



Committee
Thriving Council Committee

Date 24/09/2026

Subject: Squaddie Box

Report by:

Director for Planning, Regeneration & Communities

Contact Officer:

Sarah Elvin
Head of Housing, Health & Wellbeing

Executive Summary:

This report seeks approval to fund a two-year pilot of the Squaddie Box project in West Lindsey, following the recommendation from Thriving People Committee.

Squaddie Box is a Community Interest Company that supports veterans and emergency services personnel who are homeless or at risk of homelessness by providing access to a secure, verified postal address. The pilot would provide one Squaddie Box pod, supporting up to four homeless veterans at any one time.

The total cost to West Lindsey District Council is £15,000, covering the annual licence infrastructure fee of £7,500 per year for two years; the installation cost of the pod will be met by Squaddie Box CIC. The pilot will be managed within existing officer capacity, with the pod location to be agreed in consultation with Squaddie Box and the Council's Armed Forces Member representative.

During the pilot, officers will continue to explore match funding opportunities and assess the impact of the service on homelessness prevention, access to support services and outcomes for veterans, with any potential extension to be considered only where an evidenced need is established.

Appendices to Report

- Squaddie Box Full proposal August 2027
 - Squaddie Box Overview
 - Squaddie Box Partnership proposal
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RECOMMENDATION(S):

- (a) That Members approve the allocation of £15,000 from the Health and Wellbeing Reserve to fund a two-year pilot of the Squaddie Box project in West Lindsey.**
- (b) That Members note that officers will work with Squaddie Box CIC and the Council's Armed Forces Member representative to agree the pod location, continue to explore match funding opportunities, and evaluate the impact of the pilot before any future extension is considered.**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Agreement was determined at Thriving People Committee on 16th July 2026 to undertake a pilot of the Squaddie Box project.
- 1.2 As part of that decision, it was agreed that Thriving people Committee would recommend to Thriving Council Committee to fund the £15,000 for the project from reserves and for officers to look for match funding opportunities for this project.
- 1.3 Due to the timescales involves between committees, no funding has been secured to contribute towards the Squaddie Box project. As this is a two-year project, it will be on-going that funding is sought which could reduce the funding required from West Lindsey.

2 What is Squaddie Box?

- 2.1 Squaddie Box is a CIC specialising in supporting veterans and emergency services personnel who are facing homelessness. The charity offers practical solutions in the form of a personal mailbox to help rebuild lives and restore dignity to homeless veterans and their families.
- 2.2 Squaddie Box provides secure physical mailboxes, placed at trusted community locations which allows mail to be delivered to a safe and secure place via the normal postal system.
- 2.3 As a specialised service for veterans, Squaddie box understand many veterans who present to homelessness services are navigating complex transition issues after leaving the Armed Forces. The Armed Forces Covenant recognises that this cohort can face challenges linked to relationship breakdown, mental health issues and the broader difficulties that can arise during transition to civilian life.
- 2.4 More detail can be found on the full proposal, which includes information from Squaddie box on the location the box should be places, eligibility, referral pathways and general operating procedures.
- 2.5 The proposal put forward by squaddie box also includes some detail on the Veteran Identity Support Programme. This is training delivered to help front line staff identify Armed Forces connections consistently. This will be discussed internally and reviewed as part of the West Lindsey staff training requirements so is not being considered as part of this proposal.

4 Squaddie Box proposal & financial implication

- 4.1 The proposal would provide 1 Squaddie Box pod which would support up to 4 homeless veterans at any one time to provide a secure verified postal address for them to receive their mail in a secure place with access 24 hours a day.

- 4.3 The cost of installation of the pod itself would be fully funded by Squaddie Box CIC – this is detailed by Squaddie Box as costing £1000 and is a capital cost to the charity upfront. The location for the box will be scoped out and determined in conjunction with Squaddie Box and the WLDC Member rep for Armed Forces.
- 4.4 The costs to be funded by WLDC are to cover the Annual Licence Infrastructure Fee of £7500 per annum for 2 years totalling £15,000 for the 2- year pilot. These costs are set out in the Squaddie Box Partnership Proposal detailed at appendix 1 section 20.
- 4.5 The annual licence fee covers the following:
- Infrastructure Provision
 - Safeguarding and verification Framework
 - Compliance and Governance
 - Operational Oversight
- Full details of all elements which are covered in the licence fee are explained at appendix 2 paragraph 4.
- 4.6 Should the budget be agreed, the roll out of the pilot project and the programme phasing will be implemented as set out in the Partnership proposal Appendix 3 for a 2-year period initially, with the potential to extend should an evidenced need for this be established through the pilot.
- 4.7 The Partnership Proposal does include figures which are not fully evidenced in relation to savings on temporary accommodation or emergency placements, the pilot project will seek to understand how the implementation of this can have an impact on homelessness prevention and improve the lives of those who are able to utilise this service.
- 4.10 More detail on the original Squaddie Box Proposal can be found at appendix 1

5. Alternative Options

- 5.1 Alternative options were set out for Thriving people Committee and the option to implement a two-year pilot project was recommended to Thriving Council Committee.

ASSOCIATED IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

None

Financial: FIN/75/27/TC/AP

The uncommitted balance on the Health and Wellbeing Reserve is £202.2k.

It is proposed to fund the annual licence infrastructure fee of £7.5k pa over 2 years (26/27 and 27/28) – a total of £15k – from this reserve.

This will reduce the balance on the reserve to £187.2k.

Staffing:

This service will be managed within existing resource capacity

LGR implications:

No LGR implications

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights:

N/A

Data Protection Implications:

GDPR compliance is detailed in appendix 1 section 15

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:

N/A

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:

N/A

Health Implications:

Barriers to accessing services alongside safe and secure housing can have a huge impact on your physical and mental health. This project suggests a correlation between having a safe and secure mailbox and accessing these services and looks to overcome those barriers and evidence how this can create a better and healthier environment for veterans.

Risk Assessment:

A risk assessment of the location of the Squaddie Box will be undertaken as part of the implementation of the project

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Squaddie Box Paper 16th July 2026

[IMPLICATIONS](#)

Motion to Full Council 13th April 2026

[Agenda for Council on Monday, 13th April, 2026, 7.00 pm | West Lindsey District Council](#)

Call in and Urgency:**Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?**

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

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No

x

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

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No

x