **strengthening governance** and enabling clear, evidence-based reporting aligned with SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice) expectations, without adding administrative burden. Aspire also enhances the beneficiary experience, allowing support to be received in a straightforward, dignified way at a critical point in their journey.



The quality of insight we now have is invaluable. Aspire gives us clear visibility over how funding is used, enabling stronger reporting, better governance, and the confidence to meet our charity reporting responsibilities while demonstrating meaningful outcomes for the families we exist to support.”

Clare Scherer MBE, Chief Executive, Naval Children's Charity

Benefits of Aspire



Drive Efficiencies



Empowers Beneficiaries



Actionable Data Insights



Reduce Costs



“[It] will help me fund a laptop for my course and give crucial money to pay my rent for the term in my accommodation.”

“With this money I am able to get the right equipment software and books to complete the course.”

“Being able to pay for driving lessons will help me get my driving license which is a valuable life-long asset.”

A partnership focused on the future

The collaboration between JS Group and the Naval Children's Charity demonstrates how Aspire can strengthen charitable delivery without compromising values. By aligning innovation with purpose, Aspire enables faster support, improved efficiency and clearer impact.



We are proud to be working with JS Group on the delivery of our University Bursaries and see this partnership as an important step forward in how charities can use innovation to better support young people from Armed Forces families into, and through, higher education.”

Clare Scherer MBE, Chief Executive, Naval Children's Charity

To find out more

Please visit www.jsgroup.co.uk or contact David Marshall – david.marshall@jsgroup.co.uk