



Department for Transport & Merchant Navy Welfare Board

Making an Impact 2022/23

In 2022 MNWB was awarded £2.1 million by the Department for Transport to be made available to maritime charities and organisations to support the maritime sector, specifically around seafarers' welfare and skills. 15 UK charities and organisations have been funded through the Department for Transport grant programme in 2022/23, some have received more than one grant. A total of £1,920,857.70 has been awarded to support 34 UK projects across two workstreams:

Skills & Diversity: Plugging skill gaps, broadening the pool of talent, providing an equal opportunity for all and fostering creativity. **£648,994 awarded in 2022/23**

People: Research into, and support for UK programmes to alleviate seafarer and fishers' mental health and wellbeing. **£1,271,864 awarded in 2022**

Skills & Diversity

Mission to Seafarers – Suicide Prevention Training

Grant awarded £46,475.00

Project delivered in Falmouth, London, Felixstowe, Humber, Liverpool and Belfast

There are three parts to the training, all revolving around preventing seafarers from committing suicide. 1) safeTALK training: This is a suicide alertness course which teaches participants how to identify seafarers with thoughts of suicide and connect them to support services. The grant will fund 6 more safeTALK workshops in 2023 – Falmouth, London, Felixstowe, Humber, Liverpool and Belfast. 2) ASIST training: (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) This is stage 2. ASIST is a two-day course which equips the attendee as a Suicide First Aider learning suicide intervention skills to provide an essential lifesaving service in port and online. All the training is open to the whole maritime sector. The grant will fund 3 ASIST courses in 2023 – 2x London and Falmouth. 3) Develop safeTALK Maritime Videos: 12 new videos will be developed using the same scripts and messaging but specifically for the diverse maritime sector.

Stella Maris – Enhancing the quality and consistency of care provision to seafarers by Stella Maris

Grant awarded £17,000.00

Project delivered in North East (Hull or Teesport), Liverpool, South East, South West, Northern Ireland, Scotland and workshop in Derbyshire

Stella Maris aims to enhance the quality of services provided to seafarers and fishers visiting UK ports by running two sets of training in 2023: Enhanced training for Stella Maris chaplains and volunteers; and training of stakeholders in ports to look out for and identify signs of forced labour and modern slavery on vessels. Training for front line workers: Stella Maris has identified a need to enhance the skills of port chaplains and volunteers to meet the changing needs of seafarers and has developed and piloted a 3-day training programme to do so. Stella Maris now aspires to roll out this training in the UK through this grant. Identifying Modern Slavery and trafficking workshops: Modern Slavery, forced labour and trafficking are issues that ship visiting teams are increasingly encountering. Stella Maris is keen to enhance the awareness of these issues amongst agencies working with seafarers and fishers, and has collaborated with an independent expert who can deliver training in this area.

Sailors' Society – UK Wellness at Sea Resources

Grant awarded £22,550.00

Project delivered UK wide

Sailors' Society has expanded their Wellness at Sea programme as part of a 'circle of care' approach, offering seafarers support across their lives both at sea and home. The Campaign was launched during Covid and designed uniquely to extend the reach of the Wellness programme to include families and shore staff, as well as seafarers. Themes included an introduction to wellness, help in a crisis, wellbeing in your own hands and the different elements of wellness (including social, emotional, physical and intellectual wellness). The grant will be used to update the content based on feedback and insights/learnings since 2020, and shared across the UK maritime industry. The material will be targeted at UK maritime schools and UK shipping companies.

Women in Transport – Transport Equity Index

Grant awarded £10,000.00

Project delivered UK wide

A unique set of Equity Indexes for all the different sub-sectors in Transport, Maritime, Ports, Logistics, Road, Rail, Air and Consultancies. Plus, one overall index. Each sector will be able to benchmark itself against one or more of the other sectors. Seafarers will be shown and broken down by gender for benchmarking against other male-dominated areas. The Women in Transport Equity Index seeks to propel diversity and equity into the forefront through its initiative. This project aims to recognise organisations committed to improving gender diversity in transport and empower the whole industry to raise its standards by taking action - providing data and solutions.

KLTV – RADAR Employment Apprenticeship Programme

Grant awarded £120,000.00

Project delivered in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire

Kirklees Local Television (KLTV) developed a programme to focus on employment, skills and apprenticeships into the Civil Service. The Programme is called Recruit, Acclimatise, Develop and Retain (RADAR). The objective is to deliver a one-year training and development programme in preparation for employment and apprenticeships, further education, and job opportunities to 30 individuals from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic, and low socio-economic backgrounds. The RADAR Programme will seek to enable 35 young people to engage, learn, develop and transform their lives

through five workshops, two one-to-one coaching sessions, five days' work experience in the civil service and an opportunity to apply for an apprenticeship within.

Marine Society & Sea Cadets - Marine Engineering Pathway (MEP) Project

Grant awarded £182,500.00

Project delivered in Scotland, the North East, North West, Midlands, South East, South West and London.

The overall aim for the MEP is to encourage young people to pursue a career in Marine Engineering using practical STEM classroom sessions. Since starting in 2017, the project has reached over 74,100 young people directly in schools. For 2022 it is projected to exceed its 15,000 target. With DfT funding through MNWB, the MEP have been working to extend its reach into more young people in deprived and underprivileged areas. The MEP team address classes using current and relatable subject matters. Most recently, workshops cover issues such as 'Climate & energy Crises', use of fossil fuels, and the gender imbalance in the STEM sectors. Discussion ultimately leads to the importance of the engineers of tomorrow.

Marine Society & Sea Cadets - Supporting Seafarer Career Progression

Grant awarded £50,000.00

Project delivered UK wide

This one year project will expand the existing provision of seafarer bursary and mentoring support currently provided by the Marine Society. These services have a proven track record in meeting the financial needs of seafarers seeking to upskill or for those transitioning into shoreside roles. Specifically, the project will increase the funding available for three bursaries, namely the Worcester Fund, the Hanway Fund and the Marine Society Green Skills fund all of which have expended current reserves. The project will give extra staff and materials resources for the Coming Ashore programme, a tailored 6-12 month mentoring programme that helps serving seafarers to plan and successfully transition to a shore role in maritime.

Maritime London Officer Cadet Scholarship – MLOCS Cadet

Grant awarded £50,000.00

Project delivered UK wide

The purpose of the grant is to fund three years of training of a merchant navy cadet up to the obtaining of the relevant Certificate of Competency.

Merchant Navy Welfare Board – C188 Training Project

Grant awarded £6,000.00

Project delivered UK wide

The project presents a cost-effective opportunity to develop and deliver a bespoke course for Port Chaplains and Ship Visitors of those organisations that provide welfare services to the fishing industry. The project aims to equip the participants with sufficient background knowledge and understanding to allow them to provide meaningful advice to fishermen and give them an understanding of the complaints procedure. The course is based upon the booklet entitled "Work in

Fishing Convention (C188) - Everything you need to know but were frightened to ask” and is aimed at a UK audience.

Maritime UK – Roadshows for Girls

Grant awarded £100,000.00

Project delivered in London, Southampton, Portsmouth, Isle of Wight, Liverpool, Hertlepool and Grangemouth

Maritime UK is taking on the Roadshow for Girls from the 1851 Trust and aligning it to their Diversity in Maritime and Careers and Outreach programmes. The project will promote gender balance in the sector and educating girls about STEM subjects relating to the Maritime sector. The project aims in Year 1 will remain the same as the 1851 Trust which are: to increase participation, confidence and contribution to STEM subjects in school; to enhance understanding and awareness of STEM careers in the maritime sector with students; to empower young women to make informed choices about careers paths; to assess the long-term impact of a multi-activity day on the girls that take part; and to assist increase gender representation in the maritime sector by ensuring young women know it is a career path for them.

Cornish Fish Producers’ Organisation – From Deckhand to the Wheelhouse – Supporting careers in fishing

Grant awarded £44,469.00

Project delivered in Plymouth

This project is to enable five individuals to gain their Class II Skipper qualifications, resulting in the progression of their careers from the deck, to the wheelhouse. Five motivated deckhands will be able to travel to the closest training centre that delivers Class II qualifications (Plymouth) to complete 12 weeks of training, which will equip them with new knowledge, skills and qualifications in navigation, chartwork and pilotage, meteorology, safety and management (including Ship Stability) and MCA Signals. This project covers most of the costs involved in undertaking this training, which includes accommodation, travel and subsistence, and additionally, a contribution to their lost earnings during the training period.

People – Mental Health & Wellbeing

Merchant Navy Welfare Board – Development of National Seafarers’ Welfare Board Help Centre and Port Visitor platform

Grant awarded £148,620.00

Project delivered UK wide

The goal of this project is to position the UK as the leading nation on maritime welfare among the 101 Member States that have ratified MLC, 2006, through the development of resources and tools that support the objectives of the National Seafarers’ Welfare Board. The grant will support the ongoing development and support of the National Seafarers’ Welfare Board Help Centre and the Port Visitor platform, which work together to provide the highest level of support to welfare boards. The NSWB Help Centre will provide access to resources, such as business plan templates, case studies, ‘how to’ guides and a directory of all national, regional and local welfare boards globally. The Port Visitor platform brings the whole sector together by providing a set of tools for national seafarers’ welfare boards, port welfare committees and front-line welfare providers. It has been

developed by MNWB to make it easier to track progress of welfare provision, identify gaps in services and assist the UK Government with Article 22 reporting into the ILO by the UK Government. The platform provides intelligence about ports, welfare provision and ship movements that enables multiple stakeholders to be better informed about the needs of seafarers.

Mission to Seafarers – Core Funding for Portside activities in 2023 – Region 1: South West and Wales

Grant awarded £19,752.00

Project delivered in Fowey, Falmouth, Avonmouth and Portbury, South Wales Ports (including Newport, Barry, Birdport, Briton Ferry, Cardiff, Neath, Swansea), Port Talbot, Milford Haven and North Wales

The grant will be used for core funding support for Mission to Seafarers' (MtS) portside work assisting seafarers visiting a number of ports in South West England and Wales. MtS actively serves seafarers at the ports of Fowey, Falmouth, Avonmouth and Portbury, South Wales Ports (including Newport, Barry, Birdport, Briton Ferry, Cardiff, Neath, Swansea), Port Talbot, Milford Haven; and the MtS South Wales chaplain also carries out chaplaincy work in North Wales. MtS runs 4 seafarer centres - Fowey, Falmouth, Newport and Port Talbot. From these centres, and peripatetic work at other ports, MtS provides a wide variety of seafarer focused services including: ship visitations, transportation to MtS seafarer centres and shopping centres, tea/coffee, email facilities, telephones, computers, internet and TV, phone cards, snacks, toiletries and warm clothing. MtS provides a friendly caring face, advocacy, fellowship, emotional and financial guidance and wellbeing. All MtS chaplains are trained in counselling skills, and are completing MtS safeTALK suicide prevention training, as they continue to enhance their local services to meet the ever growing needs of seafarers.

Mission to Seafarers – Core Funding for Portside activities in 2023 – Region 2: Southampton

Grant awarded £14,034.00

Project delivered in Southampton

The grant will be used for core funding support for MtS's portside work assisting seafarers visiting Southampton. Southampton was one of the original ports where MtS's work began, initially providing welfare to crews on sailing ships, waiting in the anchorages. Over 150 years that work has developed and changed in line with industry transformation. MtS's work is now focused on two core elements, ship visitation and transport. The work is headed by a Chaplain and provision has been made for the appointment of a second paid ship visitor, to be appointed early in 2023 and allowing for a greater and more flexible shift-working approach, maximising potential outreach to seafarers. Ship visitation is further supported by an experienced team of volunteers.

Mission to Seafarers – Core Funding for Portside activities in 2023 – Region 3: North East

Grant awarded £36,785.00

Project delivered in Humber, Hull, Immingham, Groveport, Seaham, North Tees, South Tees, Tyne & Wear

The grant will be used for core funding support for MtS's portside work assisting seafarers visiting North East England. There is much shipping activity in the North East and MtS has a strong presence across several ports namely: Humber, Hull, Immingham, Groveport, Seaham, North Tees, South Tees, Tyne & Wear and other smaller ports too. MtS runs 4 seafarer centres at Groveport, North

Tees, South Tees and South Shields. The Humber makes up a large geographical area which MtS covers from their base at Groveport. From here MtS also serves the Ports of Hull, Goole, Immingham, Flixborough, Gunness, New Holland Jetty, New Holland Dock and Grimsby. MtS has a chaplain for the Humber and ship visitor volunteers at both Hull and Goole.

Mission to Seafarers – Core Funding for Portside activities in 2023 – Region 4: Scotland

Grant awarded £4,429.00

Project delivered in Grangemouth, Rosyth, Dundee and Braefoot Bay

The grant will be used for core funding support for MtS’s portside work assisting seafarers in Scotland. MtS operates a centre in Grangemouth and carries out welfare services across the additional ports of Rosyth, Dundee and Braefoot Bay. The seafarer centre is run by a constitutional committee and is aided by volunteers. Between 150-200 seafarers take advantage of the centre’s facilities each month. Seafarers can access free wifi, money exchange, books, free tea and coffee, vending machines and a pool table. The Scottish port chaplain and his team of volunteers serve the welfare needs of seafarers across the four ports, meeting seafarers at the centre and travelling across the ports for ship visiting.

Stella Maris – Northern Ireland Ship Visiting Team

Grant awarded £56,777.00

Project delivered in Belfast, Kilkeel, Ardglass, and Portavogie

This grant will be used to increase Stella Maris’s ship visiting capacity in Northern Ireland. For two years, the Stella Maris Senior Area Port Chaplain for Scotland and Northern Ireland, based in Glasgow, has been travelling to Northern Ireland to support seafarers and fishers in need, visiting vessels in Belfast, Kilkeel, Ardglass and Portavogie. The fishing community in Northern Ireland were particularly affected by the pandemic, with the region under lockdown conditions such that fishers could not go to sea and earn a living. This has left many in debt, unable to pay for courses to become re-certified, leaving them with the choices of falling into greater poverty, leaving the industry, or illegally fishing to generate an income. The Stella Maris Glasgow based chaplain has also supported a number of migrant fishers in Northern Ireland who have been the victims of horrific abuse and neglect. Through this grant, Stella Maris will employ a full-time port chaplain locally in Northern Ireland. This local chaplain will increase their ship-visiting capacity and coordinate activities in the region, with the continued support of the Senior Area Port Chaplain. .

QVSR Seafarers’ Centres – Humber Seafarers’ Centre Refurbishment Project

Grant awarded £173,178.00

Project delivered in Immingham

QVSR Humber Seafarers’ Centre in the Port of Immingham is part of QVSR Seafarers’ Centres (QVSRSC), a subsidiary of QVSR set up in February 2022 to manage the operation of the seafarers’ centres in the Ports of Felixstowe, Immingham, Bristol, London Tilbury and London Gateway. The purpose of QVSR Seafarers’ Centres is to promote seafarers’ mental and physical well-being by providing an inviting and welcoming environment for them whilst they are in port, a place where they can relax in comfort and enjoy a “home away from home” after weeks or days at sea. QVSR Humber Seafarers’ Centre provides welfare services for around 10,000 seafarers visiting the ports in the Humber area. QVSRSC plans to use the grant to repair the roof structure of the atrium (a semi-outdoor space), refurbish the bathroom facilities, set up a charging port for electric vehicles,

purchase new equipment and furniture and redecorate the centre. The grant would also help to create a private communication space for seafarers to communicate with loved ones and a new chaplains hub at the heart of the centre.

QVSR Seafarers' Centres – Felixstowe Seafarers' Centre Refurbishment Project

Grant awarded £114,988.00

Project delivered in Felixstowe

QVSR Felixstowe Seafarers' Centre provides welfare services to around 10,000 seafarers visiting the ports of Felixstowe and Ipswich. QVSR Seafarers' Centres intends to continue to offer a friendly and welcoming environment to those who provide an essential service in supporting our global economy. QVSRSC plans to use the grant to provide a private communication space, install a new boiler, refurbish the bathroom facilities and kitchens, and re-decorate the centre. Thus creating a much improved environment with a more homely ambience and atmosphere where seafarers can relax and unwind in order that they can continue with their work safely and productively.

QVSR Seafarers' Centres – Bristol Seafarers' Centre Refurbishment Project

Grant awarded £63,070.00

Project delivered in Portbury and Avonmouth

QVSR Bristol Seafarers' Centre provides welfare services to around 10,000 seafarers visiting the ports of Portbury and Avonmouth in the Bristol area. The QVSR Seafarers Centres' vision is about putting seafarers first, and to achieve this, providing first class seafarers' centres furnished with excellent facilities is a prerequisite to promoting seafarers well-being. QVSR Seafarers' Centres plans to continue to offer a friendly and welcoming environment to visiting seafarers. The grant will be used to provide a private communication space, redecorate the centre, refurbish the bathroom facilities, and install fibre optic broadband for better internet connectivity.

QVSR Seafarers' Centres – London Tilbury Communication Space Project

Grant awarded £11,351.00

Project delivered in Tilbury

QVSR London Tilbury Seafarers' Centre provides welfare services to around 10,000 seafarers visiting the ports of Tilbury. The grant will be used to purchase a private communication space. Communication with loved ones is vital to seafarers' mental health and well-being when in the centre, and finding a place of privacy can sometimes be difficult. There have been occasions where seafarers needed a space to see a new born baby for the first time, discuss medical issues, or just chat with loved ones – such conversations taking place in a communal lounge is not ideal especially surrounded by the hustle and bustle of other crew members. The modern and quirky nature of the communication pod makes it very inviting; they are fitted with comfortable seating and have USB charging facilities. The pods are expected to be very popular with seafarers and will enrich the centre's homely environment; seafarers will feel more relaxed while talking to loved ones and will be ready to continue their work safely and productively.

QVSR Seafarers' Centres – 2 year funding of Assistant Operations Manager post

Grant awarded £65,000.00

Project delivered in Humber, Felixstowe, Bristol and London Tilbury

QVSR Seafarers' Centre provides welfare services for around 40,000 seafarers visiting ports in Humber, Felixstowe, Bristol, London Tilbury and London Gateway area. This grant will fund the position of the Assistant Operations Manager role for two years. Working with QVSRSC Operations Manager and CEO, the Assistant Operations Manager will help to support the delivery of the four major refurbishment projects in all QVSR Seafarers' Centres. The goal is to furnish these centres with excellent facilities that help to promote seafarers' well-being, and the Assistant Operations Manager role will help to deliver this vision.

Merchant Navy Welfare Board – UK Port Welfare MiFi Partnership Project

Grant awarded £4,500.00

Project delivered UK wide

In July 2020, The DfT, MNWB and The Seafarers' Charity agreed to fund a UK Port Welfare MiFi Partnership Project, managed by the MNWB. The aim of the project is to improve welfare provision for visiting seafarers to the UK by delivering access to good quality, high speed broadband both in port and on-board ship, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic. This provision would be facilitated by a partnership with Maritime Welfare Charities (MWC) who provide welfare visits to ships arriving in UK ports. Both the MNWB and MWC commit themselves to improve communications by utilising MiFi units in a harmonious and co-ordinated manner.

The Fishermen's Mission – The Shout Mental Health Project

Grant awarded £14,067.00

Project delivered UK wide

The Shout Mental Health Project will be a new, 12 month initiative to be delivered in partnership with the organisation Mental Health Innovations (MHI). MHI is a mental health charity that offers digital tools to support individuals' mental health. Shout 85258 is a de-escalation, volunteer-driven service that works with people in immediate distress to take them to a calmer moment and empower them with support and techniques to take their next steps to feeling better and handle future issues, as well as possibly signposting someone to further support services or their GP so that they can get continuous and long-term support. The Shout service went live on 5th December 2022.

The Fishermen's Mission – The Fairwinds Mental Health Project

Grant awarded £9,801.00

Project delivered in Cornwall

The project is part of The Fishermen's Mission flagship Seafit Programme and is delivered in partnership with the Seafarers' Hospital Society (SHS), The Fishermen's Mission (TFM) and Fairwinds Cornwall Services. The project will be delivered from 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023. The overall aim is to offer a bespoke flexible and supportive mental wellbeing service to working fishermen and their families in Cornwall. It also aims to reduce stigma and increase access to mental wellbeing services and has been designed to take into account the nature of fishermen's working patterns, risk profile and current attitudes to mental wellbeing.

The Fishermen's Mission – The Newlyn Outreach Programme

Grant awarded £32,000.00

Project delivered in Newlyn, Cornwall

The Newlyn Outreach Programme is a fundamental tool in delivering support to the smaller fishing operations across Cornwall, some of which are in relatively remote locations and have poor transport or communication links. The outreach provision in Newlyn is delivered directly through a well trained and experienced outreach team based there and it is anticipated that it will support over 300 people in 2022/23. In Newlyn's fishing communities, both active and retired fishermen face a number of complex welfare challenges and are arguably one of the most vulnerable groups in the UK.

The Fishermen's Mission – The Kilkeel Outreach Programme

Grant awarded £54,000.00

Project delivered in Kilkeel, County Down, Northern Ireland

The Fishermen's Mission runs a small centre based on Kilkeel harbour which provides basic amenities for fishermen and where the Kilkeel Outreach team are based. Several ports in the area are visited by the team, particularly the ports of Ardglass and Portavogie which are visited regularly to offer support and care. Significant numbers of migrant crew use the port and The Fishermen's Mission centre, mainly hailing from West Africa and the Philippines. Reflecting some of the wider social issues facing some communities in the Kilkeel area, poverty and debt are facts of life for some of the town's in shore fishermen and their families. With financial fragility come associated welfare issues such as debt, high risk alcohol use, health issues and family relationship difficulties.

The Fishermen's Mission – The Bridlington Health Project

Grant awarded £15,144.00

Project delivered in Flamborough, Bridlington, Hornsea and Withernsea

The project is part of the Fishermen's Mission flagship Seafit Programme and is delivered in partnership with the Seafarers Hospital Society (SHS), The Fishermen's Mission (TFM), Humberside Teaching NHS Foundation Trust (HTFT) and the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT). The overall aim of the project is to offer a bespoke and supportive service to improve the health and wellbeing of both current and retired fishermen and their families in the area. This is achieved through the employment of a part-time Health Trainer working directly with fishermen and their families, with the service offered two days a week from both community facilities and a Mobile Unit at the various harboursides along the coastal region. The project provides free, one-to-one personal support to motivate adults who wish to lead a healthier lifestyle. This includes specialist advice in areas such as healthy eating, losing weight, physical activity, giving up smoking and substances, cutting down on alcohol, sexual health, reducing stress and anxiety and cancer screening.

Royal Alfred Seafarers' Society – Belvedere House Modernisation

Grant awarded £65,217.00

Project delivered in Banstead, Surrey

In the early stages of the pandemic in the spring of 2020, it was clear that shared bathroom facilities would no longer be sensible, thus in order to prevent the spread of infection it was decided to convert the current 68 resident bedrooms giving a wetroom to each and a budget was set at £4.4m. The upgrading of sheltered accommodation was also undertaken and communal and staff facilities have been improved. Once the work is completed, the nursing care home providing high

dependency and dementia care will be totally transformed, modernised and fit for another 20 years of valuable service to the seafaring community.

Seafarers' Hospital Society – Seafarer Health Project – Defibrillator Project Scheme

Grant awarded £56,000.00

Project delivered UK wide

Seafarer physical health, welfare and mental illness have been regular challenges, this is an important area that requires attention and is one of the largest killers at sea. The occurrence of heart attacks and other similar health-related incidents, due to high blood pressure may not be a surprise given the increasing age of seafarers as essentially, common onshore 'middle-age' health problems are being taken to sea. In this project, defibrillators will be sited at a location at 20 designated seafarer centres. This pilot project includes training, monitoring and evaluation, governance and marketing costs.

Seafarers' Hospital Society – Seafarer Fast Track Physiotherapy Project

Grant awarded £147,100.00

Project delivered in Glasgow, Hull, Humber and Tyneside

Working as a seafarer is one of the UK's most challenging jobs and the number of work-related injuries is high caused by the physical demands and repetitive nature of work as a seafarer. Time spent at sea means it can be difficult to get treatment. This funding will assist SHS to: continue to provide these much needed physiotherapy sessions in order to keep seafarers fit to work at sea; expand the size of SHS's existing functioning Network in order to extend the areas in which the service is offered nationally and to help more seafarers access physiotherapy. SHS will also produce two videos featuring preventative exercises to reduce injuries. These will be accessible online, in conjunction with four social media campaigns designed to promote increased musculoskeletal health in seafarers.

Seafarers' Hospital Society – Seafarers Dental Project – Smiles at Sea

Grant awarded £50,350.70

Project delivered in Cornwall, Brixham, Southampton, Portsmouth, Portbury, Tilbury and Felixstowe

The Seafarers' Hospital Society has partnered with The Fishermen's Mission & community dental provider Dentaaid and Smile Together, to take dental health services into the seafaring community through the SeaFit programme in 2023. Free dental checks and immediate treatment for fishers and their families are currently being provided at a variety of harbourside locations as part of SeaFit health events. Using state of the art mobile dental units, high quality dental care is provided where needed and the service has engaged with over 4,000 people living and working in fishing communities. In this project these services will be extended to merchant seafarers and visits will be made to ports and seafarers' centres to provide urgent and immediate dental care for seafarers from a mobile dental unit.

Seafarers' Hospital Society – Seafarers Dental Project - Emergency Dental Grant Scheme

Grant awarded £30,000.00

Project delivered UK wide

The Seafarers' Hospital Society has partnered with The Fishermen's Mission & community dental provider Dentaid and Smile Together, to take dental health services into the seafaring community through the SeaFit programme in late 2022 & in 2023. In this project £30K will fund an Emergency Dental Grants Scheme which will be set up for working MN seafarers and fishers who need urgent dental treatment which they cannot access on the NHS. 25-30 working seafarers will be provided with grants for emergency dental treatment.

Sailors' Society – UK Peer Support Groups for Seafarers

Grant awarded £10,000.00

Project delivered UK wide

Peer Support Groups are safe spaces where members can swap stories, ask for assistance or advice, and chat about their day-to-day lives and experiences. Through regular contact Sailors' Society aims to build relationships, provide a social support network and promote access to welfare services. Groups are WhatsApp or Telegram based, consisting of no more than 20 seafarers and a moderator. Members are asked to comply with a set of group rules, including confidentiality. The moderator monitors the groups, posts wellness-related subject matter and helps stimulate conversation. They also provide help and can refer anyone in need of further support to Sailors' Society's Crisis Response Network or Chaplains. Sailors' Society's Peer Support Groups were launched in 2019, with the number of Groups reaching 59 in August 2022 with over 900 participants.

Nautilus Welfare Fund – Funding of two caseworkers

Grant awarded £75,700.00

Project delivered in Newcastle and Cardiff

The grant will support two full time caseworker posts from 1st January 2023, based in Newcastle covering the North East and one based in Cardiff, covering Newport, Swansea, Barry, Port Talbot and Bristol. The casework service enables mariners to access welfare benefits and grants that they are entitled to, providing them with financial stability going forward. The cost of living crises is resulting in more seafarers and their dependants reaching out to the caseworking service for basic needs such as help with obtaining food and drink, energy bills, signposting to other stakeholders, GP's, Mental Health, Councilor's etc.

MNWB Grants awarded in 2022

MNWB's main priority is to provide support services to its Constituents, PWCs and working groups, and its secondary priority is to provide capital grants. The amount made available for grants annually is based on the overall return from the investment portfolio after deducting revenue costs and services to Constituents. Under the Small Grants Programme, the Chair and Chief Executive are authorised to allocate individual grants of up to £5,000 throughout the year, up to a total annual limit of £50,000. In 2022, an overall sum of £160,795 awarded in capital grants and £103,100.00 to jointly funded projects

MNWB grants awarded in 2022 are as follows:

Care Ashore – Disabled flat refurbishment & accessible doors**Grant awarded £27,090.00**

The grant was used to replace two existing external doors and amend one internal door with ones which have automatic systems to allow for use by residents who have mobility difficulties and need doors in place which facilitate access. Work was also carried out to convert one ground flat into dedicated disabled accommodation with suitable access, accessible switches etc. and a wet room.

The Fishermen’s Mission – The Troon Refurbishment Project**Grant awarded £33,360.00**

The aim of the Troon Refurbishment Project was to provide a modern, comfortable recreation space for fishers that live in boats while in harbour that could be easily adapted to provide a bespoke space for fishers to access vital professional training.

QVSR – Renovation of front facia of the QVSR building & communal garden**Grant awarded £40,000.00**

Work was carried out to complete the replacement of all windows at the front of the building. Repairs were also needed to some of the windowsills which were crumbling and presented a potential danger of falling masonry. As these works required scaffolding the opportunity was taken to transform the exterior by rendering it in a bright white finish to modernise the building. Improvements were also made to the rear garden as part of the decking had to be removed due to rotten joists. The garden is a vital resource for residents and therefore it is important that QVSR has an outdoor space which is accessible and inviting and that can be used for communal resident activities or relaxation.

Stella Maris – Lone Working Devices for ship visiting**Grant awarded £30,570.00**

Stella Maris Chaplains and volunteer ship visitors visit 10,000 ships per annum in over 70 ports across Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Some of the visits involve two members of staff, but many are conducted alone. Through the Loan Worker Devices, Stella Maris is able to give greater support and care, and give confidence to the Chaplains and volunteers when they visit seafarers and vessels.

Grimsby Cleethorpes Sea Cadets Corps – Fully integrated fire alarm system upgrade**Grant awarded £7,755.60**

The grant was used to fund an upgraded intergrated fire alarm system. Prior to this work the unalarmed buildings could not be legally used by cadets for sleepovers and weekend activities. By having all four buildings alarmed the attendance number of cadets could be doubled.

Merchant Navy Association – Merchant Navy Day Commemorative Service and Reunion

Grant awarded £500.00

This grant is used for the annual Merchant Navy Day Commemorative Service and Reunion which took place on 4th September 2022 and was held at the Merchant Navy Memorial at Tower Hill, London.

Aberdeen Seafarers' Centre – Preparation of premises for new seafarers' centre

Grant awarded £4,960.00

The grant funded a Chaplain's office and lounge facilities for active and retired seafarers at Aberdeen seafarers' centre. The centre provides shore-based welfare facilities for visiting seafarers in Aberdeen and a place to meet and socialise for retired seafarers. It is also used as a focal point for delivering welfare services to retired local seafarers and their families.

Nautilus Welfare Fund – Replacement Supporting People grant for Community Alarm and Response service

Grant awarded £5,000.00

The grant covered the loss of Supporting People Funding from July - December 2022 for those residents at NWF who are eligible for Housing Benefit support. This service was previously funded by the local service and the MNWB grant covered the shortfall until the end of the financial year. The Supported Housing at Mariners' Park benefits from the provision of a community alarm and response service. This gives residents and their families peace of mind that if they fall or are taken ill they can summon assistance 24/7.

Stella Maris – Fawley Seafarers' Centre new sofa

Grant awarded £1,559.20

At Fawley oil refinery, Stella Maris runs a small, unmanned centre to assist the crews of tankers coming into the port. They will have been at sea for many weeks and use the centre for respite. Fawley is one of the busiest ports in Britain, with over 1,000 vessels visiting every year, and with redevelopments to the terminal, this is only set to grow. An estimated 1,000 merchant seafarers visit the centre every year. The sofas in the centre were old and needed replacing. The cabin is sometimes used by crew who are awaiting to go on ship in a new contract and may even need to sleep overnight in the cabin.

Mission to Seafarers – North Tees & Hartlepool – Air conditioning system

Grant awarded £5,000.00

The North Tees & Hartlepool Mission to Seafarers' seafarer centre plays an important role in the welfare of visiting seafarers. Here, seafarers gain some invaluable respite from life on their vessels, during the short 'turn-around' period between unloading their cargo, reloading and returning to sea again. The old oil-boiler was over twenty years old and would break down routinely. This grant funded an air-conditioning system to provide heating in the winter and keep the centre cool in the summer.

PWC Promotion & Emergency Fund £5,000.00

Partnership & MNWB Projects

MNWB Vehicle Replacement Programme

Annual contribution £39,000.00

The VRP is one of the Board's most popular and successful programmes. It is managed by MNWB and jointly funded by MNWB, The Seafarers' Charity, ITF Seafarers' Trust and Trinity House. Having started in 2008, the now annual vehicle replacement project gives substantial grants to help voluntary organisations purchase new vehicles. The project enables welfare personnel to undertake ship and home visits as well as transporting seafarers in and around the ports. The programme helps replace minibuses, MPVs and cars that remain essential to the provision of welfare services to our seafarers.

MNWB & Trinity House - Recognition to Carers

£4,500.00

MNWB and Trinity House joined forces on behalf of the maritime charity sector to thank and congratulate hundreds of staff and volunteers for providing exceptional support to UK Merchant Navy Seafarers during Covid-19. In recognition of this selfless support, the staff and volunteers, who work in maritime charity care homes, sheltered accommodation and hostels, were each given a £20 Amazon voucher. The organisations were also sent a Certificate of Appreciation and Marks & Spencer voucher to purchase lunch for their team.

MNWB IPWP Partner Programme

Annual contribution £40,000.00

The success of the UK welfare board (PWC) system influenced ILO MLC, 2006, regulation 4.4 encouraging the establishment of similar welfare boards at local, regional and national level in order to review, support and promote seafarers' welfare in ports worldwide. As such, it provides an excellent example for other countries and ports around the world to follow, which is the primary aim of the IPWP project. To facilitate collaborative working, the Port Visitor platform brings together key stakeholders from the maritime community to directly co-ordinate port welfare services and facilities. The platform is unique in that, when fully launched, it will provide the most comprehensive source of port welfare information for seafarers and offer a set of tools to welfare boards that enable port based welfare services and facilities to review and report at local, regional and national level.

MNWB, DfT and The Seafarers' Charity - MiFi project

£4,500.00

The Department for Transport, The Seafarers' Charity and MNWB all agreed to fund another year of this collaborative initiative, which has continued to provide a lifeline for seafarers and fishers, particularly during the pandemic. The project, which started in 2019 as a pilot project funded by ITF Seafarers' Trust, is managed by the MNWB and supports the work of front-line welfare societies, providing seafarers and fishers in ports around the UK with access to free internet to connect with their families and friends. There are 40 MiFi units deployed throughout the UK to the following

Maritime Welfare Charities' (MWCs) who provide welfare visits to ships arriving in UK ports: Aberdeen Seafarers' Centre, The Fishermen's Mission, Liverpool Seafarers' Centre, Mission to Seafarers, Queen Victoria Seamen's Rest, Stella Maris and Sailors' Society.

Maritime Charities Group

Annual contribution £10,000.00

The MCG fosters collaboration across the maritime charity sector. It does this by sharing information, commissioning research, supporting the education and welfare of seafarers and their families and by the promotion of best practice within the maritime charity sector. Its vision is for a maritime charity sector that works collaboratively to achieve the greatest impact for seafarers and their families.

MN Medal contribution

£100.00

The Board administers the Merchant Navy Honours Consultative Committee (MNHCC) on behalf of the UK maritime industry. The committee, formally known as the Merchant Navy Medal Committee, meets by agreement with the Department for Transport and acts in an advisory capacity. The MNHCC can recommend awards to persons from the maritime industry that include higher Honours and medals for acts of courage. The Board operates the Merchant Navy Medal website www.merchantnavymedal.org , provides the Committee secretary and administers the MNM restricted fund.

MNWB – Ukrainian Seafarers' Emergency Communication Fund

Grant awarded £5,000.00

Following the crisis in Ukraine, the Board set up a £5K Ukrainian Seafarers' Emergency Communication Fund to fund the purchase of SIM cards for Ukrainian seafarers to contact home. Trinity House matched this by also awarding £5K.